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	The Epidemiological Response Team: 1. Supports public health authorities in the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in incident epidemiological tasks 2. Performs epidemiological tasks, including: 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 data 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. Supports 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	1. Discuss logistics for deploying this team, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment 2. This team works up to 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 the span of control 5. Acquire additional specialized personnel appropriate to the incident, such as microbiologists, medical entomologists, bioinformaticians, 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, foodborne disease, 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
MINIMUM PERSONNEL PER TEAM	6	5	Not Specified
MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT PERSONNEL PER TEAM	1 – NIMS Type 2 Epidemiologist	1 – NIMS Type 3 Epidemiologist	Not Specified
SUPPORT PERSONNEL PER TEAM	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1 – NIMS Type 3 Epidemiologist 3 – NIMS Public Health Interviewer 1 – NIMS Public Health Data Science Specialist	3 – NIMS Public Health Interviewer 1 – NIMS Public Health Data Science Specialist	Not Specified
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION GATHERING CAPABILITY PER TEAM	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
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. 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
ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENT	Same as Type 2	Computers (one per team member)	Not Specified
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PER TEAM MEMBER	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
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PER TEAM	Same as Type 2	1. Cell phones (one per team member) 2. Two-way portable radios (one per team member)	Not Specified

COMMENTS

NOTE

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

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Epidemiologist
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Public Health Data Science Specialist
3. FEMA, NIMS 509: Public Health Interviewer
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
5. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.1030: Bloodborne Pathogens, latest edition adopted