

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 8**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the New Haven Health Department Public Health Emergency Response Plan is to support the following functions of the local emergency response effort:

- Maximize the protection of lives and properties while minimizing morbidity and mortality.
- Document strategies and procedures to implement when responding to a public health emergency
- Enable the jurisdiction to continue to operate and provide critical public health services as normally and effectively as possible in the event of a public health emergency.

**2. SCOPE**

This plan is compatible with the City of New Haven emergency response plan and utilizes common goals, strategies, and terminology. It applies primarily to large-scale emergencies and disasters that would cause severe illness, injury and /or fatalities sufficient to overwhelm local public health service capabilities.

**3. AUTHORITY**

Authority for public health emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning is contained in Title 28, Chapter 517 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended and Volume II, Chapter 11 of the General Ordinances of the City of New Haven and any special acts as may be applicable; local Executive Orders, Charter Provisions and Ordinances and Chapter 19a of the General Statutes pertaining to the detection, prevention and treatment of unnecessary illness. Authority for selected contents of this plan is also contained in Public Act 03-236, an Act concerning Public Health Emergency Response Authority (PHERA).

**4. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

**4.1 Situation**

The City of New Haven is susceptible to both manmade and naturally occurring public health emergencies. It is the goal of the New Haven Health Department, should a public health emergency occur, to mitigate the impact on the population it serves. Public health emergencies can result in large scale impacts that can quickly overwhelm the City's resources and critical infrastructure. Such events require active public health leadership and involvement at the local level. It may also become necessary to coordinate response efforts with the state and federal

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government. To accomplish this, the New Haven Health Department (NHHD) has a comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which addresses all hazards and contains mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery elements. More specifically, the plan details how the Department will respond to identified hazards and how it will function within a common operating structure. The NHHD EOP is designed to be incorporated into Annex G (Terrorism) of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the City of New Haven and to be integrated with future regional and state plans as they develop.

**4.2 Assumptions**

1. The New Haven Health Department is responsible for the protection of the health and welfare of the citizens within its jurisdiction.
2. Incidents will be managed at the lowest possible geographic, organizational, and jurisdictional level using the National Incident Management System.
3. The resources normally available may not be sufficient to respond to a major emergency.
4. Some citizens of the city will not comply with emergency regulations.
5. It is estimated that 40% of emergency responders will not be available to respond upon request.
6. The City of New Haven is vulnerable to a naturally occurring infectious disease emergency, a natural disaster or an overt/covert terrorist attack.
7. A public health emergency may involve as few as one and as many as thousands of individuals.
8. The event may be within or outside the town/district boundaries.
9. A response to the occurrence of a public health emergency is dependent on the scope and nature of the incident.
10. A public health emergency is a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional event that will require broad interagency planning and response approaches as well as cooperative partnerships between the federal, state, and local governments.
11. In the event that it becomes necessary, the New Haven Health Department will sign formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with neighboring communities. The community response to a public health emergency is likely to be associated with high levels of anxiety, fear, and hysteria.

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12. Depending on the size of the incident, public health services as well as routine commerce and community activities may be reduced or temporarily discontinued.
13. Disruption of sanitation services, loss of power, massing of people in shelters will increase risk of disease and injury.
14. Normal communications systems may be destroyed, degraded, or rendered inoperable in a disaster.
15. This plan may be activated by events occurring in other jurisdictions.
16. During a disaster, large numbers of injured, ill and worried-well persons are likely to converge to medical and health care facilities in or near affected areas.
17. There will be extensive media interest in a large-scale event.
18. The use of a biologic agent may only be apparent days or weeks after release.
19. BT releases are likely to be targeted at population centers and buildings or facilities that conduct operations for government, transportation, industry or the media.
20. Upon discovering the use of a BT agent, the event automatically becomes a criminal investigation under the jurisdiction of the FBI<sup>1</sup>.  
<sup>1</sup> Although the FBI maintains jurisdiction of a criminal investigation, LHDs will continue to carry out the necessary public health functions to investigate and contain the outbreak.

**5. OPERATIONS PLANS**

**5.1 Activation**

Upon credible intelligence of a known, suspected or threatened public health emergency, the Director of Health, or his/her designee, has the authority to activate all or a portion of the public health emergency response plan and request mutual aid as necessary.

If necessary and upon the direction of the Director of Health, the NHHD Incident Command system will be initiated, whereby all critical staff will be notified to report to the departmental EOC (or primary incident command post) using the NHHD internal notification system. Critical staff will assume their assigned role in the ICS and perform the duties outlined in their Job Action Sheets (JAS). Remaining staff will assume routine tasks if possible or assist with emergency operations as directed.

If stood up, the Director of Health will report to the City EOC. The NHHD Emergency Response Coordinator will assume the position of Incident Commander. Direction and control may be established at the disaster

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site, if identified, or conducted from the departmental EOC. Staffing and shifts may vary in accordance with the time and nature of the emergency.

**5.2 General Responsibilities of NHHD**

- Providing direction and guidance to officials and the general public.
- Advising the Mayor on the environmental conditions with the City with recommendations for necessary corrections.
- Providing the City Public Information Officer with accurate and authoritative information on health concerns for release to the general public.
- Insuring the enforcement of relevant health regulations.
- Immunization for the prevention of disease.
- In cooperation with the State Department of Health, controlling communicable disease vectors such as insects and rodents.
- Inspection of food, water and other materials suspected of contamination by sewage, chemicals, radioactive material or other health threatening agents in cooperation with the State Health Department, Agriculture Department, etc.
- Insuring the protection of public and private water supplies (including ice).
- Identification and coordination of sources of medical equipment and supplies during emergency operations in cooperation with the City's hospitals.
- Directing the proper disposal of sewage, solid waste and refuse.
- Health inspection of emergency temporary housing and oversight of any necessary corrections.
- Supervising the sanitary and health conditions shelters and congregate care facilities.
- Identifying hospitals, nursing homes or other facilities that can be expanded into emergency treatment sites for disaster victims.
- Coordinating the provision of medical care for any emergency workers remaining in the disaster area after the evacuation of the general populace.
- Coordination with the medical Examiner's Office on fatality management.
- Emergency morgue services.
- Expanding mortuary services.

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- Emergency veterinary services.
- Providing information on environmental bio-hazards, and corrective actions.
- Assist in determining radiation levels and providing treatment and care for exposed individuals, including decontamination.

**5.3 Phasic Responsibilities of the NHHD**

The following is a list of roles and responsibilities by phase that the New Haven Health Department, by virtue of the Health Director, may expect to assume before, during, and after a public health emergency.

**5.3.1 Preparedness Phase Responsibilities**

- Participate in drills, exercises and other methods of plan evaluation with emergency planning partners.
- Assist with the modification of the Public Health Emergency Response Plan for the City of New Haven to improve the effectiveness of the local response.
- Develop strong community and regional partnerships.
- Ensure that the Department's EOP is integrated with the City's EOP.
- Enhance communication among traditional and non-traditional public health partners.
- Ensure a notification system is in place to receive reports of conditions or suspicious findings, thus facilitating active public health surveillance among traditional and non-traditional public health partners for rapid detection of a biological event (See Addendum G: Health Alert Network (HAN) Outreach Letter).
- Ensure that an emergency public health risk communication plan is in place and tested regularly.
- Ensure the development of effective risk communication messages and their integration into the public health emergency risk communication plan.
- Ensure a system for the rapid distribution of risk communication materials during a public health emergency.
- Organize call-down lists of hospital personnel, public health support, and volunteers in case of an emergency.
- Establish and maintain standard operating procedures (SOPs) and policies related to all phases of an emergency.
- Maintain internet service for information sharing purposes.

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- Ensure more than one mode of communication is available to transmit and receive emergency information.
- Coordinate with other local emergency responders and schools to prepare and deliver a public health emergency education campaign ready to be launched prior to a biological event.
- Ensure opportunities for staff training, volunteer training, and other forms of workforce development that will ensure a qualified workforce and provide safety equipment needed to protect personnel at appropriate response levels.

**5.3.2 Response Phase Responsibilities**

During the response phase, the Health Director shall work in consultation with the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), the State Department of Public Health, and State and Local Emergency Managers to:

- Declare a public health emergency, if necessary.
- Oversee NHHD emergency response operations.
- Order isolation and quarantine measures when indicated.
- Oversee the management of nuisance abatement.
- Oversee the investigation, if indicated, of a biological threat using objective tests to confirm diagnosis.
- Oversee epidemiologic investigation, if indicated, with local, state, and/or federal law enforcement officials, as necessary.
- Activate risk communication plan(s) and provide information on the nature of the emergency and protective action messages across various media for the public to implement and adhere to.
- Activate the mobilization of necessary LHD staff and volunteers to respond to public health emergencies.
- Mobilize local, regional, and/or state partnerships to set up and execute appropriate necessary responses (e.g., mass care clinic(s), mass vaccination clinic(s), mass mortuary assistance, mental health support, etc.)
- Provide staff including (2) Public Health Nurses for Shelter Medical Station. Provide (1) Public Health Outreach worker and provide (1) Sanitarian each for shelter operations.
- Facilitate access to community, mental health, social services, and other necessary services for special needs populations during a crisis.

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- Protect health and ensure safety of City of New Haven residents, LHD staff, and volunteers in the case of a public health emergency by ensuring infection control and safety precautions are being adhered to, as well as enforcing laws and regulations such as quarantine and/or isolation.

**5.3.3 Recovery Phase Responsibilities**

During the recovery phase, the Health Director shall work in consultation with the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, as needed, to:

- Continue with response phase activities, as required.
- Correct deficiencies in emergency response operation as necessary.
- Conduct environmental health remediation and monitoring, as necessary or required.
- Continue public health surveillance and monitoring of illness and death resulting from a public health emergency.
- Evaluate and assess response and remediation activities.
- Assist staff, as needed, with completing required documentation of expenditures for state and federal reimbursement purposes.
- Reverse a declaration of a public health emergency when warranted.

**6. HEALTH DEPARTMENT CHAIN OF COMMAND**

In order to ensure continuity of operations of the NHHD during a public health emergency, NHHD adheres to the following chain of command:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>1</b>	Mario Garcia	Director of Health
<b>2</b>	TBD	Deputy Director
<b>3</b>	TBD	Emergency Response Coordinator
<b>4</b>	Paul Kowalski	Director, Environmental Health
<b>5</b>	Amanda Durante	Director, Information Systems
<b>6</b>	TBD	Director, Laboratory
<b>7</b>	Kathy Carbone	Director, Nursing
<b>8</b>	Maria Damiani	Director, Women's Health

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**7. RISK COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION**

To ensure consistent, reliable and continuous flow of information to the public and the media, the New Haven Health Department has designated personnel assigned and trained to act as Public Information Officers (PIOs).

The City of New Haven has a strict policy regarding the dissemination of Information the public and to the media; employees and volunteers are directed to inform and direct all interested parties to the City of New Haven Communications Director. However, the department will continue to have personnel assigned to act as department PIOs if the release of information is authorized by the City Communications Director. Under such a condition, the PIO will be responsible for interacting with the media and dealing with media and public inquiries on behalf of the City of New Haven and for issuing press releases and news conferences as necessary. All efforts in such a case will be coordinated with the City EOC, State PIO or Joint Information Center (JIC).

**8. COMMAND AND CONTROL OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

The Director of Health of the New Haven Health Department retains authority to activate the New Haven Health Department Emergency Response Plan, whereby the Health Department's Incident Command System is activated. The Director of Health will report to the City of New Haven's Emergency Operation Center, if activated, and shall serve as the department liaison.

The ICS and, if necessary, a Unified Command Structure (UCS) will be used to respond to a public health emergency. All NHHD staff is trained to operate within this system to prevent coordination problems in a multi-organizational response.

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**RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
PLAN AND PROCEDURES  
LOCAL AGENCIES**

**INTRODUCTION**

Section 2.0 contains a description of responsibilities for each of the Host Community agencies in the event of a radiological emergency at a nuclear power plant resulting in an evacuation. Overall operations are essentially the same for all host communities except of the specific titles of officials and locations at which certain activities take place.

In effect, this section describes who will represent each agency at the town's Emergency Operations Center, and direct field personnel in support of emergency actions as authorized by the Chief Elected Officer or designee as the Director of Emergency Operations Center.

The Director is in charge of the Department's emergency response operations and will coordinate assigned activities with Emergency Management.

Responsibilities:

- Receives notification of an incident at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station or the Haddam Neck Plant by a telephone call from the NHPSAP.
- Verifies receipt of notification by voice recognition or, if necessary, a return telephone call.
- Reports as directed to the City EOC to be briefed on the situation.
- After receiving authorization from the Mayor, the Director places the appropriate Health Department personnel on standby, or directs them to report to their duty stations, via telephone.
- Supports evacuee accountability tasks by providing administrative assistance as needed.
- Coordinates assigned emergency support activities with those of Emergency Management and the other support agencies as described in Attachment 1 - *New Haven Agency Responsibility Matrix*, in this section.
- Provides Potassium Iodine disbursement and assists with food and water quality control, waste disposal, and mobilization of school health and public health nursing staffs for emergency first aid if necessary.
- Coordinates public health and medical services with services available at the hospitals, if necessary.

