

Columbus Public Health (CPH) Emergency Response Plan Executive Summary

The Columbus Public Health Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and its various annexes and appendices are designed to effectively direct Department personnel and resources in protecting the health and safety of residents of the City of Columbus and the City of Worthington, and their environs against all hazards. These hazards include those naturally occurring, such as an outbreak of infectious disease, as well as those that are caused by people, such as a release of hazardous chemicals. The ERP outlines the roles and responsibilities for all CPH divisions, offices, and sections with an emergency support function.

The ERP is comprehensive, addressing the four phases of emergency management (Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery) and works in coordination with the Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and the Franklin County Public Health Emergency Response Plan. Furthermore, the plan is consistent with the National Response Framework (NRF) and the accepted standards and principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

There are three main sections to this comprehensive plan: the Basic Plan, Functional Annexes, and Appendices with supporting attachments and tables. The information contained within this document is confidential; nevertheless, the following is a brief description of each section:

BASIC PLAN (BP) – This section addresses, in general terms, CPH’s response organization and policies. It describes the legal authorities for emergency response, summarizes the local hazard analysis, explains operations in response to the identified hazards, assigns responsibilities for operations and planning, and provides policies covering agreements with other response organizations, logistical/financial management, training, exercising, and plan maintenance.

The Basic Plan also covers continuity of government and recovery issues. These are necessary to maintain CPH’s functions and ensure a rapid and orderly implementation of rehabilitation and restoration operations for persons and property affected by the emergency or disaster.

FUNCTIONAL ANNEXES – This section includes plans for activating the specific functions that CPH has been assigned responsibility for through the Franklin County Emergency Operation Plan, Emergency Response Function #8, and others identified as necessary to address local hazards. Each annex focuses on one emergency function, such as risk communications, and hazardous materials incident response.

APPENDICES – These appendices provide additional, detailed information and procedures applicable to the performance of the Basic Plan or a particular functional annex. For example, this section contains the CPH Department Operation Center Procedure, the Response Standard Operating Guideline, and the Additional Resource Request Guidance which are vital to the proper performance of the Basic Plan and Plan Annexes.

The coordination, integration, and update of the CPH Emergency Response Plan is an ongoing process that is conducted through interdivisional meetings, planning workgroups, training, and exercising. All CPH Divisions are responsible for developing and maintaining current internal plans and procedures for carrying out the assigned responsibilities and emergency functions in this plan and for ensuring that their personnel are adequately trained.

INTRODUCTION

Columbus Public Health protects and promotes the health of the public. In doing so, CPH strives to be public health ready and enhance its ability to respond to local multi-hazard public health emergencies, natural or manmade. Utilizing the template established by NIMS, CPH integrates the structure and mechanisms provided by the National Response Framework (NRF) into its incident management activities and emergency support/response functions. Refer to **Appendix: PLAN ORG** to see how the CPH ERP corresponds to the NRP.

Furthermore, the CPH ERP is a component of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) of Franklin County. The CPH section is located in the Franklin County EOP under Emergency Response Function (ERF) #8. The purpose of ERF #8 is to establish the areas of involvement and responsibility for CPH during emergency situations.

Purpose

The primary goal of this document is to provide guidance to CPH staff and volunteers, in the event that an emergency and/or disaster occur in the City of Columbus and/or the City of Worthington. This plan presents the supplemental, narrative information that is essential for developing the Incident Action Plan (IAP) that CPH will use to respond to an emergency and/or disaster situation. Refer to **Appendix: FORMS**

Scope

The CPH ERP is limited in scope to address response activities in events where normal emergency response processes and capabilities become overwhelmed or where it is determined there is a need for coordination of response and preparedness operations due to complexity and/or duration of events. This plan is designed to serve as an operational guide for staff who are providing disaster relief during a natural, technological, or civil emergency, within the jurisdiction or as mutual aid to other jurisdictions.

- The plan establishes fundamental policies, program strategies, and assumptions.
- The plan establishes procedures to manage an emergency from initial assessment through post-disaster response and recovery.
- The plan assigns specific functional responsibilities utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) as outlined in NIMS.
- The plan addresses the various types of Public Health emergencies that are likely to occur.
- The plan identifies response and recovery actions that CPH will take in coordination with local, State and Federal counterparts as appropriate.
- The plan addresses how CPH will work with other agencies in a Unified Command System.