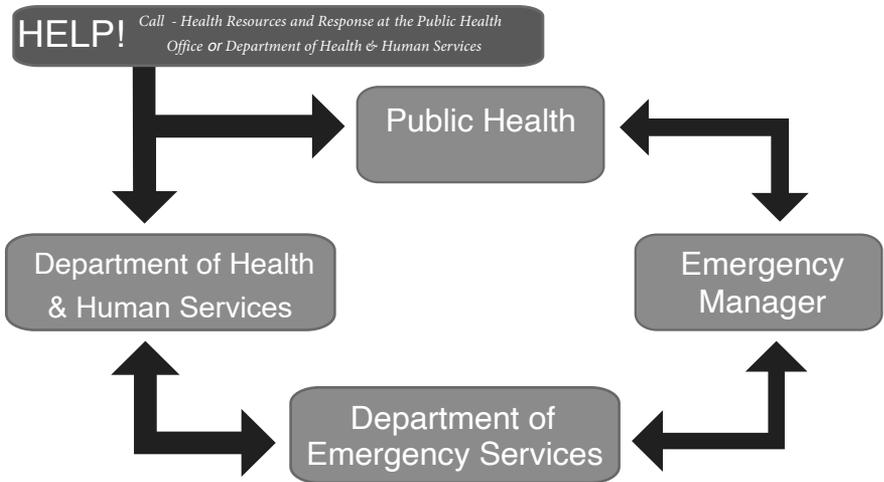


State Emergency Preparedness Team

Emergency preparedness in today's world is a reality. It can seem daunting when trying to wrap your arms around it, but there are professionals out there to help you plan and to be there when disaster strikes. The best way to be prepared is to build relationships within your community, region and state. The following pages have contact information for local public health units, and county and regional emergency managers. Below is information about how each of those can help you plan and respond.



Public Health has many roles and responsibilities. In regards to emergency preparedness, eight North Dakota public health units have **Statewide Response Team Members** on staff. The role of these team members includes:

- Coordination of the process of planning and response
- Allocation of scarce resources during an incident, such as vehicles for evacuation and generators
- Requesting additional resources from the state
- Coordination and integration of public health emergency preparedness with hospitals, long term care, emergency medical services, and other healthcare systems
- Coordination of medical resources
- Building and maintenance of coalitions
- Coordination of community, both local and regional, preparedness exercises
- Development of written regional public and environmental health emergency preparedness plans
- Coordination of National Incident Management System (NIMS) training throughout the region

North Dakota Public Health Units with Statewide Response Team Members:

Bismarck
Grand Forks

Jamestown
Devils Lake

Fargo
Dickinson

Minot
Williston

Emergency Managers are members of the Department of Emergency Services team. They are assigned to counties in North Dakota, and their role includes:

- Declaration of emergency and escalation of that declaration up to a request for state declaration, which could escalate to federal declaration, making funding available
- Coordination of local and county exercises
- Maintain knowledge of community risks and hazards that facilities need to include in planning

In addition to the above positions, the Department of Emergency Services also has **Regional Response Coordinators**, whose role is to:

- Work with responding groups, including fire, law, emergency management, emergency medical service, public works, public safety communications, private health, and public health and community leaders to further the concept of regional response in the existing region
- Act as Department of Emergency Services liaison in local jurisdictions during emergencies and disasters
- Assist in developing and coordinating regional exercises
- Assist in reviewing local ordinances and state laws to insure adequate authority exists for deployment of regional resources throughout the region

These professionals are wonderful resources for planning for and responding to emergencies. Contact them, build relationships, and understand their role. Now is the time, rather than when disaster strikes.