

SECTION 16

PUBLIC HEALTH

Statement of Purpose

A major emergency or disaster greatly alters the environment of the County. Depending on the impacting disaster (be it man-made, natural or a biological agent) the demand for extra measures to ensure public health may be required. These demands may include food sanitation, potable water, private sewage, and infectious disease control.

The purpose of this section is to identify those agencies, and define the roles of those agencies that would assist in providing a continuation of Public Health measures.

Situations and Assumptions

Situations

Sangamon County has over 197,000 residents.

Mass casualty incidents, including large scale disease outbreaks as in a pandemic, have the possibility of creating the need for increased security (due to public panic), mass care and prophylaxis.

Assumptions

In the event of a major emergency or disaster, the two hospitals (St. John's Hospital and Memorial Medical Center) within Sangamon County will coordinate their efforts with those of other agencies to ensure utilization of services available. In a mass casualty incident, the on-site incident commander will coordinate with the managing hospital for medical treatment and for crisis counseling for emergency workers.

The Sangamon County Sheriff's office will be responsible for security during mass care and prophylaxis as deemed necessary. Refer to the Sangamon County Department of Public Health SNS (Strategic National Stockpile) Plan, which includes the security plan for the Sheriff's office.

Concept of Operations

The Incident Commander is responsible for the overall management of an incident, including determining incident objectives and strategies and establishing the immediate priorities. The Director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health will be the lead role when an incident is determined to be Public Health in nature and is responsible for ensuring quality public health and environmental health throughout all of Sangamon County.

Following the impact of a major emergency or disaster, the priority of the health and medical system is two-fold: first, the removal and transportation of the sick and injured; secondly, the prevention and control of disease.

Throughout the major emergency or disaster, the coordination of various Sangamon County and/or municipal agencies may be required. The personnel from various agencies will ensure an adequate water supply, prevention of contamination, proper processing and disposal of sewage, and debris removal, thus ensuring adequate environmental health for control of the spread of disease through the area.

Organizations and Responsibilities

The Sangamon County Department of Public Health will be responsible for ensuring the public health and environmental health, including sanitation services, for Sangamon County. It is responsible for dispensing prophylaxis to the public for control of disease outbreak, including dispensing from the Strategic National Stockpile. It will coordinate with Sangamon County OEM to insure that this annex is maintained and reviewed for updating.

Direction and Control

The Sangamon County Emergency Operations Center will be the central point for direction and control during a disaster. The EOC will be staffed, as necessary, by a representative from the Sangamon County Department of Public Health and the Level 1 Trauma Center (see Section 14, Chapter 3). These representatives will coordinate all activities with the incident command post to ensure their awareness of field operations. A health officer will be designated for field operations. When the primary nature of the disaster dictates that incident command rests with the director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, he (or his designee) will oversee field operations from the incident command post.

Continuity of Government

The line of succession for this annex is:

1. Public Health Director
2. Asst. Dir. Public Health
3. Dir. Personal Health Services
4. Dir. Environmental Health