
Regional Mass Fatality Response System

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What is the RCPGP?

Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program

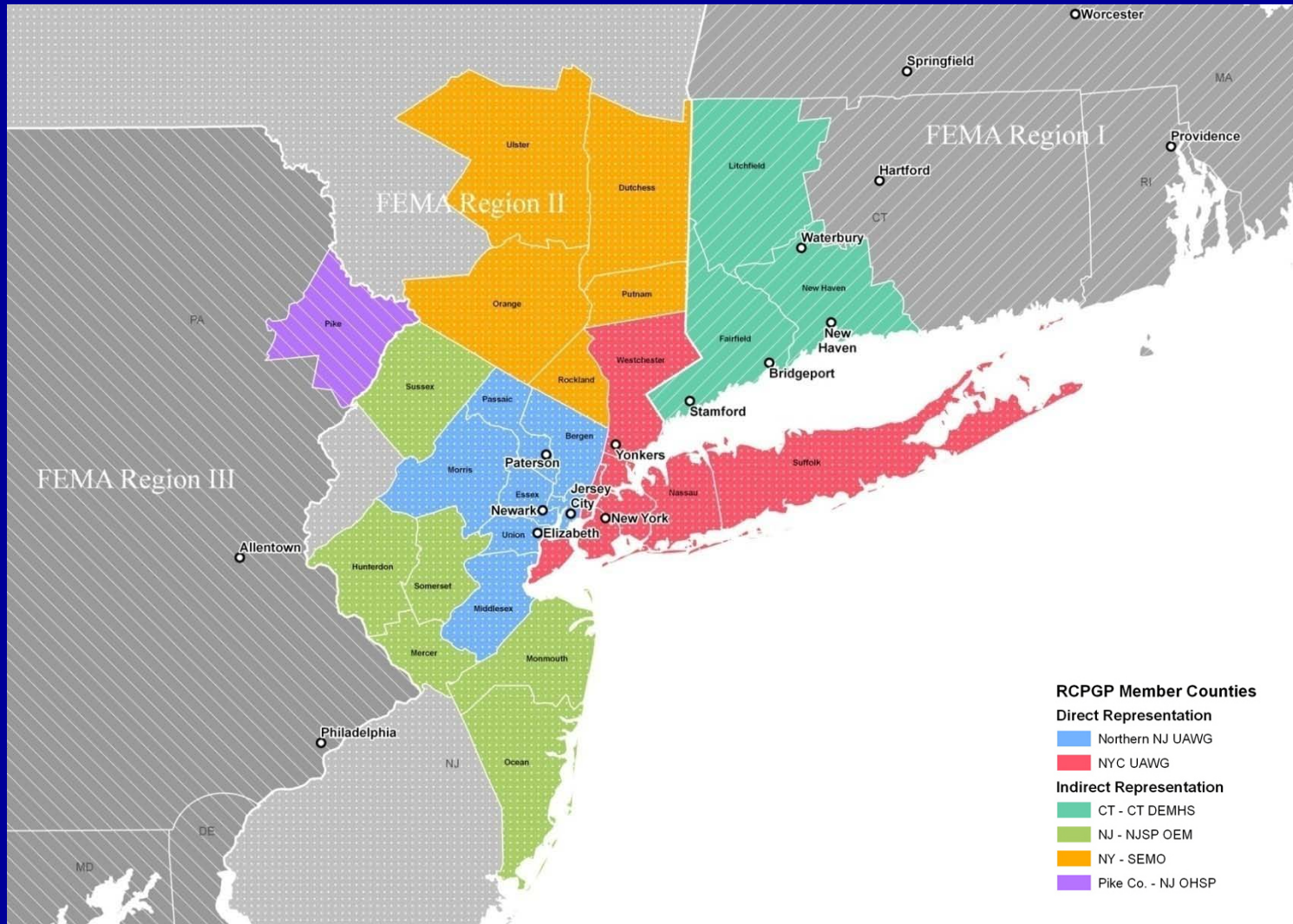
- A regional planning initiative for 10 high risk urban areas across the nation
- The NYC/Northern NJ site includes jurisdictions from:
 - New York
 - New Jersey
 - Connecticut
 - Pennsylvania

This is a planning grant.

NY\Northern NJ Project Site	
FY'08	FY'09
\$9.9M	\$7.2M

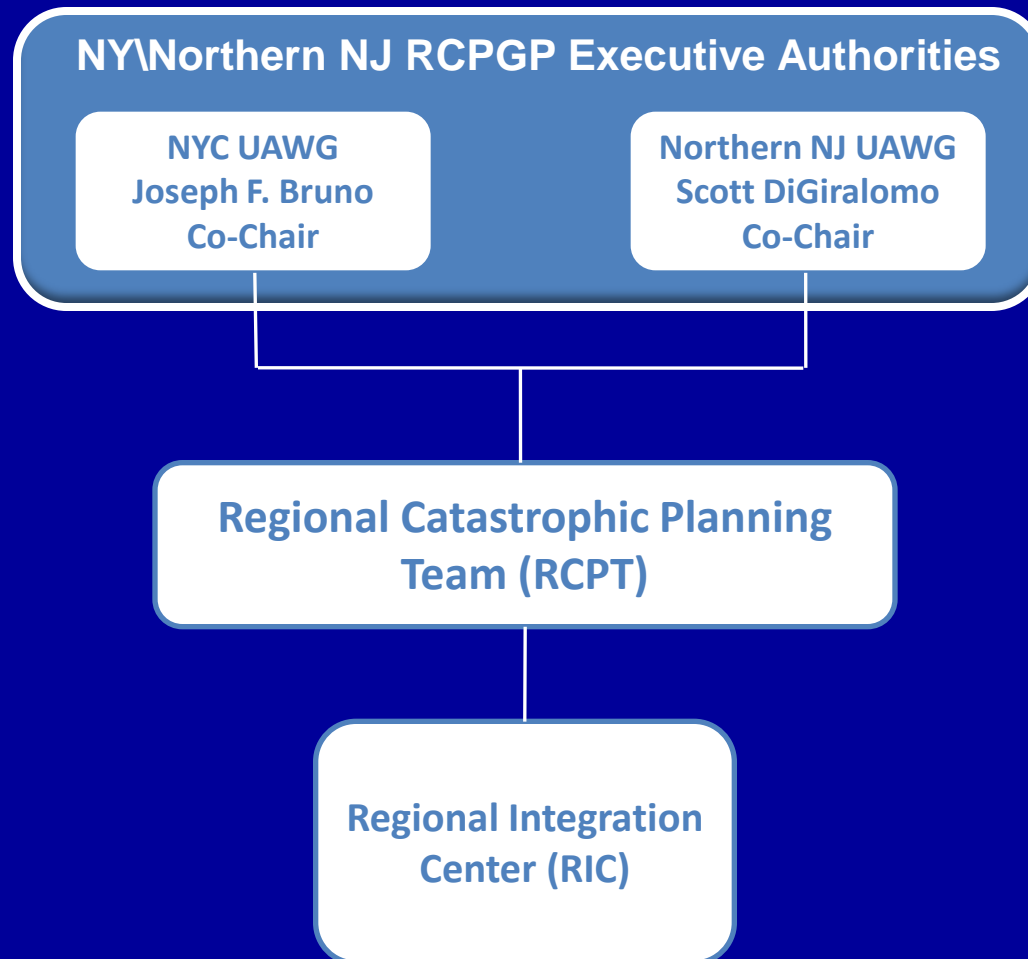
Project Site-NY\Northern NJ

30 counties → 22 million people → 1 out of 14 Americans



The NY\Northern NJ RCPGP

Two Tier 1 Urban Area Work Groups



Who oversees the RIC?

Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT)

13 members representing 11 agencies across the project site

RCPT
Libby Graham - CT DEMHS
Jack Burns - Northern NJ UASI
Joseph Picciano, Brad Mason - NJ OHSP
Kevin Fowler - NJSP OEM
Kelly McKinney - NYC OEM/NYC UASI
David Sheppard - NYS OHS
Gerard McCarty – PA NYNJ
Gregory Brunelle, David DeMatteo – SEMO
Ed Schneyer - Suffolk FRES
Jennifer Wacha - Westchester OEM

RCPGP Plans

FY'08	FY'09
Disaster Housing Recovery Plan	Regional Disaster Housing Recovery Center Plan
Regional Infrastructure Protection Plan	Regional Critical Infrastructure Power Assessment Project
Regional Radiological Dispersion Device	Regional Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Plan
Regional Catastrophic Planning System	Regional Private Sector Integration Plan
Regional Evacuation and Sheltering	
Regional Mass Fatality Plan	
Regional Debris Management Plan	
Regional Continuity of Operations Plan	
Regional Logistics Program	

Grant Program: MFM Stakeholders



- Local ME/C Offices (22)
- Local Emergency Management Agencies (4)
- Local Departments of Health (4)
- NY State National Guard
- National Guard Bureau (NGB)
- Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) and DMORT Family Assistance Center (FAC) Team
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regions I, II, III
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- US Army Joint Mortuary Affairs Center (JMAC)
- US Northern Command (NORTHCOM)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (e.g., American Red Cross)
- Private Sector (e.g., Funeral Associations)



Regional Mass Fatality Management System



Mass Fatality Incident



- What is a MF Incident?

- Common definition

Mass Fatality Incident (MFI) is an emergency management term used to identify an incident involving more decedents and/or fragmented remains than can be located, identified, and processed for final disposition by available resources

- “Overwhelms Local Resources”



Mass Fatality Incident

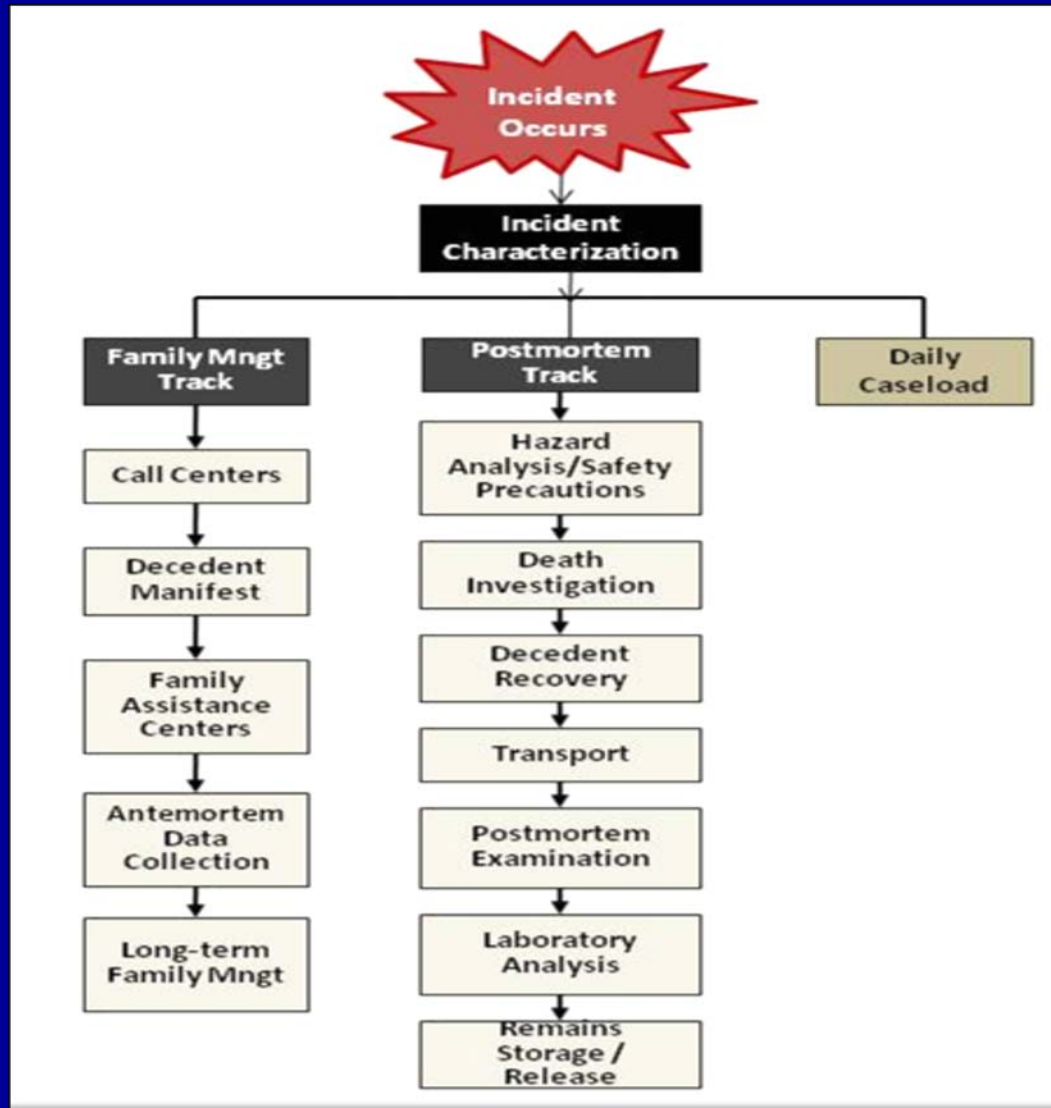
- An “objective” definition?
 - Any event having the potential to yield 10 or more fatalities
 - Any situation in which there are remains contaminated by chemical, radiological, nuclear or explosive agents or materials
 - Any incident or special circumstance requiring a multi-agency response to support ME/C operations
 - Any incident involving a protracted or complex remains recovery operation

5 Primary Objectives of a Successful Mass Fatality Management



- Investigate, Recover & Process Decedents in a Dignified and Respectful Manner
- Determine Cause & Manner of Death
- Perform Accurate & Efficient Identification of Victims
- Provide Families with Factual & Timely Information in a Compassionate Manner
- Conduct Rapid Return of Victims to their Legal Next of Kin

Foundational Principle: Primary Components of an MFM Response



Foundational Principle: Primary Components of an MFM Response



14 Components:

- Site Characterization
- Call Centers
- Decedent Manifest
- Family Assistance Centers
- Antemortem Data Collection
- Long-term Family Management
- Hazard Analysis
- Death Investigation
- Decedent Recovery
- Transport/Mobile Storage
- Postmortem Exam
- Laboratory Analysis
- Mid-/Long-term Decedent Storage/Release
- Management of Daily Caseload

Regional MFM Response System



Mission Statement

The Regional MFM Response System will leverage regional expertise, assets, and capabilities to more effectively manage and process decedents, resulting from a Mass Fatality Incident (MFI) occurring in the NY/NJ/CT/PA area.

Benefits:

- *Maximizes the use of specialized assets*
- *Avoids duplication of effort*
- *Enhances ME/C agency interoperability*
- *Streamlines communications*
- *Allows for planning and responding to the “unthinkable” event*
- *Develops depth of MFM unique capabilities*

Regional MFM Response Triggers



Triggers:

- ❖ When an MFI has affected multiple ME/Cs or presents regional implications requiring the involvement of multiple ME/C offices
- ❖ Any situation in which decedents are contaminated with chemical, biological, or radiological agents/materials
- ❖ Any event whereby the affected ME/C's infrastructure is significantly compromised and cannot support operations
- ❖ Any MFI requiring specialized MFM capabilities, indigenous to the region
- ❖ Any situation whereby federal government activates multiple FEMA regions
- ❖ Any situation whereby the local ME/C requests assistance from one or more of its regional partners even in the absence of a local/state/federal disaster declaration
- ❖ When the benefits for establishing a joint and/or centralized MFM approach at the state or regional level outweighs maintaining individual local office or business practices

Regional MFM Response Need



A Regional MFM Response System is Needed to:

- Support individual Medical Examiner/Coroner (ME/C) offices affected by a catastrophic event by providing SME advisory support
- Support individual ME/C offices by deploying unique regional MFM capabilities, which most ME/Cs are not likely to have or possess in large quantities
- Coordinate efforts among several ME/C offices that are simultaneously affected by a disaster, requiring a more effective incident response design, to include the judicious deployment of limited regional assets
- Develop a mechanism to coordinate and integrate external assets (i.e., regional, state, federal, & private sector) into the response, as local ME/Cs will not be able to manage or execute all MFM tasks without involving external entities

Regional MFM System



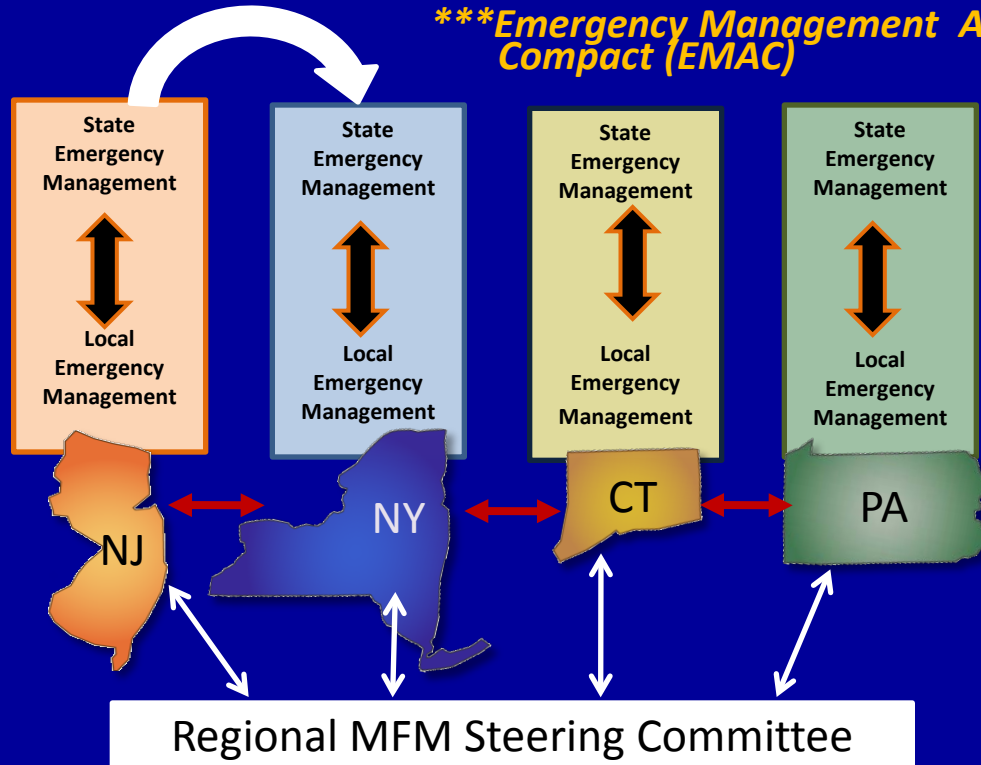
- ***What makes up a regional system?***

- A Regional MFM Response System is a type of ME/C mutual aid system that allows....
 - Agency “systems” that talk
 - People who coordinate
 - Interoperable infrastructure
 - Similar policies, directives, and operations
 - Administrative similarities
 - Key personnel
 - Key assets
 - Common terminology
 - Communication

Regional MFM Response System Components



*****Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**



*****Components**

- Activation of Forensic Disciplined Focused **Advisory Groups**
**During Disaster*
- Establishment of MFM **Planning Task Forces** via EMAC
**During Disaster*
- Coordination** of Regional Assets/Personnel Deployment via EMAC
**During Disaster*

Regional MFM Plan Objectives



- Development of standard/common decision making approach/tools.
- Standard/common MFM language.
- Standard/common operational approaches.
- Development of interoperability between individual ME/C resources.
- Establishment of baseline ME/C capabilities at the local, regional and state levels.
- Integration of all regional stakeholders in MFI planning, training, exercises, and response initiatives.

Capabilities Based Assessment



Purpose

- Determine the collective ability of regional Medical Examiner/Coroner (ME/C) offices to manage catastrophic events resulting in numerous decedents; identify strengths and gaps

Description

- Agency Information
- Disaster Planning and Preparedness
- Disaster Response Capabilities
- Subjective View of Preparedness

MFM Capabilities



What is UVIS?

- Unified Victim Identification System

Application

- Automation of processes into a central repository
- Collects information from relatives/friends of missing individuals following an incident
- Computer based system for tracking and identifying victims (living and deceased)

Advisory Groups



Regional MFM Advisory Groups

Medicolegal Investigation
Disaster Victim Identification
FAC/Antemortem Data
Collection/Disaster Manifest
Legal
Information Technology
/Communications/Data
Management
Hazmat Response
ME/C Incident Management



Regional MFM System Components



- ***MFM Planning Task Forces***

- Conducts focused MFM planning via the use of planning task forces during a disaster response to develop incident-specific processes/procedures to ensure “Unity of Effort” between all entities executing MFM tasks. Planning Task Forces may include:

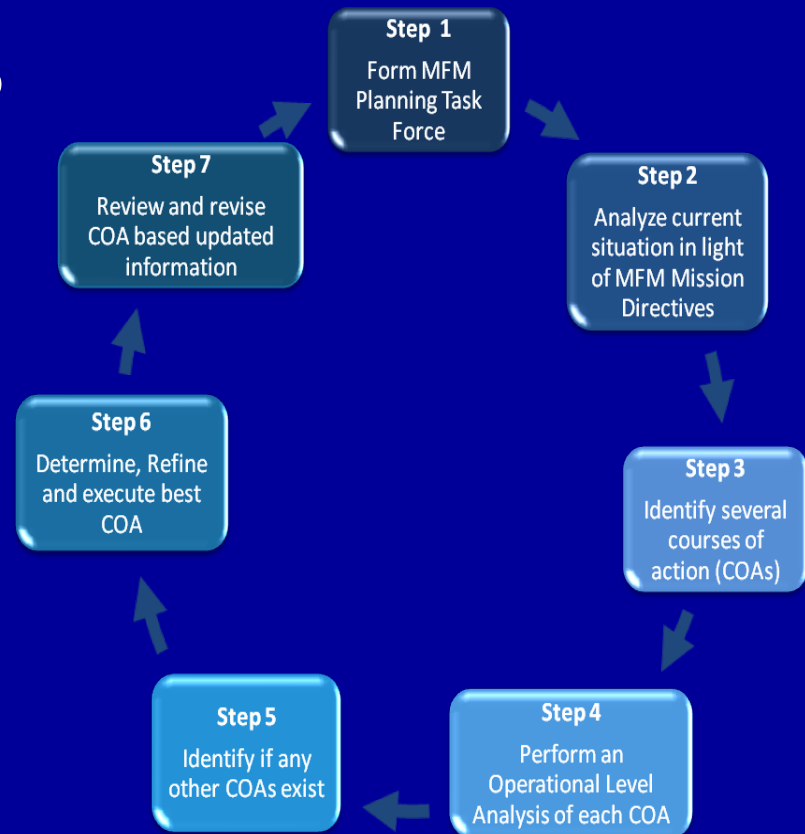
- Fatality Management Branch Organization
- Decedent Investigative Recovery Operations
- Decedent Family Management/Antemortem Data Collection
- Decedent Manifest
- MFM Personnel Health and Safety
- Morgue Operations
- Remains Storage & Interment
- Information Technology

Regional MFM System Components

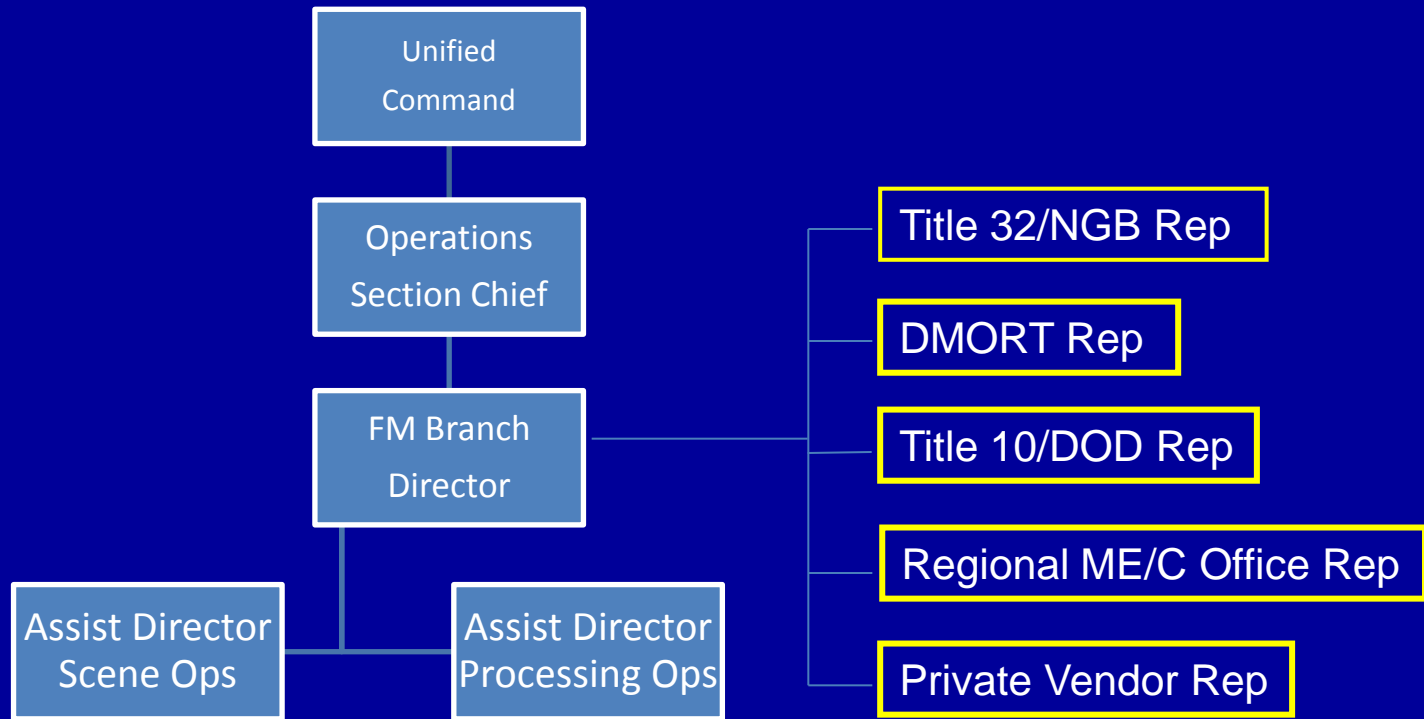


- **MFM Planning Task Forces**

- During catastrophic disasters, MFM Planning Task Forces will be needed to determine the best means of responding to the disaster event as a single jurisdiction directly affected, as a jurisdiction indirectly affected, and/or as multiple jurisdictions simultaneously affected by the event
- Task Force members include reps from all local, state, regional, federal and private sector entities that will be executing MFM-specific tasks (e.g., Investigative Recovery)



FM Branch Organization: Unity of Effort



Concept

- Local ME/C retains oversight of all MFM operations and provides the construct for **integrating** external entities into the response effort (e.g., organizational chart/division of labor)
- External entities retain operational control of their own personnel and assets, even when they are task-assigned to FM Branch groups, units, teams, or task forces within the FM Branch organization

Planning & Exercises



- These plans shall be linked to regional planning objectives under both the UASI grant program and the RCPGP as well as other planning efforts under the NJ/NYC Departments of Health.

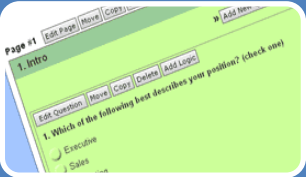


Project Timeline: Accomplishments



Mass Fatality Planning & Document Development

- Kickoff June 2009; Conduct of seven Regional ME/C Partner Meetings Sept 2009–Nov 2010
- Developed three DRAFT versions of the Regional MFM Response System Plan Document --- FINAL version anticipated January 2011



Capabilities Based Assessment

- Developed Assessment Tool Nov 2009; Compiled data March–Aug 2010; Data analysis Nov 2010
- Determination of local, state, and regional needs



Initial Integration of MFM Capabilities

- New York City & New Jersey ME/Cs both using the Unified Victim Identification System, a data/case management system to compile and track all ante and postmortem data to include decedent, personal effects, specimens, and evidence locations
- New Jersey purchase of interoperable off-site morgue equipment



Initial Development of MFM Advisory Groups

- Disaster Victim Identification Advisory Group established Sept 2009
- Legal Advisory Group Oct 2009
- Family Assistance Center Advisory Group established Aug 2010



Disaster Responses & Concept Enhancement Exercises

- Response to Hudson River Mid-Air Disaster, Aug 2009
- Conducted National Transportation Safety Board FAC Training, Sept 2009
- Conducted Hazardous Material Training, April 2010
- Conducted Regional Planning Cell & Field Response to a 10KT IND Disaster, May 2010²⁷



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