

Enclosure C

MORTALITY MANAGEMENT

MORTALITY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

DRAFT WORKING GUIDELINES RECOMMENDED BY ADHOC CORONERS COMMITTEE DURING DISASTER OPERATIONS (Adapted from ICS-MC-120-1, APPENDIX C - 12/89)

In the event of a major disaster within the State of California, it may be some time before bodies can be collected and cared for by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner.

Therefore, the following guidelines have been prepared to aid local agencies in handling the dead until the Coroner can relieve those agencies of that responsibility.

Handling the Dead

When it becomes necessary to remove bodies from disaster sites due to rescue work or the health and safety of others, a set of specific procedures must be followed:

1. Do not remove any personal effects from the body. The personal effects must remain with the body at all times.
2. Attach tag or label to the body with the following information:
 - a. Date and time found.
 - b. Exact location where found, including floor/room number.
 - c. Name/address of decedent, if known.
 - d. If identified, how and when.
 - e. Name/phone of person making identity or filling out tag.
 - f. If the body is contaminated, so state.
3. Place the body in a disaster pouch or in plastic sheeting and securely tie to prevent unwrapping. Attach a second tag to the sheeting or pouch.
4. If personal effects are found and thought to belong to a body, place them in a separate container and tag. Do not assume any loose effects belong to a body.
5. Move the properly tagged body with their personal effects to one locale, i.e., garage or other cool building, preferably one with refrigeration.

Note: Portable air-conditioning may be obtained or self-contained refrigerated van/trucks or rail cars can be used. Do not use a vehicle or storage area with floors that can become permeated with body fluids or other liquids.
6. Notify your local law enforcement agency of the location/identity of the body.
7. Keep insects and other animal life away from the body. In case of extreme heat or direct sunlight, move the body to a cool shaded area or refrigerated room as soon as possible.
8. Bodies must be secured or safeguarded at all times until the arrival of the Coroner or his authorized representative.