FEMA National Ambulance Contract
Federal National Ambulance Contract

- The purpose of the Federal National Ambulance and Para-transit Support Services contract is to provide a full array of licensed ground and air ambulance services and para-transit services that may be ordered as needed to supplement the Federal and Military response to a disaster, act of terrorism or other public health emergency.
The FEMA National Medical Transport and Support Contract is activated to evacuate patients and at-risk populations from an area at significant risk, or to provide pre-hospital care and transport services in a region that has already been affected by a disaster. The FEMA contract is not specifically intended for returning patients back to their point of origin; however, at the discretion of FEMA and under the advice from ESF-8, it may be used for returning patients in the immediate aftermath of a disaster if the healthcare infrastructure is in place and operational.
Mission

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will provide technical assistance to FEMA in support of contracted ground and air resources and para-transit services to support State, tribal and local governments’ ability to prepare for and respond to the effects of a major disaster.

- State, tribal and local government shall be responsible for regulating, evacuating and tracking patients to State-controlled beds using FEMA.contracted vehicles provided under State/local tactical command and control.

- The Contracting Officer (CO) or primary Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR) shall be provided by FEMA in support of the contract.
Background

- Concept
  - National-level Execution
  - Regional-level ARFs

- Activation Zones
  - Currently 4 zones across the United States

- Can be used for multiple missions
EMS Roles

- Patient triage, treatment & transport
- Hazard recognition
- Symptom surveillance & reporting
- On-scene medical standby
- Redistribution of pts. to free up hosp. beds
- Distributing immunizations
- Staffing shelters
- Staffing emergency departments
- Setting up mobile medical units
Performance Requirements Per Zone

- **GROUND AMBULANCE**
  - 300 ground ambulances (ALS & BLS)
  - Typically a 60%/40% ALS/BLS split

- **AIR AMBULANCE**
  - 25 air ambulances, helicopter and/or fixed wing

- **PARA-TRANSIT**
  - Ability to Transport 3,500 individuals
  - Not 3,500 vehicles

**BOTTOM LINE: LIMITED NUMBER OF RESOURCES**
Need Identification

- State/locals identify numbers needing specific type of support during planning.
- State incorporates EMAC assets in planning (follow GAP analysis concept).
- State works with Region to identify Federal piece.
- NOTE: The national contract is NOT a panacea- it is intended to augment State and local resources.
Request Process

- Standard FEMA Action Request Form (ARF) process applies:
  - State determines need and requirements
  - ARF is crafted and signed by state EMA
  - ARF is forwarded to FEMA for action

- FEMA will consult with HHS to validate request prior to activation of contract (see next slide)

- State incurs 25% cost share - will not process without State signature
Activation Process

- HHS prepares list of detailed requirements based on the capabilities and numbers requested
- Forwards to FEMA Operations/Logistics and ESF #8 in NRCC
- FEMA executes 40-1 and forwards to Contracting Officer
- Contracting Officer executes Task Order
Coordination

● Pre-Event
  – HHS Regional Emergency Coordinators work with States to determine if medical evacuation assistance may be necessary and identify potential check-in sites for assets.
  – Finalize State coordination of requirements.
  – State ID’s potential types and numbers.

● During the Event
  – Monitor usage
  – State ID’s types and numbers

● Post-Execution
  – Forward draw-down and demobilization plan
Response Phase

- ESF #8 Lead will designate an HHS LNO to coordinate with State/local EOC’s (who maintain operational control over contracted assets) and the HHS COTR.
- FEMA logistics will be responsible for verifying assets have arrived at check-in site and provide any FEMA required equipment (GPS tracking etc.).
- Representatives from the State may credential ambulances if required by State law and provide a familiarization.
- FEMA logistics, in concert with the ESF #8 LNO and State agency will direct contracted resources to deploy to sites or missions identified by the State.
Response Phase Cont..

- State makes mission assignments through the contractor’s tactical management team. While State maintains operational control, the contractor maintains administrative control over resources.
- State and/or local government will provide medical direction. If unable, HHS will designate a qualified federal physician.
- State/local governments shall be responsible for implementing a system of tracking and distributing patients from point of initial encounter through transfer of care at the destination facility.
Requirements

- Implementation Plan
  - Must have
  - Address multiple trips/priorities
  - Logistical support - once these are local assets
    - Contractor is responsible for own support for first 72 hours. After that they may be required to establish base camp if lodging is unavailable.
    - If there are missions in several different areas of the State, it may be impractical for ambulances to operate out of contractor base camp and require assistance from State with lodging.

- State must quantify needs
  - Number and type of resources
  - Mileage
  - Expected time available
  - Types of para-transit (wheelchair vs ambulatory)
  - Caregivers go with evacuees
Requirements (cont’d)

- Overall Logistics Support
  - Operating base for ground different from air
  - Collocation of personnel and equipment
Execution

- Ambulances start moving
  - Within 6 hours of Task Order
  - In place within 24 hours of Task Order (within zones)
- Check-in at Mob Center, FOSA or other location
- Turned over for tactical control by FEMA Logistics in concert with ESF #8 LNO.
Caveats

- Regions work through HQs
- No individual direct contact with contractor prior to activation
- ESF #8 manages, FEMA pays
  - Joint decision-coordination process
- Locals/State exhaust available support
  - Own contracts/assets
  - Mutual aid and EMAC
Hurricane Dean (2007) – Fixed Wing Assets
Hurricane Dean (2007) – Helicopter Assets
Hurricane Dean (2007) – Ground Assets
Point of Contact

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