



MASS FATALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is a MASS FATALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A pandemic influenza or other disaster event may result in more deaths than can be handled by local mortuary resources.

Operations that can experience surge include death investigations, morgue capacity, funeral home capacity, cemetery capacity, and transportation of the deceased. The Mass Fatality Management Plan can alleviate stress on the mortuary system.

What is a Central Processing Unit?

Hospitals, funeral homes, and the Division of Forensic Science may need additional space to store the deceased. A satellite morgue can provide the necessary resources to ensure efficient operations.

When would a Central Processing Unit be necessary?

A satellite morgue will be considered if:

- A one-time mass fatality event exceeds 35 deaths.
- An ongoing mass fatality event results in a total weekly death rate that the system cannot sustain.

The Division of Forensic Science will monitor operations at local funeral homes and morgues and its own facilities to make a final determination.

Does the plan consider religious and cultural concerns?

Traditional burials and funeral services within several days of death may not be possible due to an extended time needed to process remains. During a mass fatality event, the State of Delaware will address and consider religious and cultural issues and handle the deceased with sensitivity. Appropriate and respectful treatment of the deceased is a moral obligation necessary to comfort both the family of the deceased and the larger community.

Additional information:

For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Health & Social Services at: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/>.

Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section
24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156
Contact Number: 302-223-2999

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