

DHHS/HEALTH & MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM
DMORT Field Operations Guide

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. DMORT TEAM MEMBER MISSION STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of each DMORT member to maintain a state of "readiness" during the non-activation periods. Each Team member is expected to pursue training in mass fatality related subjects and to make him or herself available for deployment on short notice. When a Team member is "federalized" (being sworn in as a temporary Federal employee) he or she shall adhere to the NDMS Disaster Team Code of Conduct and follow instructions regarding work assignments and policies outlined by the National Disaster Medical System.

B. PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS

DMORT personnel should be prepared to respond to a mission within 4 hours of alert and up to 14 days, or at least until initial disaster recovery efforts have ensured adequate support for its operations. For planning purposes, you should be prepared for 21 days. Due to the need for rapid response to a disaster or significant event, all personnel must have a deployment pack containing necessary personal clothing, equipment, and supplies readily available for immediate mobilization. This should include appropriate clothing for the environment, personal hygiene items, medications, and protective items such as sunscreen and insect repellent. It should be contained in 1 or 2 personal packs at most. It is advantageous to be able to split the personal gear so that a small carrying pack of personal necessities can remain with the member at all times, while the gear not needed during transport or at the Areas of Operation can be left at the DMORT Base of Operations (BoO) or the lodging location.

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) was developed by the Federal Government to provide medical assistance when an incident of such proportion occurs as to overwhelm State and local resources. NDMS, through the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, Office of Public Health Science, Office of Emergency Preparedness (HHS/OS/OPHS/OEP) fosters the development of medical assistance teams, such as Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT). During an emergency response, DMORTs work to support local authorities and provide technical assistance and personnel to recover, identify, and process deceased victims.

The DMORT Field Operations Guide (FOG) has been developed to assist DMORT personnel during training and on mission assignment. The FOG is a compilation and summary of important general information, developed procedures, and reference material. In addition, position description summaries and operational checklists are outlined for each of the positions that comprise a standard DMORT response.

Use of and adherence to the FOG will ensure optimum personal performance, standardization of activities and procedures between DMORTs, and promote safe and effective DMORT operations. It is expected that the FOG will be used by all DMORT personnel as a fundamental tool for both training exercise and mission operations. It should be kept ready for immediate access with each Team member's personal response equipment.

The FOG is color-coded by section and corresponds to the Table of Contents to promote ease of access to reference material.

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