



MASS FATALITY MANAGEMENT RESOURCES: A Guide to Requesting Assistance After a Mass Fatality Incident





SMORT Training 2023

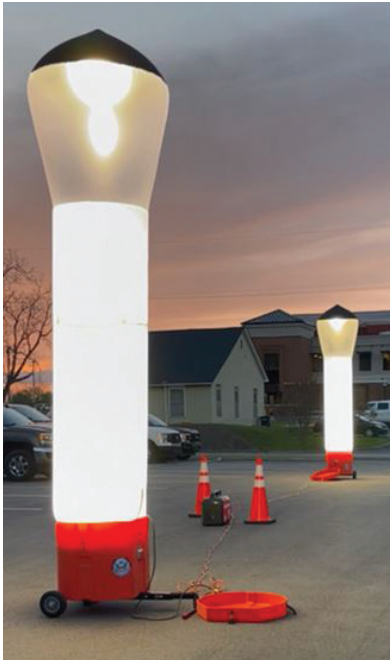


INTRODUCTION

The intent of this booklet is to provide information to county Coroners, county Medical Examiners, and local Emergency Management Directors about fatality management resources in Alabama. These resources are made available through Mutual Aid agreements and requests submitted through proper Emergency Management channels. Deployment activities are coordinated with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS), and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), as needed. All resource requests must go to the local Emergency Management Director who will then make the request to AEMA.

The information contained in this booklet is subject to change as additional resources are procured or if resources are deployed. Therefore if a need arises or is suspected, county Coroners and county Medical Examiners are encouraged to make contact with their local Emergency Management Director at the first indication they may need additional assistance or resources. The State Mortuary Operations Response Team (SMORT) Commander or an ADFS representative would be available to the local jurisdiction for consultation.

Each county is encouraged to have a written mass fatality annex in the county Emergency Operations Plan.



SMORT Training 2023

TEAM

SMORT is available at the request of the local jurisdiction. The team's mission is to support the county Coroner or county Medical Examiner. While deployed, the team works under the direction of local authority. SMORT is ready to assist in the location, removal, preservation, identification, and final disposition of human remains following a mass fatality incident.

SMORT consists of more than fifty volunteers primarily from the Alabama Funeral Directors Association, the Alabama Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, and the Alabama Coroners Association. Team members are licensed embalmers, licensed funeral directors and/or Coroners. Team members and equipment are strategically located throughout the state which allows for rapid response. Generally, a Team Leader can be on the scene within one hour of deployment. The Team Leader will communicate with the Commander, providing situation updates and information while the team is en route. The full team and equipment can be on-scene in most counties within the state in five hours or less.

If a mass fatality event requires a family assistance center (FAC), SMORT will deploy trained volunteers to support the response. FAC volunteers are trained to work with families and their unique needs after a mass fatality event. The volunteers will assist in antemortem data collection for victim identification as needed by the Coroner and/or ADFS.

SMORT is an Alabama Mutual Aid Assistance team. There is no fee if deployed. All activation activity is coordinated with AEMA. The team will not self-deploy. Team members have completed National Incident Management System (NIMS) training.

SMART-1 Location: Cullman County

An accompanying support unit to SMART-1 is a refrigerated trailer racked for 27-body storage. The unit has an on board generator and shore power capability. The unit can be pulled with appropriate sized trucks (bumper pull). Although the trailer has a self contained generator, extended operations should plan on the use of shore power. Shore power requirements include a 50-amp, 220 volt connection.

Whenever possible, the trailer should be placed in a secure staging area, preferably on a hard surface, rather than being towed from site to site.

Requests for the trailer can be made EMA Office to EMA Office under existing mutual assistance agreements or through requestor's EMA Office to the AEMA. Cullman County EMA will deliver the trailer to the requestor's designated staging area and provide on-site training on its use, as required. Requestors can expect to designate a point of contact, normally their county Coroner, who will sign for the trailer and its contents and who will assume total responsibility for the trailer until it is returned to the providing agency or until Cullman County returns to pick up the trailer. The requestor is responsible to ensure the trailer is returned in "same as or better condition." If the trailer is used to store decedents, the requestor is also responsible to disinfect the trailer prior to its return. The requestor is also responsible for replacing any disposable items contained in the trailer with like items.



36-ft mobile morgue field response unit with an onboard diesel generator. The self-contained unit has two work stations for decedent processing, a pneumatic tent with a 3-ton air conditioner, and a Bio-Seal Portable Unit with film. Additional equipment and supplies to support SMART-1 are contained in a 16-ft equipment trailer (bumper pull).

Autel EVO II Enterprise Drone System has a 42 minute flight time with an 8 mile HD transmission capability. Accessories include spotlight, loudspeaker, strobe light, with nighttime clarity and thermal integration.

SMART-2 Location: Lee County

SMART-2 equipment housed with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency includes:



- a 36-ft self-contained tri-axle gooseneck trailer with climate controlled and auto leveling system pulled by a 2009 Dodge prime mover. The unit has a 12kW quiet generator with 40 gallon fuel tank and two 100 gallon holding tanks, for water and waste water. The front of the trailer houses an area for satellite capabilities, cable, phone, Ethernet hook up, two-way radio communication (UHF and VHF) and the Raytheon JPS ACU Tactical Intelligent Interconnect System. This piece of communications equipment allows the responder to quickly configure a radio gateway and deploy it for up to six different radio and/or telephone systems. Four powerful 20 amp LED light bars provide scene lighting for the protection of the operator(s) and responders. The rear portion of the unit contains two work stations and equipment to process decedents.
- support equipment including a climate controlled tent, a litter carrier with additional litters, personal protective equipment, portable lighting, 17.5 kilowatt portable generator, etc. Lee County houses a 24 ft. dual axle refrigerated trailer containing a rolling racking system made of aluminum tubing and holding three bodies on each rack. This rack system is held securely in place by a side wall containment system. The Thermo-King refrigeration system is mounted inside forward of the unit and powered by an 8 kw on-board generator. In case of generator failure, the unit has the capability to be connected to a 50 amp, 220 VAC shore power. This unit has the ability to hold up to 18 decedents.



SMART-3 Location: Mobile County

SMART-3 equipment housed with the Mobile County Emergency Management Agency includes:



- **Disaster Mortuary Unit:** The Mobile County Medical Examiner's Response Unit is a custom built mobile medical van. The unit is 39-ft in overall length and the van is integrated onto a GMC medium duty truck chassis. It can be deployed to an incident scene to provide environmentally controlled workspace for forensic science specialists within a few minutes of arrival. Power can be provided by the onboard 12kW generator, an external generator or shore power. The primary work area is in the rear cabin and contains cabinetry, scrub sinks, exam lighting and a stainless steel rolling table.



- **Refrigerated Trailer:** The refrigerated trailer is 8' x 20', tandem axle and can be towed by most standard pick-up trucks. It can store or transport up to twenty-eight sets of remains on removable, rolling racks. Cooling is provided by a commercial dual temp front wall mounted refrigeration unit. Power is provided by an 8KW electric start gas generator.



- **DPX Portable X-Ray:** DPX Portable X-Ray machine has added additional capabilities to SMART-3. The user-friendly, touch screen device allows for rapid response during an incident.



ADPH/OTHER RESOURCES

ADPH fatality management resources include:

- A refrigerated trailer with 18 fixed decedent trays and additional removable trays for storage/transport capacity of up to 27 decedents. The unit has an on-board generator and shore power capability. Shore power requirements include 50-amp, 220 volt connection. On board supplies include: human remains pouches, gloves, safety glasses, and disinfectant wipes.
- Two BioSeal® Mass Fatality Response Pak™ and Infection Control kit containment systems. Each system has 1,500 decedent capability. The systems are palletized, wrapped, and banded for immediate deployment. An on-site forklift is recommended if this resource is requested.



Morgue Operations Support Unit (Trailer)

- The purpose of this unit is to support the postmortem operations of County and/or State agencies during a mass fatality event. It is stocked with specific tools, supplies, and equipment designed to assist Coroners and Medical Examiners with the examination of human remains and personal effects.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and evidence collection tools/equipment make up a large portion of

the units cache. however, there will also be a stock of other specialized equipment and tools such as dental radiology equipment, evidence photography equipment and autopsy tools.

The Morgue Operations unit is housed at Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences (ADFS) in Montgomery.



Morgue Operations Support Unit (Trailer)

Stationary Mortuary Coolers:

ADPH has strategically placed four 12-body mortuary coolers throughout the state, with County Coroners. Conecuh County, Cullman County, Franklin County, and Geneva County houses the units for ADPH District use. Drop-in self-contained refrigeration system with digital thermometer and easy to adjust temperature controller. Heavy-duty chrome plated hardware for long lasting use.



Deployable Mortuary Units:

The Mopec Guardian Quick-Deploy Cooler is adaptable, portable, and is a rapidly deployable system for the long term storage of human remains. Mopec has integrated its new patented rack technology along with patent pending insulation technology to create an expandable remains storage platform that will instantly increase morgue surge capacity. ADPH has placed one system in Baldwin County; while one deployable asset system will remain with the Center for Emergency Preparedness.



Fatality Management Cache Kit:

Content consists of two BioSeal Rolls, a thermosealer, personal effects pack, an extension cord, body bags, and PPE. All contained within a heavy-duty wheeled tote.



Portable BioSeal System:

Configured for travel to any disaster or crime scene, the BioSeal Portable System is fully contained in a durable, lightweight carrying case providing for a variety of response scenarios. This fully-kitted, battery powered system includes everything you need to provide absolute containment in the field.



Portable Communication Kits - Plum Cases:

The Plum Enterprise (pictured on right) is equipped with 5G capabilities, four PoE ports, and increased processing speeds and memory, the Enterprise supports advanced networking such as firewall supported services, VPNs, and more.

The SAT III (pictured on left) was built for mission-critical use. It is housed inside a military-grade, ruggedized case. The six cellular, three wireless, and two GPS antennas are molecularly bonded to the case to prevent them from breaking.

One of each is housed with the Center for Emergency Preparedness for deployment.



COUNTY EMAs

Location: Calhoun County, Clarke County, Colbert County, Coffee County, Dekalb County, Etowah County, and Jefferson County

Some county EMAs maintain fatality management equipment and a cache of supplies which includes:

- an 18 ft. dual axle, refrigerated unit that can carry 12 decedents. Towing requirements include a full-size truck or SUV comparable to a Ford F-150, with towing package. Also needed are a female seven-pin electrical connector and a 2 5/16" ball. Although the trailer has a self contained generator, extended operations should plan on the use of shore power. Shore power requirements include a 50-amp, 220 volt connection.



Whenever possible, the trailer should be placed in a secure staging area, preferably on a hard surface, rather than being towed from site to site.

Requests for trailers can be made EMA Office to EMA Office under existing mutual assistance agreements or through requestor's EMA Office to the AEMA. Coffee, Dekalb, or Colbert County EMA will deliver the trailer to the requestor's designated staging area and provide on-site training on its use, as required. Requestors can expect to designate a point of contact, normally their County Coroner, who will sign for the trailer and its contents and who will assume total responsibility for the trailer until it is returned to the providing agency or until Butler, Coffee, Dekalb, or Colbert County returns to pick up the trailer. The requestor is responsible to

ensure the trailer is returned in "same as or better condition."

If the trailer is used to store decedents, the requestor is also responsible to disinfect the trailer prior to its return.

The requestor is also responsible for replacing any disposable items contained in the trailer with like items.



REFRIGERATED TRAILERS



Location: Gadsden/Etowah County

- 6,000 watt water cooled generator with two 12 gallon fuel tanks mounted above the unit
- Roof mounted refrigerator unit. This sealed refrigeration unit has a stainless exterior skin and stainless roof pitched style cap to shed water off the unit (Same unit as used in outdoor walk-in type refrigerators)



- Interior of trailer with the refrigeration unit in the middle of the ceiling, 2 fluorescent light fixtures, and Kemlite walls

Location: Calhoun County



- Racking system is made of aluminum tubing and holds 3 decedants on each rack and is fixed to the side walls
- Racks have 19" of clearance between each tier
- Automatic power transfer switch for the exchange of power from generator to land line



REFRIGERATED TRAILERS (CONTINUED)



Location: Clarke County

- The refrigerated trailer is 8' x 16' and can be towed by most standard pick-up trucks. It can store or transport up to twelve sets of remains on four sets of removable, rolling racks. Cooling is provided by a Thermo King V-500 refrigeration unit mounted on the front of the trailer. Power is provided by an 8KW generator mounted in the towing vehicle or on the ground when stationary. The unit can also be powered by an external electrical source. **Whenever possible, the trailer should be placed in a secure staging area, preferably on a hard surface, rather than being towed from site to site.**

Location: Colbert County



- The refrigerated trailer is 8' x 16' and can be towed by most standard pick-up trucks. It can store or transport up to fifteen sets of remains on five sets of removable, rolling racks. Shore power requirements include a 50-amp, 220 volt connection.



HOW TO REQUEST RESOURCES

Requests for mass fatality resources must be initiated by the local County Emergency Management Director. Request(s) will be then be sent to AEMA via Web EOC request.

Please be specific when requesting resources as some equipment can and will be deployed without the mortuary response team. For example the ADPH refrigerated trailers are not deployed with mortuary response personnel.

FATALITY MANAGEMENT ASSET MAP



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | Portable Mortuary Unit SMORT 1 | | Stationary Cold Storage |
| | Portable Mortuary Unit SMORT 2 | | Coroner Stationary Cold Storage (12-body) |
| | Portable Mortuary Unit SMORT 3 | | MERC System |
| | Mortuary Response Trailer with Mobile FAC | | BioSeal Mass Pack |
| | Mobile Refrigerated Trailer | | Fatality Management Cache |
| | Quick-Deploy Cold Storage | | |

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alabamapublichealth.gov/cep/fatality-management.html