

# Emergency Preparedness & Response

## Resource and Asset Guide



2024-2026

NORTH  
**Dakota**  
Be Legendary.

Health & Human Services

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# Important Phone Numbers

Emergency Contact Info:	
HHS EPR Case Manager/DOC	(701) 328-8707
North Dakota Department of Emergency Services	
Watch Center	(701) 328-8100
	(701) 328-8921
North Dakota State Radio	(701) 328-8921
	(800) 473-2121
Local Public Health State Wide Response Team (SRT) Offices	
Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (Bismarck)	(701) 355-1540
Central Valley Health District (Jamestown)	(701) 252-8130
Fargo Cass Public Health (Fargo)	(701) 241-1360
First District Health Unit (Minot)	(701) 852-1376
Grand Forks Public Health Department (Grand Forks)	(701) 787-8100
Lake Region District Health Unit (Devils Lake)	(701) 682-7035
Southwest District Health Unit (Dickinson)	(701) 483-0171
Upper Missouri District Health Unit (Williston)	(701) 774-6400

# Introduction

The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has developed a statewide emergency response system that integrates emergency preparedness and response with many other state and local agencies. The North Dakota State Medical Cache is one of the most important elements of our state's health and medical response system. The medical cache is considered a public/private asset and is available to all health and medical agencies to assist with needed supplies and equipment until they are able to return to a self-supporting status.

Requests for resources are made through the local public health Statewide Response Team (SRT), the HHS EPR case manager or the EPR Medcache website.

- Local resources do NOT need to be exhausted to request assets from the cache.
- A local "declaration" is NOT necessary to request assets from the cache.

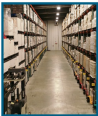
These assets are available to state and local public health as well as medical responders as determined by the HHS Incident Command System.

The resources are also available by request through your County Emergency Manager. He/she will submit the request to the Department of Emergency Services, which will forward that request to the HHS for approval.

# Medical Supplies

HHS stores and distributes the assets in the medical cache through warehouse operations strategically located within the state. All items in the medical cache can be accessed by visiting the EPR Medcache website: <https://eprmedcache.hhs.nd.gov>

Health and medical agencies in North Dakota can access cache supplies for emergency response, as well as for shortages of supplies due to a disruption in the normal day-to-day supply chain. Agencies are asked to replenish the cache with items of the same make and brand as the ones they received. If a Stafford Act is granted to the area affected by the emergency event, the Act may cover reimbursement for supplies.



## EPR Medcache

The EPR Medcache website is used to order the items you see throughout this guide as well as other supply needs. The website functions like a standard shopping website. Locate the item(s) you require, add the item(s) to your cart, complete your shipping information and submit the order. You will need to set up an account through the EPR Medcache website to place an order. The system notifies Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) staff that an order has been placed. You will receive a call from our office confirming your order. Once the order has been approved, it will be shipped or delivered from our warehouse in the agreed-upon time frame.

**Scan this Code**

— or visit —

<https://eprmedcache.hhs.nd.gov>

for access to the EPR medcache website.



The State Medical Cache includes a variety of different items such as:

- **Consumable Medical Supplies**

Gloves (Sterile and Non-Sterile)

Surgical and Isolation Gowns

Masks (Surgical and N95)

Vaccine Administration Supplies

Select Pharmaceuticals

Linens



- **Durable Medical Equipment**

Wheelchairs

Ventilators

Oxygen Supplies

Surgical Supplies



- **Specialty Items**

Generators

Heat Wagons

Tent Systems

Air Conditioners

Portable Handwash Stations

Cold Chain Equipment



**Not seeing what you need?**

Contact the Department Operations Center at 701-328-0707  
for additional assistance.

# Generators

HHS has several generators for use when emergency power is needed. Stakeholders will need to contact an electrician to determine the size generator needed and to connect our large generators to the facility.



Generators in the State Medical Cache:

2 kW (20)	45 kW (1)
6.3 kW (10)	80 kW (1)
7.2 kW (1)	100 kW (1)
15 kW (2)	625 kW (1)
17.5 kW (12)	

# Electrical Distribution System

HHS has a portable electrical distribution system that provides an efficient way to supply power to assets in the field or power to facilities that have lost their commercial electrical power. The system consists of several transformers, electrical panels and power supply boxes. The system supports the efficiency of mobile generators as a power source or receives electrical power from a power grid that can be disbursed over a larger field setting. The system is scalable to the event/scene. When requested, you will receive a call from our office to review your order and confirm that you are getting the pieces of this system necessary to support your situation. Installation of this system requires an electrician.



# Heating and AC Units

HHS has several options available to assist with a range of heating and air conditioning needs. The units vary in size to accommodate the scope of the emergency or the size of the location in need. Stakeholders should contact an HVAC Technician to assist with hooking up larger units.

## Heating Units in the State Medical Cache

55	Space Heaters – 5100 BTU
11	Heat wagons – 200000-300000 BTU
2	Glycol Heating Units – 800,000 BTU
14	Portable Tent Heaters
12	Portable Utility (Forced Air) Heaters



## Air Conditioning Units in the State Medical

47	Room size AC Units
7	5 ton AC Units
4	25 ton AC Units



# Cold Chain Support

HHS has extensive cold chain support capabilities. HHS can manufacture dry ice at our warehouse and transport it to your location.



HHS also has portable cold chain assets of multiple sizes, such as powered transportable refrigerators and freezers, certified shipping and transport containers and certified temperature monitoring data loggers.



## Wrap Around Services

During emergencies that involve assistance from numerous health professionals and volunteers, HHS is able to provide wrap-around services for those individuals while working the event. Wrap-around assets include beds and linens, portable showers and bathroom facilities and portable kitchen equipment. Our kitchen equipment includes convection ovens, warmers, microwave ovens, refrigerated space, coffee makers and the necessary utensils to accompany those assets. If a building or indoor space does not exist for this setup, HHS can set these services up in a tent from the cache.



During the Dakota Access Pipeline protests in North Dakota in 2016-17, the HHS DOC served over 60,000 meals with these assets.



# Potable Water

HHS can provide potable water otherwise known as drinking water when needed during an emergency. Potable Water is water that is safe for consumption either directly through drinking or indirectly through food preparation. The EPR Medcache contains three portable water tanks capable of providing 400 gallons of potable water each and are deployable to a given site. Two of the water tanks are skid mounted and can sit on a trailer or be removed and set on a hard surface. A third tank is permanently mounted to a trailer.

All units include a water storage tank, a pump, and hose attachments making water distribution easier in times of emergency or where potable water is otherwise not readily accessible. It is important to note that water pressure may be significantly decreased when tying the water buffalo directly into an existing system.



HHS follows strict protocols related to sterilization of the water buffalo tanks, to ensure that once filled from an existing source of potable water, it remains safe for consumption.

# Decontamination Trailer

HHS' Medical Cache includes a compact, three-lane mobile decontamination trailer designed for mass casualty decontamination response. This 26-foot trailer manages chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN), mass fatality and hazmat incident needs. The trailer can be ready on site in just 15 minutes from arrival time, ready to decontaminate all ambulatory and non-ambulatory patients carefully and effectively. The unit's power requirements are a three-phase, 240-volt, 100-amp power unit that accompanies the trailer.



Two lanes are comprised of three individual decontamination stalls for ambulatory patients to undress, shower/rinse, dry and re-dress.



There is one large, assisted decontamination chamber with a roller system that accommodates non-ambulatory patients.

## Vulnerable Population Shelters

The State Medical Cache contains supplies to operate shelters for assistance to North Dakota's residents during their time of need. There are seven trailers pre-positioned in Williston, Minot, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown and Dickinson. Each trailer contains 80 beds, and enough shelter supplies to maintain operations for one week. These shelter supplies are organized into 20-bed kits. The State Medical Cache contains a total of 1,700 beds. With these supplies, the shelter can be operated in an existing facility or in one of our tent systems. The local public health Statewide Response Team member in the cities mentioned above have 24/7 access to these supplies.



- Linens (Sheets, Blankets, Pillows)
- Bariatric Beds
- Laundry Bags
- Commodes
- Oxygen Supplies
- Patient Gowns
- Exam Gloves
- Blood Pressure Cuffs
- Syringes
- Bandages
- Nurse's Station



## Advanced Life Support Kits

HHS has 10 Advanced Life Support (ALS) kits available to assist with triage and stabilization on the scene of an emergency or mass casualty event. These ALS kits can also surge into a supplemental ER if a hospital is in need. There are four pre-deployed ALS kits in Dickinson, Williston, Grand Forks and Fargo.

Much like the shelter kits, the materials in the ALS kits can be utilized in an existing structure or can be set up in one of the tents in the medical cache. The kits come with enough supplies for eight beds but can surge to sixteen beds.

Examples of ALS kit items:

- Cots with Linen
- Hygiene and Cleaning Products
- Monitoring Equipment
- Laryngoscopes
- Endotracheal Tubes
- Ambu Bags
- Suction Devices
- Oxygen
- AED Supplies
- Exam Gloves
- Gowns
- Gloves
- Trauma Bandages
- Splints
- Suture kits
- IV Supplies
- Central Line Supplies
- Other Traumatic Injury Supplies



## Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)

The Mobile Medical Unit is an 8 -16 bed mobile emergency room. The unit consists of a semi-tractor, a 53' semi-trailer and a 100kW generator. Additional trailers carrying extra supplies accompany this asset into the field. The MMU can be delivered to the field in as little time as it takes to drive from its home location of Bismarck. EPR staff will deliver the unit to the location specified. This location should be as level as possible and approximately 115 ft x 58 ft open space for set-up. EPR staff will setup the MMU and stay with the vehicle to assure satisfactory operations. Setup takes approximately two and a half hours.

The MMU is best utilized as an emergency room surge for a hospital. However, it can also operate as a mobile clinic. It arrives with its own oxygen and suction, limited laboratory capacity, heating, A/C, communications and IT services. The necessary staff to work in the MMU can be provided through HHS's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program.

Total Vehicle Length	73 ft
Total Vehicle Weight	80,000 lbs
Bed Capacity	8 (surge to 16)
Working Area	1,000 sq ft
Initial Supplies - Operation Period	72 hours



# Mobile First Aid Station

Along with other mobile medical assets, HHS has two Mobile First Aid Stations in 32-foot enclosed, bumper-hitch trailers. Each trailer is equipped with AC and has two medical stations for simple first-aid support. While the mission of the first aid stations is for emergency events, we are also able to provide first aid support for non-emergency events.



If necessary, personnel can be provided when the trailer is requested. However, it is preferred that the entity making the request have first aid personnel available to provide services when the trailer arrives.



## Ambulances

The HHS has three fully stocked ambulances that can be used in the field when needed. The ambulances are used by HHS emergency medical staff for missions such as decompressing medical facilities. Normal channels dictate the use of local or regional ambulance services for emergency medical missions. Therefore, the HHS ambulance fleet is used only when no other ambulance services have units available.



# Ambuses

HHS has access to two permanently configured ambulance buses or otherwise known as an ambus. These ambuses are designed to provide medical transportation and/or assist with evacuations in large-scale disasters.



Both of these vehicles can provide care/transport for up to 16 patients on stretchers in a single trip.



There is one ambus pre-positioned in Fargo and the other is pre-positioned in Bismarck.

## Bus Conversion Kits

In addition to the ambulances and Ambuses, there are several other options for transporting patients during an emergency in North Dakota. HHS has contracts with existing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for ambulances and with long term care facilities for wheelchair coaches. These contracts provide reimbursement for services if those services are requested by the Incident Commander. In addition, the State Medical Cache has 11 wheelchair coaches that can transport 6-8 ambulatory patients or 3-4 wheelchair-bound patients.



Through contracts with large bus companies, HHS is able to convert school buses into wheelchair and stretcher transportation vehicles with medical supplies and oxygen during an emergency event. In addition, the State Medical Cache has seven school buses permanently converted for this use, one of which has been pre-positioned in Devils Lake.



HHS has 6 full-size buses (4 with wheelchair lifts) and 18 Bus Conversion Kits in the State Medical Cache.

Of those 18 kits, there are 12 wheelchair kits that can transport 10-12 patients each.



The remaining 6 kits are stretcher kits that can transport 16 patients each.

## Semi-Tractor and Emergency Response Trailers

HHS transportation assets also include enclosed trailers and a Semi-tractor.



Currently the State Medical Cache has 19 dry van 53' trailers, 2 refrigerated 53' trailers and 2 dual zone (Refrigerator/ Freezer) 36' trailer and 1 dual zone 48' trailer. These trailers can be used to transport medical assets during an emergency, pre-position and store supplies in preparation for emergencies, or provide cold chain support to stakeholders.



There are 53' trailers pre-positioned with local public health agencies in Williston, Minot, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown and Dickinson. The trailers contain supplies from the State Medical Cache. The local public health Statewide Response Team members at each local public health agency in these cities have 24/7 access to the trailers.

Examples of items in each trailer:

- Four - 20 Bed Shelter Kits
- Stretchers
- Backboards
- N-95 Masks
- Evacuation Chairs
- ParaSlyde Evacuation Devices
- Isolation Gowns
- Wheelchairs
- Oxygen K Cylinders
- Toddler Cots and Linens



# Incident Command Truck(s)

HHS has two trucks that can be used in the field for incident command purposes. The trucks are self-sufficient in a field environment. They are outfitted with communications, heat, A/C, refrigeration and a bathroom. The trucks can be requested separately or together. A variety of communications equipment can be requested from the State Medical Cache to accompany the vehicles, such as radios, cellular phones, cellular hot spots, tablets and laptops.





# Tactical Communications

The HHS cache also contains tactical communications equipment. (Detailed instructions or onsite training by a member of our staff are provided). From a simple cell phone to our enclosed, self-sufficient 30' bumper-pull trailer, HHS has redundant forms of technology that can be used during any event—even when power and the Internet are not available.

Portable communication kits can be developed with laptops, cell phones, satellite hookups and other communication devices like portable AM radios able to broadcast live or prerecorded messages to listeners within a 5-10 mile radius.



# EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH INFO

TUNE RADIO TO  
**1620 AM**

HHS also has a mobile *Satellite on Wheels (SOW)* with satellite internet service and cell phone signal-boosting capabilities. The *Satellite on Wheels* is designed to operate in extreme weather, including high winds, and runs with a 2500-Watt propane generator. When bundled with our high-performance satellite service, the *SOW* can provide 5Mbps x 2Mbps internet speeds.



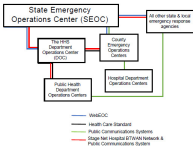
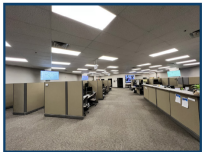
## Department Operations Center

Operating under the umbrella of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), HHS staffs a Department Operations Center (DOC) to manage emergency events that have health and medical components. The two centers are connected through the WebEOC communications platform so requests and local information specific for the event can be shared from the SEOC to the DOC or vice versa.

HHS personnel have undergone NIMS (National Incident Management System) training. The DOC contains 53 individual working stations, including space for outside response partners.

Systems available in the DOC include patient bed availability, patient, vehicle and staff tracking, EPR Medcache, access to the planning document library, mass emergency communications, volunteer credentialing and organization, statewide videoconferencing, and an internal television network that receives data and information specific to the event at each workstation.

To contact the HHS Department Operations Center (24/7/365) dial 701-328-0707.



# Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program

## The Purpose of CISM

The purpose of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) is to accelerate normal recovery, for normal people, having normal reactions to abnormal events, enabling people to quickly return to their daily routine.

## Who We Are

The ND Critical Incident Stress Management (NDCISM) team is composed of emergency service personnel and mental health professionals that volunteer their time, energy and resources. Team members receive special training and make a commitment to serve on the NDCISM team.



## What is A Critical Incident

A critical incident is any situation faced by emergency personnel that causes emotional reactions which interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or at a later time. This may include events such as: scenes involving children, mass casualty incidents, death of a co-worker, long term stressors (COVID-19), multiple events, or any other incident generating strong emotions.

## **Who We Serve**

All emergency services and responders including:

- Ambulance Services
- Fire and Rescue Units
- Quick Response Units
- Law Enforcement
- Dispatching Agencies
- Hospitals

## **NDCISM TEAM ACTIVATION**

The NDCISM team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Call 701-328-0707 or 800-472-2121 and request the Health and Human Services Case Manager.

NDCISM services are free of charge.

Funding for the CISM program is provided by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Emergency Preparedness Unit.

## **Contact The NDCISM Team**

If you are interested in obtaining information regarding any of the following:

- Becoming a member of the NDCISM team,
- Having somebody present information to agency regarding the benefits of CISM,
- Having somebody present at a local conference,
- Or learning more about what the NDCISM team has to offer,
- Contact the NDCISM team administrative team at 701-328-2270 or [dems@nd.gov](mailto:dems@nd.gov)

Notes

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Notes

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## Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit

1720 Burlington Drive Suite A

Bismarck, ND 58504

PH: (701) 328-0707

<https://hhs.nd.gov/health/epr>

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