



ANNEX U Mass Fatalities

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to describe and identify roles and procedures in prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response to, and recovery from mass fatality incidents.

This annex provides for proper coordination of mass fatality incident response activities and establishes means and methods for the sensitive, respectful, orderly care and handling of human remains in multi-death disaster situations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Refer to Basic Plan.
2. East Baton Rouge Parish is vulnerable to hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, hazardous materials incidents, mass transportation accidents, river accidents, and acts of terrorism. Any of these occurrences could result in multiple death response requirements that would overwhelm local capabilities.
3. Should local capabilities be exceeded, support will be available from neighboring parishes, state agencies, and federal agencies.

B. Assumptions

1. Refer to Basic Plan.
2. The Louisiana Mass Fatalities Task Force will be available to aid the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner in the necessary acts of recovery, evacuation, identification, sanitation, preservation or embalming (as authorized), notification of next of kin, counseling, and facilitating the release of identified human remains to the next of kin or their representative.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Mass fatalities incident response is separate from and secondary to search and rescue operations. Response activities should occur only after all survivors of the incident are moved to safety.
2. The primary concerns of a mass fatality incident response are recovery, identification of human remains and assistance to affected families.



ANNEX U Mass Fatalities

3. Mass fatality incidents involve many tasks and can become very complex. Teamwork and appreciation of the roles of other agencies are crucial during planning and during the incident itself.
4. Responsibility for collection, identification, storage and dispatch of deceased victims lies with the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner as set forth by law in the State of Louisiana.
5. The Louisiana Mass Fatalities Task Force will assist at the request of the Coroner, and as coordinated through MOHSEP.

B. Phases of Emergency Management

1. Prevention
 - a. Develop plan in coordination with the State and other parishes to determine process for dealing with mass fatalities.
 - b. Establish pre-event contracts.
2. Mitigation
 - a. Pre-designation of temporary morgue sites.
 - b. Development of mutual aid agreements.
 - c. Specialized training and education.
3. Preparedness
 - a. Planning, training and exercising.
 - b. Updating and revising plans.
4. Response
 - a. Identification of staging areas.
 - b. Coordination for transportation of equipment and personnel.
 - c. Provisions for family reception area.
 - d. Public information activities.



ANNEX U Mass Fatalities

- e. Search and body recovery.
 - f. Body identification.
 - g. Logistical support.
5. Recovery
- a. Continuation of response activities as needed.
 - b. Compilation of reports and records.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

The Mass Fatalities function is the responsibility of the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner. The Coroner has the overall authority. MOHSEP will provide coordination for activities and resources.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. MOHSEP

- _____a. Coordinate response and recovery activities to include mass feeding, public information activities, and transportation support.
- _____b. Coordinate training in mass fatalities incident response.
- _____c. Coordinate and conduct exercises in mass fatalities response.

2. Coroner's Office

- _____a. Recovery and evacuation of remains.
- _____b. Body identification.
- _____c. Disposition of human remains.
- _____d. Preservation or embalming.
- _____e. Notification of next of kin or representative.
- _____f. Grief counseling.



ANNEX U Mass Fatalities

- _____g. Family assistance.
- _____h. Documentation on each victim.
- _____i. Prepare and file death certificates.
- _____j. Resource listing.
- _____k. Safeguarding of personal effects.
- _____l. Identification of morgue site.
- _____m. Establishment of staging area.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

The East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner is responsible by law for the collection, identification, storage, and dispatch of the deceased. The Coroner can request assistance from other parish agencies through MOHSEP. The Louisiana Mass Fatalities Task Force is available to assist the parish coroner in a coordinated effort of recovery and identification.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

Refer to the Basic Plan.

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

MOHSEP and other parish agencies will provide administrative and logistical support, as specified in the basic plan.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. Reference VII. A., Basic Plan.
- B. The Director of MOHSEP and the East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner will be responsible for the development, review, and maintenance of this annex.

VIII. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

Refer to the Basic Plan.



ANNEX U
Mass Fatalities

IX. APPENDICES TO ANNEX

- 1) Organization Chart.
- 2) Mass Fatalities Procedures – East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner.