

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESPONSE TEAM

DESCRIPTION	The Epidemiological Response Team identifies, monitors, and investigates disease outbreaks, injuries, or other conditions of public health importance following an incident or declared disaster.
RESOURCE CATEGORY	Medical and Public Health
RESOURCE KIND	Team
OVERALL FUNCTION	<p>The Epidemiological Response Team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports public health authorities in the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in incident epidemiological tasks 2. Performs epidemiological tasks, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Designing and conducting data collection related to the target disease or injury agent b. Conducting data analysis c. Developing and presenting qualitative and quantitative parameters describing the affected and at-risk populations, the methods of agent spread or transmission, and other insights that inform decision-making, policy, and actions to control the incident impact 3. Manages, implements, and monitors ordered control measures, including isolation and quarantine 4. Performs contact tracing 5. Augments in-place epidemiological functions 6. Interfaces and coordinates with public health agencies, jurisdictional Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 - Public Health and Medical, health care coalitions, public health assessment teams, environmental health teams, other public health disciplines, and laboratories
COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss logistics for deploying this resource, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment 2. This team typically works 12 hours per shift, is self-sustainable for 72 hours, and is deployable for up to 14 days 3. The requestor provides support to the team, such as security, fuel, and power for recharging phones, computers, and other rechargeable devices. 4. Requestor may order additional Epidemiology Interviewers within span of control 5. Acquire additional specialized personnel appropriate to the incident, such as Microbiologists, Medical Entomologists, and Environmental Health Specialists separately 6. Requestor may order a National Incident Management System (NIMS) Type 1 Epidemiologist for specific subject areas, such as injury epidemiology, environmental epidemiology, or infectious disease epidemiology or any NIMS Type Epidemiologist for disaster epidemiology 7. Requestor may order Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialists separately to support the team

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
PERSONNEL PER TEAM MINIMUM	11	6	Not Specified
PERSONNEL PER TEAM MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT	1 - NIMS Type 2 Epidemiologist	1 - NIMS Type 3 Epidemiologist	Not Specified
PERSONNEL PER TEAM SUPPORT	<p>Same as Type 2, PLUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - NIMS Type 3 Epidemiologist 3 - NIMS Type 1 Epidemiology Interviewer 1 - NIMS Type 1 Public Health Data Entry Specialist 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 - NIMS Type 1 Epidemiology Interviewer 1 - NIMS Type 1 Public Health Data Entry Specialist 1 - NIMS Type 1 Epidemiological Information Technology Specialist 	Not Specified

Superseded

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
CAPABILITY PER TEAM EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION GATHERING	1. Enhanced information gathering and analysis for human disease and injury 2. Capable of taking clinical specimens from patients for laboratory analysis	Basic epidemiology information gathering and analysis for human disease and injury	Not Specified
EQUIPMENT PER TEAM EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Clinical specimen collection supplies	1. Epidemiological surveillance and investigation forms 2. Epidemiologic database and analysis software	Specimen collection supplies (such as urine catch cups, culture swabs, sterile applicators, vacutainer tubes, and needles) may be necessary to collect clinical specimens.
EQUIPMENT PER TEAM COMMUNICATIONS	Same as Type 2	1. Cell phones (one per team member) 2. Two-way portable radios (one per team member)	Consider alternate forms of communication, such as satellite phones, based on the mission assignment and team needs.
EQUIPMENT PER TEAM ELECTRONICS	Same as Type 2	Computers (one per team member)	Not Specified
EQUIPMENT PER TEAM PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	Same as Type 2	PPE is mission-specific and may include: 1. Respirators 2. Eye protection 3. Protective footwear 4. Protective clothing 5. Hearing protection 6. Masks 7. Disposable gloves	The following standard addresses PPE: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens

Superseded



NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Epidemiologist
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Epidemiology Interviewer
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Public Health Data Entry Specialist
4. FEMA, NIMS 509: Epidemiological Information Technology Specialist
5. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted

Superseded