

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

121 3rd St W
First Floor Meeting Room
Hardin, MT 59034



Members

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA March 10, 2023 12:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents
3. Discussion
4. Old Business
 - Local Emergency Distribution Plan
5. New Business
 - Update on Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Website: <https://mitigationplanmt.com/eastern.html>
 - Introduction of Emergency Operations Plan Annex
6. Public Comments
7. Adjourn

Big Horn County Disaster & Emergency Services

Distribution Management Plan

This document was prepared by
Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services



"Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services is committed to protecting the residents, visitors, and resources of Big Horn County, Montana from the impact of disasters and emergencies. Our mission is to minimize the effects of disasters and emergencies on individuals, families, businesses, and the environment, and to help them quickly recover and rebuild in the aftermath of such events."



Contributive Reviewers

Big Horn County Staff and other appropriate stakeholders

Administrative Approver

The Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Service's *Distribution Management Plan* provides the distribution process by the Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services Department.

Brian Mischel, BHC DES

Initial: _____ Date: _____

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Record of Change

Date	Description of Change	Initials
	Initial Draft	BPM

Record of Distribution

Upon approval, BHC DES provided an electronic copy to the following contacts. To provide comments and suggestions for future revisions, call 406-665-1731.

Date	Receiving Partner Agency/Organization

Section I Purpose, Scope, Background and Assumptions

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to identify and describe the distribution process by Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services in the event that the county must order, receive, and distribute commodities to the local community members in response to an emergency or disaster that disrupts the commercial supply chain to the extent that commodities (food, water, etc.) are not available to the affected population.

Scope

This plan is limited to the process that Big Horn County DES may use to order, receive, and distribute commodities to local community members and to provide guidance for distributing, operating Commodity Points-of-Distribution (C-POD) and tracking all resources while under the county's control.

Background

Big Horn County is a county located in the southern part of the state of Montana, in the United States. The county was established in 1913 and was named after the Big Horn River, which runs through the region. The county seat is Hardin, and the largest city is Crow Agency.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 5,025 square miles, making it one of the largest counties in Montana. The county is situated in the eastern part of the state, bordering the state of Wyoming to the south. The landscape is a mix of rolling hills, plains, and mountains, with the Pryor Mountains to the east and the Bighorn Mountains to the south.

The population of Big Horn County is approximately 13,000 people, according to the most recent U.S. Census. The county is home to a number of Native American tribes, including the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations. The county also has a significant agricultural industry, with cattle and sugar beets being the primary products.

Tourism is another important part of the county's economy, with visitors attracted to attractions such as the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, which commemorates the historic battle between the U.S. Army and Native American tribes in 1876, and the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, which offers outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, boating, and fishing.

Assumptions

- Emergencies or disasters that require distribution efforts will only affect a geographical area of Big Horn County and will not affect the entire state.
- The county Emergency Operation Plan and other associated plans and standard operating procedures will be implemented.
- Emergency Support Functions (ESF), such as Transportation, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services, and Public Safety and Security will be engaged in the distribution efforts.
- A detailed and credible common operating picture might not be achievable for 24-72 hours or longer after the incident. As a result, response activities will begin without the benefit of a detailed or complete situation and critical needs assessment.
- Demand may exceed supply, evidenced through shortages of response teams, first responders, equipment, and supplies.
- Multiple jurisdictions will have to work together to share emergency commodities.
- Multiple incidents may occur simultaneously or sequentially in contiguous and/or noncontiguous areas. This will require prioritization of limited resources.
- The incident may result in significant disruptions (for an extremely long duration of time) of critical infrastructure including transportation, commodities, energy, telecommunications, public health, and medical systems.
- Transportation to impacted areas may be disrupted due to damaged roads, bridges, rail, and airports. The limited capability to refuel delivery vehicles within an affected jurisdiction may become a critical factor in planning.
- Unaffected jurisdictions may be requested to provide personnel and equipment to the affected jurisdiction/region for distribution support.
- An area's response capabilities and resources, including resources normally available through EMAC, MOUs and/or MOAs, may be insufficient and quickly overwhelmed. It is highly likely that local public safety personnel who normally respond to such events may be among those affected and unable to perform their duties.
- An incident might result in such severe damage to a jurisdiction's infrastructure that habitation is not feasible during response operations. Consequently, mandatory evacuation may be ordered by appropriate authority. Distribution of commodities may shift as the population shifts.
- The status of supply chains, infrastructure, fuel, transportation providers, material handling equipment, staffing, and other major systems will have to be evaluated on an on-going basis.

Section II Roles and Responsibilities

BHC DES Coordinator

The Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services (BHC DES) Coordinator oversees and maintains direct communication with the County Commissioners and the Governor of the State Montana, as such the BHC DES Coordinator:

- Maintains and communications overall situational awareness.
- Authorizes emergency expenditures and seeks fiscal approval to utilize funds when necessary.

EOC Manager

The Big Horn County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager is responsible for management of the overall direction of the EOC, including:

- Supervision of the Command & General Staff in the EOC.
- Consultation with appropriate agency administrators to determine priorities for response and recovery efforts.
- Ensures that all EOC actions are accomplished in accordance with established agency policies, procedures and Montana Code Annotated.
- Evaluate requests from local jurisdictions and makes determinations for critical resources.
- Assures situational awareness is provided to command staff and agency administrator.

EOC Operations

The Operations Section Chief is a member of the General Staff and is responsible for:

- Management of all operations of the EOC.
- Activates and supervises organizational elements in accordance with the EOC Incident Action Plan and directs its execution.
- Directs the preparation of unit operational plans.
- Receives & prioritizes resource requests and delivers to the appropriate section.

EOC Planning

The EOC Planning Section Chief, a member of the General Staff, is responsible for the planning aspects during emergencies and disasters. The Planning Section Chief is responsible for collecting, evaluating, and disseminating information about the incident including:

- Development of the incident
- Status of resources and personnel
- Current and anticipated needs
- Plan for the demobilization
- Developing the Incident Action Plan

EOC Logistics

The Logistics Section Chief, a member of the General Staff, is responsible for coordinating all resource requests and distribution to the local jurisdictions and community. To accomplish this, the Logistics Section coordinates and supports the local jurisdiction including:

- Ordering resources through established contacts and channels.

- Work with a purchasing/procurement officer to develop contracts, purchase orders and to develop request for bids with approved vendors through the area purchasing and procurement department.
 - A purchasing/procurement officer is part of the logistics section, and assures all procurement fall within the established process or through proper emergency procurement procedures.
- Tracking status of all orders processed through the EOC.
- Contacting vendors, suppliers, or key partners to fulfill resource requests, distribution and transportation needs.
- Coordinate the distribution of ordered resources to the requesting jurisdiction.
- Communicate with local points of contacts on order status, incoming inventory, estimated time of arrival and other relevant information.
- Coordinate with the Finance Section Chief for daily cost estimates and financial documentation.
- Maintains situational awareness with other sections on resources status, needs and fulfillment.

State Agencies

Different state agencies will be involved in emergencies or disasters requiring the establishment and execution of distribution strategies. State agencies will communicate and coordinate through the SECC as described in the MERF and the SECC procedures. Representatives may be assigned to represent their agencies to the SECC as liaisons and/or point of contact to assure that appropriate and reliable communications are maintained. State agencies will prioritize their response to field area of authority and will assist other agencies in the state response as coordinated by the SECC. State and local agencies should communicate their needs, capability, or current status through the SECC in order to maintain good situational awareness and to prioritize and address needs across the state.

Federal Government

The federal government may play a crucial role in assisting with the acquiring of resources for distribution or in support of distribution efforts (i.e., logistics, transportation). During a response effort, the federal government will work through operations personnel at the EOC. FEMA may elect to use onsite personnel (FEMA Integration Team) or assign a liaison through region 8 or other personnel. Communication and requests will be conducted through the EOC or the department administration.

FEMA may assist in acquiring resources, including personnel, either through direct procurement or communicating to the EOC about specific assets that are readily available.

National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)

NEMA administers the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that enables states to share resources during times of disaster. EMAC acts as a complement to the federal disaster response system, providing timely and cost-effective relief to states requesting assistance from assisting member states who understand the needs of jurisdictions that are struggling to preserve life, the economy, and the environment. EMAC can be used either in lieu of federal assistance or in conjunction with federal assistance, thus providing a "seamless" flow of needed goods and services to an impacted state. EMAC further provides another venue for mitigating resource deficiencies by ensuring maximum use of all available resources within member states' inventories.

Local Jurisdictions

Local jurisdictions remain in control of local response efforts. These efforts should include:

- Pre-identify C-POD locations.
- Pre-Plan and train for C-POD operations.
- Identify potential commodity needs.
- Identify local resources to fulfill local commodity needs.
- Identify and request resources (including meals, water, and other commodities) following the prescribed resource ordering procedures.
- Receive and track resources requested.
- Coordinate with local officials.
- Identify most appropriate Point of Distribution based on the needs of the event and communicate to Logistics at the SECC.

Section III Concept of Operations

County supported distribution of commodities may be considered when normal or vendor supply chain routes are unavailable to protect the health and safety of individuals in Big Horn County, Montana. In an event that requires sustained distribution of commodities or other materiel, many partners will be requested to assist in the response efforts. This plan is considered a guide to distribution efforts. Immediately upon implementing this plan or a distribution strategy, consideration must be given to the demobilization process. Resources and personnel must be tracked and documented from initial mobilization to track costs, personnel, and resource use through the duration of the event until they are fully demobilized.

1. Response Partner Integration

During an emergency or disaster, response partners will be coordinated through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will follow established plans and protocols for emergency response, which may include the State of Montana Disaster and Emergency Plan: Volume III Disaster Response Plan. Liaisons may be assigned by response partners or the Department of Emergency Services (DES) to work with each other and coordinate their efforts within the EOC.

2. Requirement Defining

The area's population is dispersed with major population centers being separated from each other by 70 and as much as 140 miles to next closest population center. Smaller communities are distributed throughout Montana. The need to procure and distribute commodities or other resources will be event specific and determined at the time of the event.

Due to the geographical nature of the state, Big Horn County's planning efforts are focused on the major population centers while remaining flexible and scalable to serve any jurisdictions and communities.

Local jurisdictions maintain community information including population and demographics such as age groups and other unique needs that may impact quantity or type of commodities required. Anticipated needs for commodities are determined through coordination with the local jurisdiction and the EOC.

Calculating needs

The EOC will use the generic FEMA planning factors of two meals and three liters of water per person of the impacted population each day. The EOC will work with local jurisdictions on specific meal types and actual quantities as determined by the community needs during an event.

Example of calculated meals and water requirements

Affected Population	Liters of Water Per Day	Meals per day
5,000	15,000	10,000
7,500	22,500	15,000
10,000	30,000	20,000
12,500	37,500	25,000
15,000	45,000	30,000
17,500	52,500	35,000

Considerations When Determining Commodity Needs

The EOC will work with local jurisdictions and verify needs. The EOC will validate requests based on the current and projected event conditions and projected needs, populations demographics, and unique needs in the communities.

- **Meals:** Specific needs including meal types and quantities will be coordinated with the locally affected areas.
- **Water:** Common units of measurement and clear communication will be used to identify needs and provided quantities. (I.e., liter versus gallons). Care will be taken to make unit conversions when necessary and to provide clear communication as to unit size and packaging and handling needs.
- **Mass Care Supplies:** Identification of Mass Care supplies will be event dependent and based on the needs of the community. The EOC will coordinate with ESFs for Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, and Housing & Human Services to verify and validate needs and requests and to acquire and distribute resources.
- **Support/Transportation:** The EOC will coordinate with ESF 1 (Transportation) to assist with transportation support, including affected and available routes. The transportation needs and requirements may be affected by the event, and current weather and transportations conditions. Other supporting agencies, such as DNRC, may provide support to ESF 1 and the SECC with transportation needs.
- **Capability and Capacity of Distribution Network:** Identify what is possible for the county and local supply chains to accommodate. The quantity of resources ordered for the local

jurisdiction should not exceed the distribution network's capacity (e.g., the maximum storage and throughput capabilities of the on-ground staging areas and C-PODs).

- **Private Sector Capability versus Requirement:** Emergency events may affect private and public supply chains, either through disruption in the supply chain or causing an increase in demand that exceeds local, state and national supply chain capabilities. Supply chains are evaluated at the time of the event and when supply chains are affected, the EOC will look to alternate routes including emergency procurement procedures and agreements while coordinating with local, state and federal partners.

3. Resource Ordering

The County may make a resource request to the SECC when they are unable to meet local needs. When a resource request is received, the State Emergency Coordination Center will evaluate the request and identify what assistance and resource is appropriate.

Resource requests may be procured through emergency procurement procedures, as well as interstate/intrastate mutual aid, the National Emergency Management Assistance Compact as well as the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

BHC DES does not maintain inventory of perishable items, procurement for anything that is not owned by the county will follow Big Horn County procurement procedures.

- Local Jurisdictions resource request for commodities, including food, water, etc. are to follow the established resource ordering procedures and may include a request through WebEOC and direct communications with the SECC. All verbal resource requests will be followed up by a written request.
- Resource requests to private vendors will follow established procurement policies and procedures and through a procurement officer.
 - If the EOC needs to make extensive procurement efforts, the EOC may request that a procurement officer be assigned to the operations center.
 - The procurement officer will use their resources and contracts. In declared emergencies, the state may make purchases through the emergency procurement process.

4. Transportation and Distribution Methods

Transportation and distribution methods strategies will be defined by the event.

Logistics will coordinate the distribution of procured resources. Whenever possible, logistics will coordinate the distribution of the procured resources by direct delivery from the supplier to the requesting party.

If Montana is required to distribute commodities or other resources from a staging location, the SECC will utilize existing contracts, MOUs, State ESF partnering agencies and local resources to coordinate transportation and distribution efforts to fill prioritized requests.

County managed staging sites and distribution efforts may require additional staffing to manage and control, including the command and control at the site to assure the effective operation of the site where distribution and transportation efforts are coordinated. Staffing may be acquired

through coordination with ESF partners, volunteer recruitment, emergency hires, the Montana National Guard, or other available resources. Certain policies and procedures must be followed such as the county, states, and or overseeing department's temporary or emergency hire procedures. The county may also adapt or access other plans such as the State's Strategic National Stockpile Plan as appropriate to fill any distribution needs.

Potential delivery methods may include:

- Direct delivery through distribution vehicles such as semi-trucks, cargo vans, or other box trucks available to the county.
- Contractor/vender supplied vehicles procured through existing or new contracts coordinated through the procurement process.
- Commercial delivery services such as FedEx, UPS, Mergenthaler's, or other such service may be available and have current contracts with the county or state.
- Montana National Guard Resources, with the governor's approval.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact Requests
- Resource requests through FEMA.
- State procurement will be consulted and will determine if a current contract is available that fills the current needs, or if new contract is necessary through standard or exigent procurement procedures.

Transportation needs will vary by event, resource characteristics and current conditions. The EOC will coordinate with other jurisdictions, procurement officials, state agencies and private vendors as necessary to assure sufficient transportation to support distribution efforts.

5. Inventory Management

Inventory Management will be tracked through state owned systems such as WebEOC, and the IMATS system used by DPHHS. Orders will be tracked as they are placed and communicated to the requesting jurisdiction. Orders, when at all possible, should be for direct delivery from supplier to the requesting party. If necessary, the Logistics Section within the EOC may be assigned an inventory manager to track commodity inventory. Ordered inventory, shipping manifests, etc. received from the supplier will be forward to the requesting party.

All inventory, when received either by the county or by the state, will be checked against the placed order and received shipping manifest. Discrepancies in received orders will be documented. Resources that are damaged on receipt will be reported to the EOC and to the supplier and may be held before acceptance.

Returnable durable equipment that is provided such as forklifts, pallet jacks or other returnable items, will be documented and tracked. Damage to returnable equipment will be documented by the operator and the EOC.

Big Horn County and MT DES have exigent hiring and procurement plans and policies that may be utilized to perform temporary hiring of personnel to expand staffing resources to fill inventory management or any other personnel needs.

Inventory Management Systems (IMS)

WebEOC and the DPHHS IMATS system are the preferred IT solutions assisting in managing resources, as well as tracking assets such as commodities resources, supplies and equipment.

Other solutions may include an electronic spreadsheet, pen and paper, a federally supplied system or other methods appropriate for demands of the event that can be incorporated into the preferred system. Any IMS used will require an orientation or just-in-time training based on several considerations.

- Understanding of the inventory management needs of event
- Training on the IMS program software for those previously not trained on it
- The overall inventory management process including
 - Receiving product
 - Storing product
 - Receiving resource requests/orders
 - Validating and approving requests/orders
 - Picking approved orders
 - Quality control check to assure appropriate items and quantity is picked
 - Staging orders for distribution
 - Distribution process
 - Including Chain of Custody, if required
 - Tracking of all orders until they reach their destination
 - Tracking of all returnable items until returned and demobilized

6. Staging

Federal

Currently the only federally identified staging area is located at Malmstrom Airforce Base located in Cascade County (Great Falls).

State

In the event, the state must set up a staging area where incoming supplies must be transferred to the state before being transported to the requesting jurisdiction, decisions will be made on the staging area location based off the event location and needs.

The state may identify staging areas by coordinating through the State ESF partners and other state agencies including resources from the Montana National Guards Armory's and Training Centers. State identified staging areas should have proximity to the event, but not within the affected area and with appropriate security protections.

Local

Big Horn County's designated staging area for distribution is located at the County Fairgrounds, 118 Sawyer Loop, Hardin, MT 59034. This staging area has been designated as the central point for the receipt and distribution of goods and supplies during emergencies and disasters.

The County Fairgrounds is a large, open area with easy access for all types of vehicles, including semi-trucks and other heavy equipment. The staging area is equipped with basic amenities, including restroom facilities and a water supply. It is capable of accommodating large volumes of goods and supplies, and can serve as a base for distribution to other locations within the county.

During an emergency or disaster, all incoming goods and supplies will be received and inventoried at the staging area. From there, they will be sorted, processed, and prepared for distribution to local communities and individuals in need.

MT DES works with jurisdictions to identify staging and POD locations which are updated annually. The sites will be integrated into WebEOC and GIS systems for increased awareness and information about each site. Pre-identifying sites does not guarantee their availability when needed, so confirmation of each location's availability and meeting the current needs is required.

7. Demobilization

With the implementation of a distribution effort, personal, resources and costs are tracked. Accurate tracking these resources assists with calculating costs and demobilizing from the event. Some resources may demobilize during the event, others may be demobilized when the resource is no longer needed, including the termination of the event.

Demobilization is the process of:

- Recovering resources and equipment.
- Deactivation and demobilization of staff, facilities, and equipment.
- Maintaining of vital records.

Demobilization starts at mobilization by tracking all resources, especially those that are non-consumable and are required to be returned to a state of readiness or to the owners of the resource. This may include using distribution records and chain of custody forms to account for location, accountability and return of non-consumable items.

The county and other jurisdictions are responsible for demobilizing their local response efforts following their plan and procedures. Commodities ordered and accepted by the jurisdictions are owned by the jurisdiction and must be handled according to their identified policies. Returnable equipment must be documented and returned to the equipment owner.

County managed distribution, including state operated staging sites will require an organized demobilization process. Logistics will oversee the demobilization process.

During demobilization local jurisdictions and logistics in the EOC will:

- Identify where all recoverable resources are located.
- Inventory all remaining resources on site.
- Coordinate with the Logistics Chief on activities to recover resources.
- Tracking of personnel rosters and time/duration of activation.
- Arrange transportation to return personnel, as necessary.
- Recovery equipment and supplies assigned to personnel.
- Coordinate any debriefing and follow up with personnel, as necessary.
- Coordinate the return of sites, facilities, and equipment to respective owners, including the documentation and the repair of damages that occurred under federal, state, or local control.

Documentation during an incident is vital to closing out an emergency response. Vital records can assist with federal reimbursement under the Stafford Act, assuring assets are returned, as well as a variety of other record keeping requirements. Big Horn County and Local Jurisdiction's EOC staff are tasked with maintaining vital records.

Unused commodities are owned by the requesting jurisdiction. A determination of short term, long term or disposal of the commodity is the responsibility of the commodity owner. Consideration should be made as to the life expectancy/expiration date of the commodity, required storage conditions, storage costs and disposal options.

8. Training and Technical Assistance

Planning for distribution efforts includes proper training prior to the incident, as well as just-in-time training. Big Horn County DES encourages local jurisdictions to train on Points of Distribution, including FEMA's Guide to Points of Distribution which is an Independent Study Course (IS-26). Local jurisdictions may reach out to BHC DES for other technical assistance and training opportunities.

BHC DES staff will continue to take part in workshops, trainings and evaluations as they are available to strengthen and assure Logistics and Distribution competencies.

Section IV Plan Maintenance

This plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it is current and accurate. The goals of the review include:

- Ensure overall plan accuracy.
- Address and resolve policy, methodology, and technological issues.
- Coordinate with related plans, procedures, and protocols.

Minor corrections, edits, updates, or adjustments that do not impact procedures or roles and responsibilities do not need vetting by the agency administrator. Those changes, however, should be tracked in a versioning method or in the Record of Change log which can be updated by BHC DES.

Annex Coordinator

Coroner

Primary Agencies

Support Agencies

Montana Department of Justice-Forensic
Science Division-Medical Examiner Office
Billings Clinic
St. Vincent Hospital
Billings Fire Department
County Rural Fire Departments

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to provide a framework of operations to locate, recover, identify, record, transport, and dispose of all human remains and to notify the next of kin following a mass fatality incident.

This annex should be considered a framework or suggestion of how to approach completing these operations. No party to this annex is required to follow its contents if the situation shows or appears to show a better way to respond and complete these duties.

II. INCIDENTS & TRIGGERS FOR ACTIVATION

As a planning guideline, the local mortuaries can process () bodies in a somewhat routine manner. Beyond those numbers, it may become an emergency situation requiring coordination of resources. The following are potential major incidents/disasters and associated triggers that may require implementation of this plan:

Incidents and Disasters

- a) Transportation accident (aircraft, bus, train)
- b) Explosion and/or fire
- c) Hazardous material release
- d) Terrorism/Bio-Terrorism/Active Shooter
- e) Tornado/Weather Incident
- f) Building collapse and/or fire
- g) Earthquake
- h) Pandemic

Fatality Numbers- Suggested resources

- 0 - 15** Local Resources
- 15 - 20** Local Resources, suggest additional assistance from neighboring counties through existing agreements
- 21+** Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT)

III. ORGANIZATION

County Coroner

The County Coroner has sole authority over the dead and their disposition.

The Coroner can activate the City/County EOC. Personnel and resources needed to staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may either be provided by the Coroner or requested from the Big Horn County Department of Emergency Services (BHC DES).

The Coroner will assign deputy coroners or morticians as needed to assist in carrying out the responsibilities of this annex. Care should be exercised to think through the situation and take time to complete all necessary procedures. SOPs or direction on how to properly execute all duties of the Coroner on behalf of the Coroner will be provided by the Coroner during the incident. This plan does not grant any additional authorities to operate on behalf of the County Coroner to the Department of Emergency Services that are not specifically shown as part of this annex.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

In any public transportation incident, the NTSB will enter the scene after the fire department has determined it is safe to enter and before local law enforcement.

Montana-DOJ-FSD-Medical Examiner Office

The Medical Examiner Office under Montana DOJ-FSD is available as a support resource to Big Horn County to consult, perform location, recovery, post-mortem examinations and decedent identification. These functions are performed in a support manner to Big Horn County at the request of The County unless acting under existing authorities in MCA.

The County Attorney, Attorney General and the State Medical Examiner have existing authorities in MCA to order post-mortem examination. This plan may also be used to support mass fatality incidents under these authorities in Big Horn County.

Family Assistance Center Operations

The FBI is available to conduct or assist with Family Assistance Center operations following their existing operations plans (Appendix-I). This assistance is available to Yellowstone County whether or not the incident is criminal in nature.

In the event of a Public Transportation Incident, the NTSB utilizes the FBI on transportation incidents. Some transportation companies (eg. Airlines) also have company-specific family assistance processes.

EOC PERSONNEL

EOC personnel will not divulge any information concerning the dead. The Coroner or their designee is the only authority allowed to approve the release of names of the deceased.

The Coroner may elect to utilize the Joint Information System/Joint Information Center (JIS/JIC) in the release of information and names of the deceased. The Coroner will approve any releases of this information prior to it being sent to the media following standard principles of ICS and JIS/JIC operations.

Operational crews and personnel will not remove bodies without the Coroner's permission and direction.

Personnel working onsite under the Incident Command System require appropriate supervision while working directly with the deceased. The Coroner will make supervisory personnel available and will organize the labor based on NIMS guidelines.

The Coroner or his/her designee will be available to the EOC to coordinate needs but does not need to provide 24/7 onsite personnel at the EOC.

SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL & ORDERING

Specialized personnel may be required including: fingerprint specialists, forensic odontologists, pathologists and anthropologists. Resources outside existing county resources may first be obtained from neighboring counties with whom Big Horn County has a mutual aid agreement. If the incident is too large for Big Horn County to handle with its mutual aid partners' additional assistance, specialized resources may be obtained through the State EOC following NIMS Guidelines. The suggested resource in this case would be a Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT). The coroner may request these and other additional resources through the EOC.

Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT)

The coroner may consider including the resources and capabilities of DMORT. DMORTs are part of the National Disaster Medical System under the Department of Health and Human Services. A DMORT is an organized team with the experience and expertise to manage a large number of fatalities.

Considerations while working with DMORT include:

- Local acquisition of cold storage trucks [1 full-size (18-wheeler) refrigerated truck can accommodate 20-22 bodies]
- Need for a large number of tables (autopsy, FBI, personal affects)
- Local cost considerations of DMORT services if not an NTSB incident
- DMORT is there to assist the local jurisdiction, not to take over
- Regional HazMat needs to decontaminate bodies