

Annex M – Fatality Management Plan

A. Planning Assumptions

1. State and local government recognizes that disasters, such as pandemic influenza and other disease outbreaks, natural disasters, terrorism, and other mass fatality events may significantly deplete already limited resources.
2. State and local government recognizes the need for collaboration between response partners in the planning, inventory, purchasing, storage, and dissemination of resources.

B. Roles and Responsibilities

1. NPHCC has adopted the Nebraska DHHS “Emergency Support Function Eight—Mass Fatality Plan and Matrix” (see Annex M) as their response guidance.
2. Responsibility for fatality management on a regional basis falls to Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF-8) public health (PH). See Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP).
3. The response will be led by emergency management (EM).
4. Each hospital is responsible for their internal fatality management plan.
5. NPHCC will:
 - a. Support PH and EM to the best of their ability with resource requests and/or liaison and coordination activities.
 - b. Release mortuary cache (disaster pouches) as requested by PH or EM.

C. Mortuary Cache

1. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has provided funding for the development of mortuary caches throughout each Healthcare Coalition (HCC), which was used by NPHCC to purchase disaster pouches (body bags).

Item	Units	Total
Oversized Disaster Pouch	23 cases	117
Regular Disaster Pouch	94 cases	470

2. NPHCC has placed these disaster pouches with Adams & Swanson Funeral Home in North Platte and will work with them for the inventorying and release of the cache supplies. See Attachment 15 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)—*Adam & Swanson MOU*.

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3. NPHCC will retain ownership of the mortuary cache
4. The NPHCC Coordinator or designee has authority to direct the deployment of the cache throughout the region, making it available to funeral homes, emergency management, public health, and other partners.
5. Adams & Swanson Funeral Home will:
 - a. Be responsible for the replacement of mortuary cache supplies when used by their organization for non-emergency events.
 - b. Rotate cache supplies with like items to prevent them from becoming aged.

- c. Not be required to notify the NPHCC coordinator if cache items are used for non-emergency events.
6. When cache is used in a mass fatality event, the recipient of the cache will replace the supplies that are used.
7. If NPHCC should lose funding or dissolve, the mortuary cache will be dispersed as set forth in the Dissolution of Nebraska Plains Healthcare Coalition (NPHCC) MOU, (see Attachment 15 or MOUs held by NPHCC Coordinator).

D. Mortuary Cache Concept of Operations

1. Emergency managers, public health, and funeral homes can activate the cache and use the contents for any mass fatality emergency beyond the scope of daily operations by contacting the NPHCC coordinator.
2. The requesting organization will complete the NPHCC Mortuary Cache Request Form (see Appendix 1) and submit to the NPHCC coordinator for approval. This information may be provided via email, text, or fax during the acute phase of the incident response with the completed form completed and signed within 10 days.
3. NPHCC coordinator will work with the requesting agency(ies), emergency management/public health, and Adams & Swanson Funeral Home in a mass fatality event to coordinate response and resource allocation.
4. The requesting agency will be responsible for arranging pickup and transportation of the mortuary cache supplies once authorized by NPHCC.
5. Within 30 days of the activation of the cache, the recipient facility/agency shall provide a written usage report to the NPHCC coordinator (see Appendix 1).