



Emergency Preparedness and Response Services

Federal Occupational Health (FOH) has a long and successful history of serving federal agencies during emergent events. Uniquely positioned within the federal government to mobilize alongside its federal partners, FOH provides a range of services that ensure the health and safety of federal emergency responders and support staff.

FOH is a non-appropriated agency that provides occupational health and wellness services exclusively to federal employees. FOH was created by Congress in 1946 by an amendment to the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.), and is a service unit within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Program Support Center. Our **mission** is to improve the health, safety, and productivity of the federal workforce.

FOH providers will work around the clock providing critical environmental, medical, and behavioral health services. From floods to fires, FOH can quickly deploy environmental health experts to provide hazard identification and risk assessments. Once there, FOH will furnish the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for the hazardous condition. FOH's temporary field health units are fully staffed with medical equipment, supplies, and personnel. FOH's critical incident stress management (CISM) teams can simultaneously deploy to multiple locations and provide essential services aimed at preventing or alleviating the post-traumatic distress often experienced by emergency responders.

Some of FOH's comprehensive emergency response services include:

Medical Services

FOH will establish temporary field health units - staffed with registered nurses, medical technicians, and physicians - who are prepared to attend to the medical needs of federal response personnel as well as other federal employees at affected agencies. FOH field health units are typically equipped with critical medical supplies, equipment, and necessary immunizations (Hepatitis A and B, influenza, tetanus, and pneumococcus). Based on the unique conditions of each emergency, FOH will deliver a range of occupational health services in the field including medical clearance for the use of negative pressure respirators as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Behavioral Health Services

Intensive training prepares federal responders to act swiftly and decisively during an emergency. However well trained, these first responders are often profoundly affected by their exposure to the extremes of human loss and suffering. FOH's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) counselors can

provide a range of disaster mental health interventions to help first responders in the aftermath of a disaster. FOH's services facilitate post-disaster coping in order to prevent and alleviate the effects of traumatic experiences, improve emotional health, productivity, and personal lives of response staff.

FOH's behavioral health services include:

- 24-hour telephonic CISM services.
- CISM teams that can be immediately deployed to provide services around-the-clock.
- The capability and experience to deliver CISM services to large, diverse, and geographically dispersed populations, nationally or internationally.
- On-site critical incident stress defusings, hot lines, direct counseling, spouse support, and command support.
- Behavioral health preparedness trainings and consultation for agency leaders, management, and employees.

Environmental Health Services

Hazard identification is essential for maintaining the safety and health of emergency responders. Environmental contaminants, physical hazards, as well as water and food borne hazards must be properly identified so that emergency response personnel can operate safely in affected disaster response areas. FOH Environmental Health professionals will perform inspections, identify hazards, and assist with their control. FOH support services during emergency response operations include: PPE determination

- PPE training and supplies
- Air quality monitoring
- Food safety inspections
- Water quality inspections

As hazards are detected and identified, FOH staff will ensure that operational staff and response personnel receive targeted and general safety briefings, unique to each situation or hazardous condition. Safety training topics may include:

- General hazard awareness
- Confined spaces
- Hazardous atmospheres
- Hazardous exposure (e.g., hazardous liquids)
- Energized areas (e.g., electric wires or cables)
- Respiratory protection (e.g., asbestos, silica dust)

FOH, the Occupational Health Provider of Choice for the Federal Government

The mission of FOH is to improve the health, safety, and productivity of the federal workforce. Created by Congress in 1946, FOH is a non-appropriated service agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Program Support Center.

Federal agencies throughout the U.S. and overseas can access FOH services. FOH provides worksite health services, Wellness/Fitness, Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), Work/Life, Environmental Health and Safety, Organizational and Professional Development, and Training and Education.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at www.foh.dhhs.gov or call us today at **1-800-457-9808**.