



MEDICAL-HEALTH MUTUAL AID AND RESOURCE COORDINATION

Medical-Health Mutual Aid and Coordination in the Operational Area

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department and Emergency Medical Services Agency operate under various statutory requirements found in the California Code of Regulations and other applicable doctrine. In addition, both agencies share in the responsibility for the coordination of medical-health resources and mutual aid as the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator.

Unlike the some other mutual aid coordination roles, the Medical-Health Operational Area Coordinators (EMS and Public Health) hold regulatory authorities that pertain to all political/governmental units and some private organizations within the Operational Area such as disease control, medical risk communication messaging, patient care and transportation, triaging of the ill and injured, etc.

Operational Area Medical-Health Branch

The Operational Area Medical-Health Branch is responsible for the coordination and management of functions identified the California Health and Safety Code and other applicable laws and ordinances.

The California Health and Safety Code identifies the County Health Officer and the EMS Director as being responsible for filling the role of the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator. In general terms, “medical” most often refers to emergency medical services and “health” most often refers to public health (including environmental health).

Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator

Areas of Responsibility

California Health and Safety Code §1797.153.

Function	Lead Agency
Assessment of immediate medical needs	EMS Agency
Coordination of disaster medical and health resources	EMS Agency (Medical) Health Officer (Health)
Coordination of patient distribution and medical evaluations	EMS Agency
Coordination with inpatient and emergency care providers	EMS Agency (Medical) Health Officer (Health)

Function	Lead Agency
Coordination of out-of-hospital medical care providers	EMS Agency (Medical) Public Health (Health)
Coordination and integration with fire agencies personnel, resources, and emergency fire prehospital medical services	EMS Agency
Coordination of providers of non-fire based prehospital emergency medical services	EMS Agency
Coordination of the establishment of temporary field treatment sites including alternate care sites	EMS Agency
Health surveillance and epidemiological analyses of community health status	EPI/Lab/Health Officer
Assurance of food safety	Environmental Health Department
Management of exposure to hazardous agents	Environmental Health Department/ EMS Agency/Public Health Lab/Health Officer
Provision or coordination of mental health services	Behavioral Health Department
Provision of medical and health public information protective action recommendations	EMS Agency/Public Health
Provision or coordination of vector control services	Environmental Health
Assurance of drinking water safety	Health Officer/Environmental Health
Assurance of the safe management of liquid, solid, and hazardous wastes	Environmental Health
Investigation and control of communicable disease	Health Officers/Lab/PH Communicable Disease

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