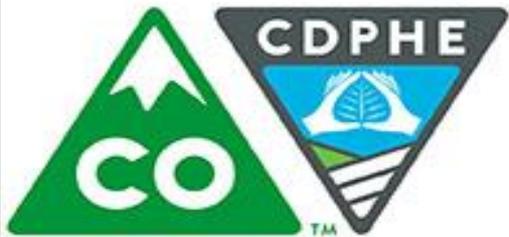


Fatality Management

Basics for Public Health



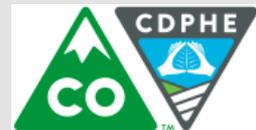
COLORADO

**Office of Emergency
Preparedness & Response**

Department of Public Health & Environment

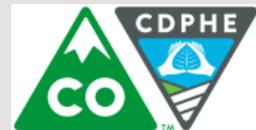
Session Objectives

- To increase the public health capacity to support their communities in times of Mass Fatality.
- To be able to address the five Functions of the Fatality Management Capability.
- Determine where we want to be collectively as a state by the end of BP5.



Stakeholders

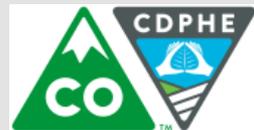
- Public Health Directors/ Workers
- Coroners
- Elected Officials
- Who else?
 - Healthcare Coalition partners?
 - Local Emergency Planning Committees?



Most Important Things...



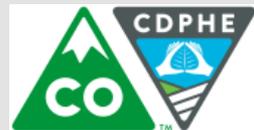
Responders and Their Families



Most Important Things...



Victims and their Families



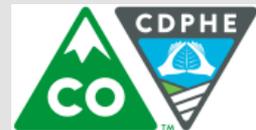
Local Jurisdiction

People will expect that the dead and their family members will get immediate attention.



What is a Mass fatality Incident?

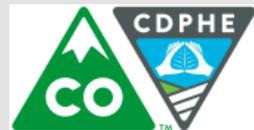
- A Mass Fatalities Incident
 - Disaster that results in significant loss of life
 - Human suffering that cannot be addressed by usual individual and community resources.
- “Mass casualties”
 - Large number of both injuries and deaths
 - Relatively short period of time
 - Exceeds local response capabilities.



Functions of Fatality Management

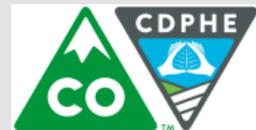
PHEP Capability #5

1. Determine role for Public Health in Fatality Management.
2. Activate public health fatality management operations
3. Assist in the collection and dissemination of ante-mortem data
4. Participate in survivor mental/behavioral health services
5. Participate in fatality processing and storage operations



Determine Role for Public Health in Fatality Management.

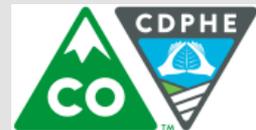
- Pre-planning essential.
 - Do you know who your coroners are?
 - Have you developed a Fatality Management Plan?
 - Has the Coroner specified how PH can be most useful in support of their operations?



Determine Role for Public Health in Fatality Management.

– Who will provide the following services?:

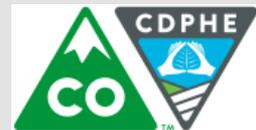
- Health Surveillance
- Worker/ Health Safety
- Radiological/ Chemical/ biological hazards consultation
- Public Health Information
- Monitor and Address Environmental Health and disease transmission issues



Determine Role for Public Health in Fatality Management.

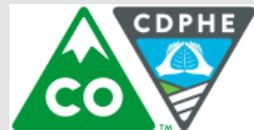
– Who will provide the following services?:

- Disease Management
- Victim Information
- Forensic Services
- Morgue Operations
- Environmental Impact



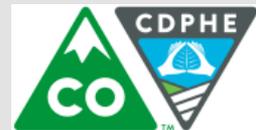
Activate Public Health Fatality Management Operations

- What is your fatality management operations plan? Is there a written plan?
- Does the plan clearly describe Public Health's responsibilities?
- Has an ICS structure been identified?



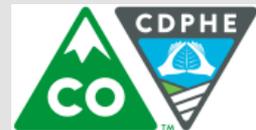
Assist in the Collection and Dissemination of Ante-Mortem Data

- Victim Identification is responsibility of local coroner or Medical Examiner
- Public Health may be asked to assist with data collection...
 - Which data sets are most critical?
 - Family Interviews
 - Medical Records
 - DNA Reference collection

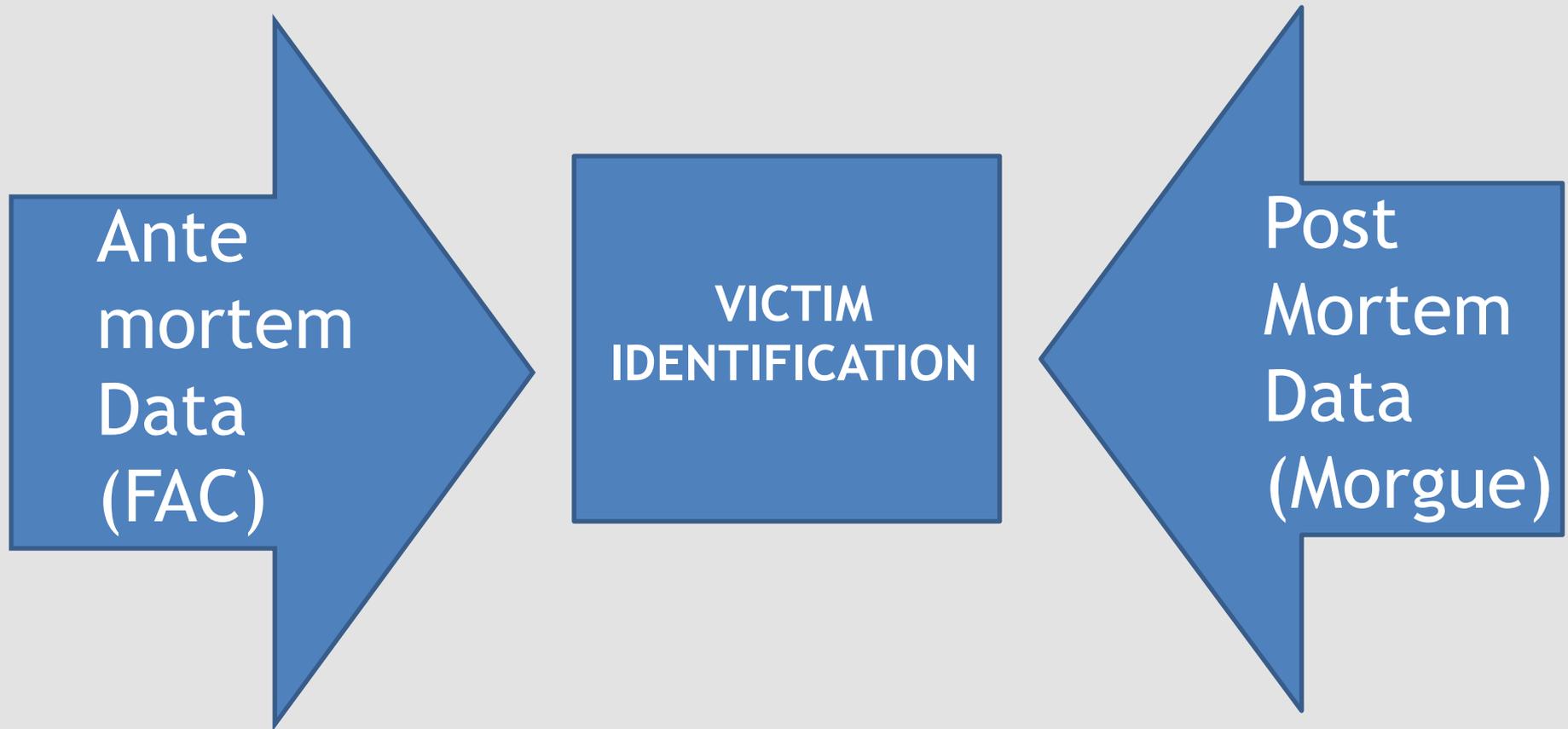


Assist in the Collection and Dissemination of Ante-Mortem Data

- Does the type of data change depending on the type of mass fatality event?
 - Infectious Disease event?
- How does PH role adjust based on the event?
 - Pandemic
 - Bio-terrorism

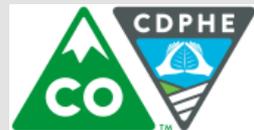


Assist in the Collection and Dissemination of Ante-Mortem Data



Participate in Survivor Mental/ Behavioral Health Services

- What is the plan for Victim Information Services/ Victim Information Center?
- What role does PH play in VIS/ VIC?



Family Assistance Center



A secure meeting place for survivors, family members and friends.

- Managed by the Coroner
- Victim identification process
- Management of personal effects
- Crisis counseling services

What services does the Family Assistance Center (FAC) provide?

- Coordination of Family Relations
- Procedures to acquire death certificates
- Antemortem data management
- Personnel needs



Who are the primary players in the FAC?

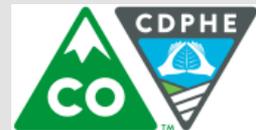
- Coroner
- Colorado Mental Health Centers?
- Victim advocates?
- Red Cross?
- Salvation Army?
- CO-VOAD?

- Who else?



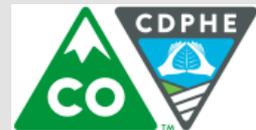
Participate in Fatality Processing and Storage Operations

- This is the coroner's domain.
 - Public Health plays support role.
 - What other partners will be involved?
 - What are the expectations of Public Health?
 - What are the key steps and phases of this operation?



Fatality Processing and Storage Operations

- What resources are needed?
 - Body Bags
 - Body Storage
 - Data Management
 - PH Nurses for Pandemic Investigation
 - Livery Services



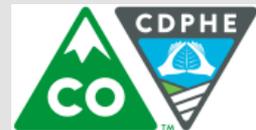
Fatality Processing and Storage Operations



- What specifically does the coroner expect of PH in this role?
- What responsibility does ESF#8 have?

Public Health Role

- **Before the Incident Occurs**
 - Build partner relationships with all coroners.
 - Assist the Coroner in building local Family Assistance Center plans. Assist in bringing together CMHCs, LPHA, ARC, VA to clearly articulate who has what role in the FAC.
 - Fully understand Coroner's role in Fatality Management and how Public Health is a support role in this function.

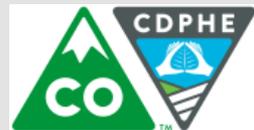


Coroner/ Medical Examiner Role

Legislated Responsibilities

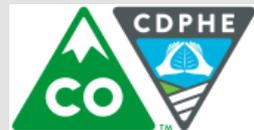
- Certify Cause of Death
- Determine Manner of Death
- Legal Identification
- Legal Notification

(Hierarchy of Legal Next of Kin)



Medical Examiner

- The medical examiner is legally responsible for the mass fatalities scene. Together with Public Health, they must determine the existence and type of contamination, and the type of protective measures required to safely enter the site.



Coroner

- Ensure complete recovery of remains.
- Protection of evidence.
- Security of personal effects and loose items.



DMORT

- Disaster Mortuary Assistance Team
 - Federal Level Response Team designed to provide mortuary assistance in mass fatality event.
 - Work under the local jurisdictional authority.
 - Requested by governor to Secretary of DHHS.
 - DHHS Region VIII staff will confer with state officials.



5 Years From Now...

- Where do we want to see ourselves?
- What will be different?
- What tools/ resources do you need?



North Central Region Fatality Management Committee

Jason Atencio

Emergency Preparedness and Response
Planner

Tri-County Health Department



North Central Region Fatality Management Committee

- The following counties make up the North Central Region(NCR)
 - Adams
 - Arapahoe
 - Boulder
 - Broomfield
 - Clear Creek
 - Denver
 - Douglas
 - Elbert
 - Gilpin
 - Jefferson



NCR Mass Fatality Incident Response Plan

- Purpose
 - Define and organize the (NCR) response to an incident resulting in mass fatalities
 - Establish a comprehensive fatality management system that incorporates and integrates
 - Medicolegal death investigation
 - Health institutions
 - Mortuary services
 - Family assistance



NCR Mass Fatality Incident Response Plan

- Successes
 - Plan was recently updated in July 2015
 - 10-county region notification system
 - Collaborative understand of identifying and tracking human remains and personal belongings
 - Coordination with Red Cross Mile High
 - Capabilities and resources within the region
 - Committee training and exercise schedule
 - Continuous relationship building



NCR Mass Fatality Incident Response Plan

- Challenges and Next Steps
 - Healthcare expectations, planning and processes
 - Response to pandemic influenza-type events
 - Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Participation from all 10 counties with in the NCR



Questions?

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