



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: - Supports public health authorities in the Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in incident epidemiological tasks - Performs epidemiological tasks, including: - Designing and conducting data collection related to the target disease or injury agent - Conducting data analysis - 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 - Manages, implements, and monitors ordered control measures, including isolation and quarantine - Performs contact tracing - Augments in-place epidemiological functions - 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	- Teams work 12 hours per shift, are self-sustainable for 72 hours, and deployable up to 14 days - Discuss logistics for deploying this team, such as security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment - The requestor provides support to the team, such as security, fuel, and power for recharging phones, computers, and other rechargeable devices. - Requestor may order additional Epidemiology Interviewers within span of control - Acquire additional specialized personnel appropriate to the incident, such as Microbiologists, Medical Entomologists, and Environmental Health Specialists separately - 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 - Requestor may order Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialists separately to support the team

RESOURCE TYPES			TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NO TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4
COMPONENT	METRIC/ MEASURE	CAPABILITY				
Personnel	Per team	Minimum	11	6	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Personnel	Per team	Management and oversight	1 – NIMS Type 2 Epidemiologist	1 – NIMS Type 3 Epidemiologist	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			NOTES: Not Specified			



RESOURCE TYPES			TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NO TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4
COMPONENT	METRIC/ MEASURE	CAPABILITY				
Personnel	Per team	Support	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1 – NIMS Type 3 Epidemiologist 3 – NIMS Type 1 Epidemiology Interviewer 1 – NIMS Type 1 Public Health Data Entry Specialist	3 – NIMS Type 1 Epidemiology Interviewer 1 – NIMS Type 1 Public Health Data Entry Specialist 1 – NIMS Type 1 Epidemiological Information Technology Specialist	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			NOTES: Not Specified			
Personnel	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 Applicable	Not Applicable
			NOTES: Not Specified			
Equipment	Per team	Epidemiology (surveillance and investigation)	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Clinical specimen collection supplies	1. Epidemiological surveillance and investigation forms 2. Epidemiologic database and analysis software	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			NOTES: 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	Electronics	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 5 – Computers	6 – Computers	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			NOTES: Not Specified			
Equipment	Per team member	Personal protective equipment (PPE)	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	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
			NOTES: The following standard addresses PPE: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.1030 Bloodborne Pathogens			



RESOURCE TYPES			TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NO TYPE 3	NO TYPE 4
COMPONENT	METRIC/ MEASURE	CAPABILITY				
Equipment	Per team	Communications	Same as Type 2, PLUS: 5 – Cell phones 5 – Two-way portable radios	6 – Cell phones 6 – Two-way portable radios 1 – Satellite phone	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
NOTES: Not Specified						

COMMENTS

Interviewers may include Registered Nurses (with public health experience), Environmental Health Generalists, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509-12: Epidemiologist
2. FEMA, NIMS 509-12: Epidemiology Interviewer
3. FEMA, NIMS 509-12: Public Health Data Entry Specialist
4. FEMA, NIMS 509-12: Epidemiological Information Technology Specialist
5. 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.1030 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Bloodborne Pathogens

NOTE

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