

EMSA Fire Season Update & Hospital Coordination


Enhancing Collaboration and Preparedness
September 11, 2024

Hernando Garzon, MD – EMSA CMO

[Disaster Medical Services Division Links](#) | [EMSA](#)



Agenda

- ▶ This Year's Fire Update and Coordination with Hospitals
 - ▶ MHOAC/RDMHS Program Working with Hospitals
 - ▶ EMSA/PH Emergency Operations Manual (EOM) Overview
 - ▶ EMSA Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) National Advisory Committee
- 

This Year's Fire Update

► Overview of Fire Season:

- Summary of the current fire season's impact on health care infrastructure: 9 med facilities, 215 patients evacuated
- Key statistics: 5,524 fires, 832,003 acres, focus on Northern California and Central Valley

► Hospital Coordination:

- MHOAC to streamline resource allocation, manage pt. transfers, ensure effective communication
- Ensuring continuity of care and patient safety during wildfires
- Communication strategy: Regular updates on pt. status and facility needs through the joint operations centers, etc.

Coordination with Hospitals

▶ Key Actions Taken:

- Deployment of EMSA resources to support hospitals
 - Medical supplies, personnel, and ambulance strike teams
- Establishing evacuation protocols and patient transfers
- Enhancing hospital preparedness through training and drills

▶ Future Coordination Efforts:


- Ongoing support during fire season
 - MHOAC, RDMHS, and ESF 8 (EMSA/CDPH)
- Planning for potential escalations
 - Surge planning strategies to address increased emergency demands

MHOAC/RDMHS Program Overview

▶ MHOAC/RDMHS Program:

- Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) – 58
 - Oversee and coordinate medical and health services within a designated operational area during emergencies
 - Manage resource allocation, facilitate comms between hospitals and emergency agencies, and ensure that local health systems are integrated into broader regional and state response efforts
- Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS) – 6
 - Provides specialized medical support and coordinates disaster health services across multiple regions
 - Manage pt transfers, support local health care facilities, & coordinate with state agencies to ensure a cohesive and effective regional response
- Importance of partnership between hospitals and MHOAC/RDMHS

MHOAC/RDMHS Program Overview

- ▶ Key Expectations for Hospitals:
 - Active engagement with MHOAC/RDMHS during emergencies
 - Sharing critical information and resources
 - Collaboration in regional planning and response efforts – Health Care Coalitions (HCCs)
- 

Working with MHOAC/RDMHS

- ▶ What Hospitals Should Know:
 - How MHOAC/RDMHS can support hospital operations during disasters
 - Benefits of coordinated response: resource sharing, mutual aid, and regional situational awareness
 - Case studies of successful hospital-MHOAC/RDMHS collaboration – review past events, ‘after-action’ process

EMSA/PH Emergency Operations Manual (EOM)

▶ Introduction to EOM:

- Provides a comprehensive framework for managing and coordinating responses to emergencies across the state
- Guiding document that integrates emergency protocols, facilitates effective comms, and ensures that health care facilities are prepared
- Inclusion of hospitals in the EOM outlines roles and responsibilities

▶ Key Elements for Hospitals:

- Protocols for hospital engagement during state-level emergencies
- Communication pathways outlined in the EOM
- How hospitals can access and utilize the EOM

Hospital Inclusion in EOM

- ▶ Importance of Hospital Involvement:
 - Participation ensures that hospitals are fully integrated into statewide emergency response efforts, allowing for coordinated actions during crises
 - Understanding and following EOM guidelines ensures that hospitals are prepared to respond effectively to emergencies, reducing chaos and enhancing coordination with state and local agencies
 - Improves resource allocation, patient safety, and overall resilience during disasters
 - Provide regular updates and training sessions on EOM for hospital staff

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)

- ▶ What Hospitals Need to Know:
 - EMSA co-chairs the National Advisory Committee for HICS
 - HICS is a standardized, scalable framework designed to help hospitals manage emergencies and coordinate their response efforts effectively
 - Hospitals can provide input for the HICS revision by participating in surveys, focus groups, and workshops, as well as directly engaging with the California HICS Committee

HICS National Advisory Committee

- ▶ Current Revision Efforts:
 - Appendix C (Hospital Incident Management Team), Appendix E (Incident Planning Guide), Chapter 3 (Operationalizing HICS), Chapter 6 (HICS Toolkit), Chapter 8 (Customizing HICS), and the HICS Forms

Questions?

Thank You

- ▶ Closing Remarks:

- Thank the audience for their participation and dedication

Emsa.ca.gov

- [Disaster Medical Services Division Links | EMSA](#)