

Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions



Massachusetts Emergency Support Functions*

The Massachusetts Emergency Support Function (ESF) Team is composed of trained representatives of state, Federal, local, private, and public agencies and organizations. These representatives have extensive knowledge of their agencies' and organizations' resources and capabilities as well as the authority to commit them in support of local emergency management efforts during an incident.

Members of the ESF Team have been organized into 16 Massachusetts Emergency Support Functions (MAESFs). These MAESFs represent broad categories of support and provide an overall structure for coordinating state assistance to local first responders. ESF agencies have been assigned to MAESFs based on the premise that their functions during an emergency should parallel their normal day-to-day responsibilities as closely as possible.

When the SEOC is activated, MEMA's Director or SEOC Manager will designate a lead coordinating agency for each activated MAESF based on the necessary authority, expertise, resources, and capability to coordinate response and recovery activities in the MAESF's area of responsibility. The lead coordinating agency, with assistance from supporting MAESF agencies, is responsible for coordinating the activities of the MAESF and for ensuring that missions assigned to the MAESF by MEMA are carried out. The emergency support functions are organized into the following groupings:

MAESF 1 Transportation: Provides or facilitates repairs to damaged transportation systems, emergency transport of goods and resources, and assists in the coordination of emergency evacuations.

MAESF 2 Communications: Provides emergency communications services to organizations involved in response and recovery operations, supports the restoration of damaged public safety communications systems, and may support the restoration of public communications services.

MAESF 3 Public Works and Engineering: Removes debris, provides emergency generators, water and water treatment systems and services, and assists in the restoration of public works systems.

MAESF 4 Fire Fighting: Detects and suppresses wildland, rural, and urban fires, coordinates deployment of mutual aid resources under the state's Fire Mobilization Plan, and coordinates the deployment of fire-based hazardous materials response teams.

MAESF 5 Business and Industry: Coordinates the emergency activities of private sector owner/operators and organizations in support of disaster relief in the Commonwealth.

MAESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Housing, Human Services: Manages and coordinates sheltering, feeding, first aid, and human services for disaster survivors.

MAESF 7: Volunteers and Donations: Manages the receipt and distribution of donated goods and services to meet requests.

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MAESF 8 Public Health and Medical Services: Provides trained health and medical personnel and supplies to shelters, staffs and supplies temporary medical facilities, manages medical surge operations, coordinates fatality management services, coordinates with the federal Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control, and implements quality disease control measures.

MAESF 9 Search and Rescue: Coordinates urban and non-urban search and rescue assistance, including locating and extricating victims trapped in debris or wreckage created by a disaster and woodland, water, or other area search and rescue services.

MAESF 10 Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection: Provides inspections, containment, and cleanup of all threats to the environment following a disaster.

MAESF 11 Agriculture, Animals, Natural Resources: Coordinates with other MAESFs to meet food and water needs of disaster survivors and ensures that supplies of food and water (or vouchers to obtain food and water locally where possible) are provided. Also provides coordination for animal care needs and coordinates the response to animal-borne diseases.

MAESF 12 Energy: Coordinates with the private sector and other MAESFs to provide emergency supplies of power and fuel. Assists in the restoration of power and fuel systems. Maintains current information on power outages and impacts to the energy sector and its infrastructure.

MAESF 13 Public Safety and Security: Provides general public safety and armed escort for emergency workers or transport caravans as needed. Additionally, provides security for emergency facilities, and assists in general law enforcement services. Coordinates law enforcement mutual aid.

MAESF 14 Recovery: Provides and manages the breadth of short and long term recovery service support required during the recovery phase of an emergency event.

MAESF 15 Public Information and External Affairs: Establishes and manages the joint information center, coordinates the dissemination of all disaster-related information to the media and the general public.

MAESF 16 Military Support: Serves as a liaison between the SEOC and the National Guard's Joint Operations Center. Assists in the coordination and deployment of National Guard soldiers ordered to State Active Duty by the Governor. Assists in the coordination and deployment of National Guard soldiers to assist communities and the state as directed by the SEOC. Supports Rapid Impact Assessment and provides National Guard resources to assist MAESFs as needed.