

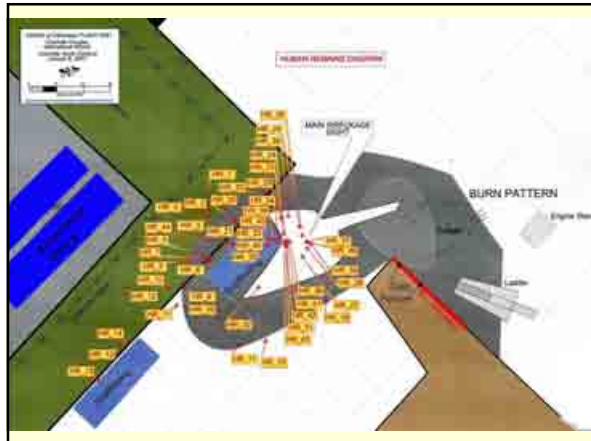
Forensic Sciences Resources

Kenneth S. Snell, M.D.
Chief State Medical Examiner
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences



Trained Field Teams

- ↗ Mass fatality event
 - ↗ Pandemic events?
- ↗ Tasks of trained field teams
 - ↗ Documentation of decedent location - GPS
 - ↗ Initial processing of decedents
 - ↗ Prepare for storage and transport
 - ↗ Trained in the various processing procedures and proper chain of custody methods



SMORT

- ↗ State Mortuary Response Team
 - ↗ Main component of field teams
- ↗ Activated whenever a catastrophic event poses a threat having the potential to produce a disaster or major emergency situation resulting in mass fatalities

Trained Field Teams

- ↗ SMORT
 - ↗ Assist the local Coroner and ADFS in decedent recovery at the scene, and mobile work site and autopsy site duties
 - ↗ Actual duties will vary depending on the nature of the event, the necessity of decontamination, number and condition of the decedents, and the distance between the scene, mobile work site, and autopsy site

Trained Field Teams

- ↗ SMORT team members will be trained in the necessary techniques to perform all potential duties.
 - ↗ Certified by multiple agencies in various aspects of their expected duties.
 - ↗ ADFS will assist with training.

Augmenting Field Team Staff

- ✦ Numbers needed?
 - ✦ Nature of event
 - ✦ Size of event
 - ✦ Location of event
 - ✦ Weather
- ✦ Sufficient to allow rotation of staff
- ✦ Law Enforcement, Funeral Home staff, and Emergency Response Personnel



Augmenting Field Team Staff

- ✦ ADFS
 - ✦ Requested by Coroner & District Attorney
 - ✦ Guide and assist
 - ✦ One or two staff – Pathologist, Death Investigator, Autopsy Technician
- ✦ Overwhelming event
 - ✦ DMORT will be requested if the need is greater than SMORT & ADFS can manage.

Mobile Work Sites

- ✦ Mass fatality events
 - ✦ Pandemic events?
- ✦ Initial processing of decedents after recovery and scene documentation
- ✦ Extent of the initial processing
 - ✦ Necessity of decontamination
 - ✦ Number and condition of the decedents
 - ✦ Size of trained field team +/- assistance



Mobile Work Sites

- ✦ The initial process may include
 - ✦ Photography
 - ✦ Documentation of clothing and personal effects
 - ✦ Fingerprinting
 - ✦ Evidence processing and documentation
 - ✦ Possibly DNA card collection



Mobile Work Sites

- ↗ The decedents will be labeled with a unique identifying number
 - ↗ Single recovery team - HR01
 - ↗ Multiple recovery teams - HRA01
- ↗ Place in body pouches for storage and transport to the one of the ADFS Regional Morgues



Mobile Work Sites

- ↗ Storage issues
 - ↗ Without cold storage decomposition advances rapidly
 - ↗ Within 12 to 48 hours in hot climates, decomposition will be too advanced to allow facial recognition
 - ↗ Cold storage slows the rate of decomposition and preserves the body for identification.
 - ↗ Refrigeration between 2°C and 4°C is the best option.



Mobile Work Sites

- ↗ Logistical issues
 - ↗ Time delays
 - ↗ Teams arriving at scene
 - ↗ Beginning of recovery and processing
 - ↗ Sufficient amount of necessary supplies
 - ↗ Decedent storage at scene
 - ↗ Transportation of decedents to autopsy site
 - ↗ Food
- ↗ Overwhelming event - DMORT

State Morgue – Autopsy Sites

↵ ADFS has three fixed morgue sites with various capabilities that will manage up to a maximum of 30 decedents before outside assistance will be necessary.

↵ Huntsville

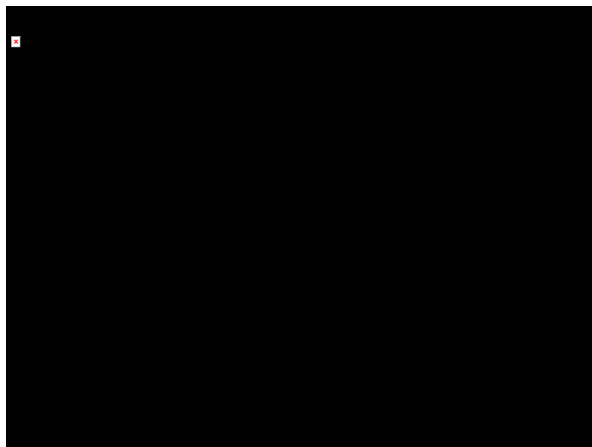
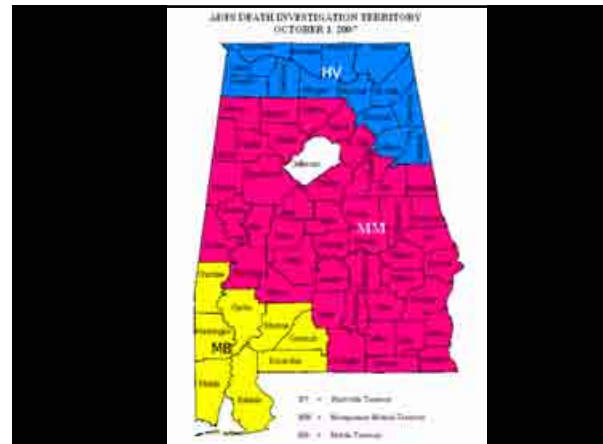
↵ Storage – 4 decedents Autopsy – 1 case

↵ Montgomery

↵ Storage – 25 decedents Autopsy – 5 cases

↵ Mobile

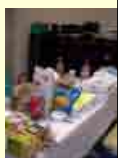
↵ Storage – 15 decedents Autopsy – 5 cases





State Morgue – Autopsy Sites

- ↳ Logistical issues
 - ↳ Decedent storage
 - ↳ Time delay in team member assembly
 - ↳ Time delay in receiving antemortem decedent information
- ↳ Identification process
- ↳ Release of decedents
- ↳ Food



State Morgue – Autopsy Sites

- ↳ Assistance – SMORT may be requested to provide assistance at the morgue
 - ↳ Decedent handling
 - ↳ Photography
 - ↳ Evidence processing
- ↳ Overwhelming event
 - ↳ DMORT will be requested if the need is greater than SMORT & ADFS can manage.

Protection of Staff

- ↳ Pandemic event
 - ↳ Gloves when touching decedent and contaminated items
 - ↳ Mask and eye protection when potential to generate splashes or sprays of body fluids
 - ↳ Wash hands after decedent contact



Protection of Staff

The recovery of bodies from confined, unventilated spaces should be approached with caution. After several days of decomposition, potentially hazardous toxic gases can build-up. Time should be allowed for fresh air to ventilate confined spaces.

Protection of Staff

✧ Mass Fatality event

- ✧ Victims are normally killed by injury, drowning, or fire
- ✧ Victims are not likely to be sick with epidemic-causing infections (i.e., plague, cholera, typhoid, and anthrax)
- ✧ Few victims will have chronic blood infections (hepatitis or HIV), tuberculosis, or diarrheal disease
- ✧ Most infectious organisms do not survive beyond 48 hours in a dead body. An exception is HIV which has been found six days postmortem

Protection of Staff

✧ Mass Fatality event

- ✧ Field teams work in hazardous environments (e.g., collapsed buildings and debris) and may also be at risk of injury and tetanus
- ✧ Team members handling human remains have a risk through contact with blood and feces (bodies often leak feces after death) from the following
 - ✧ Hepatitis B and C, HIV, Tuberculosis, Diarrheal disease



Protection of Staff

✧ Mass Fatality event

- ✧ Anyone handling a decedent or evidence at the scene, mobile work site, or state morgue must wear the minimum protective gear at all times
- ✧ Protective gear for the scene and mobile work site to be provided by either State Emergency Management Agency &/or SMORT

Protection of Staff

✧ The minimum protective gear

- ✧ Disposable gloves
- ✧ Impervious plastic aprons or Tyvek
- ✧ Face &/or eye protection
- ✧ Shoe covers or impervious boots
- ✧ Face masks are unnecessary, but should be provided when there is a potential to generate splashes or sprays of body fluids



Protection of Staff

✧ Additional protective gear will be directed by Emergency Response Personnel

✧ Logistical issues

- ✧ Adequate amount of different sizes of protective gear at the scene, mobile site, and autopsy site
- ✧ Proper training in wearing protective gear
- ✧ Disposal of used protective gear

Documentation

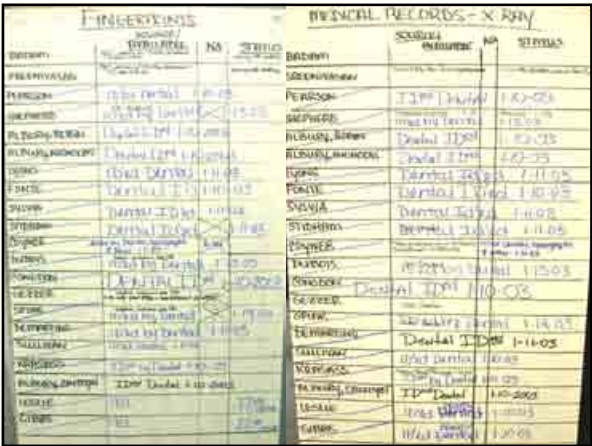
- ✧ Pandemic event
 - ✧ Information will vary
 - ✧ Location, time of death/discovery, perimortem events, & medical treatment
- ✧ Mass fatality event
 - ✧ Event information will be the same
 - ✧ Agreed upon time of incident
 - ✧ Agreed upon time of death for all decedents that did not survive initial event

- # Documentation
- ✚ The decedent's unique identifying number will serve as reference point
 - ✚ Antemortem information collected for identification will be assigned a unique identifying number (i.e. MP01)
 - ✚ Active spreadsheet to follow and ultimately link the decedent and missing person into one case file with unique case number

Documentation

- ↪ Field team will document the necessary decedent information at the scene with the assistance of first responders and Law Enforcement.
- ↪ Coroner and Law Enforcement Agency will provide the necessary event and decedent information to complete the ADFS Report of Death Investigation Form (DFS-18).

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a blue sweatshirt with "LEGAL MANAGER" printed on the back, is standing and writing on a large whiteboard. The whiteboard is divided into several columns, each containing a table of data. A long, thin light fixture is mounted above the whiteboard. In the foreground, there is a white printer or copier.



Body Identification

- ✚ Pandemic event
 - ✚ Identification will start with the local Law Enforcement and Coroner.
 - ✚ If additional assistance is requested, then ADFS will assume responsibility
- ✚ Mass fatality event
 - ✚ Method of identification of decedents will be determined by the state of the decedents at the time of examination, both at the mobile work site and autopsy site

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Body Identification

- ✧ Methods of identification used will include but not limited to:
 - ✧ Fingerprint comparison
 - ✧ Dental radiograph/chart comparison
 - ✧ Boney radiography comparison
 - ✧ DNA comparison
- ✧ General body stature and personal effects used for preliminary identification

Body Identification

- ✧ Local Law Enforcement will be required to obtain antemortem samples for the comparison process
 - ✧ Fingerprints
 - ✧ Dental records
 - ✧ Radiographs
 - ✧ Reference DNA sample
- ✧ Unique identifying number assigned



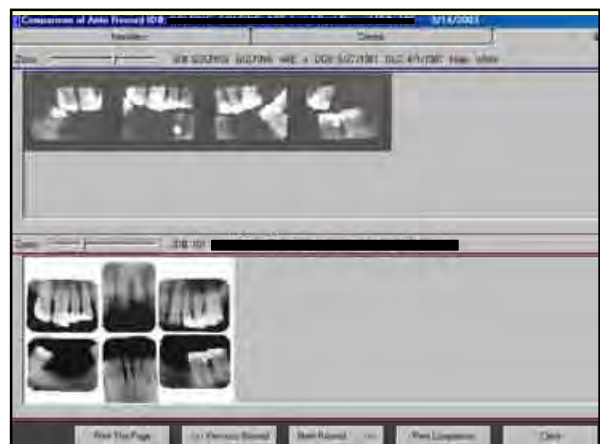
Body Identification

- ✧ Process may begin at the mobile work site depending on the necessity of decontamination and number and condition of the decedents
- ✧ Process will include documenting clothing and personal effects, taking fingerprints, and identification photographs
- ✧ DNA samples may be taken

| Body # | Age | Sex | PRINTS | DENTAL | AUTOPSY | XRAY | FINGERPRINTS | FILED/REMOVED | TOOTH/VEGETABLE | IDENTIFICATION |
|--------|-----|-----|--------|--------|---------|------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 001 | 40 | F | | | | | 07/15/00 | 001 | 001 | LESLIE |
| 002 | 41 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 002 | 002 | 002 |
| 003 | 42 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 003 | 003 | 003 |
| 004 | 43 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 004 | 004 | 004 |
| 005 | 44 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 005 | 005 | 005 |
| 006 | 45 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 006 | 006 | 006 |
| 007 | 46 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 007 | 007 | 007 |
| 008 | 47 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 008 | 008 | 008 |
| 009 | 48 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 009 | 009 | 009 |
| 010 | 49 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 010 | 010 | 010 |
| 011 | 50 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 011 | 011 | 011 |
| 012 | 51 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 012 | 012 | 012 |
| 013 | 52 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 013 | 013 | 013 |
| 014 | 53 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 014 | 014 | 014 |
| 015 | 54 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 015 | 015 | 015 |
| 016 | 55 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 016 | 016 | 016 |
| 017 | 56 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 017 | 017 | 017 |
| 018 | 57 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 018 | 018 | 018 |
| 019 | 58 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 019 | 019 | 019 |
| 020 | 59 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 020 | 020 | 020 |
| 021 | 60 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 021 | 021 | 021 |
| 022 | 61 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 022 | 022 | 022 |
| 023 | 62 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 023 | 023 | 023 |
| 024 | 63 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 024 | 024 | 024 |
| 025 | 64 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 025 | 025 | 025 |
| 026 | 65 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 026 | 026 | 026 |
| 027 | 66 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 027 | 027 | 027 |
| 028 | 67 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 028 | 028 | 028 |
| 029 | 68 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 029 | 029 | 029 |
| 030 | 69 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 030 | 030 | 030 |
| 031 | 70 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 031 | 031 | 031 |
| 032 | 71 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 032 | 032 | 032 |
| 033 | 72 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 033 | 033 | 033 |
| 034 | 73 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 034 | 034 | 034 |
| 035 | 74 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 035 | 035 | 035 |
| 036 | 75 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 036 | 036 | 036 |
| 037 | 76 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 037 | 037 | 037 |
| 038 | 77 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 038 | 038 | 038 |
| 039 | 78 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 039 | 039 | 039 |
| 040 | 79 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 040 | 040 | 040 |
| 041 | 80 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 041 | 041 | 041 |
| 042 | 81 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 042 | 042 | 042 |
| 043 | 82 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 043 | 043 | 043 |
| 044 | 83 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 044 | 044 | 044 |
| 045 | 84 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 045 | 045 | 045 |
| 046 | 85 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 046 | 046 | 046 |
| 047 | 86 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 047 | 047 | 047 |
| 048 | 87 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 048 | 048 | 048 |
| 049 | 88 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 049 | 049 | 049 |
| 050 | 89 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 050 | 050 | 050 |
| 051 | 90 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 051 | 051 | 051 |
| 052 | 91 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 052 | 052 | 052 |
| 053 | 92 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 053 | 053 | 053 |
| 054 | 93 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 054 | 054 | 054 |
| 055 | 94 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 055 | 055 | 055 |
| 056 | 95 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 056 | 056 | 056 |
| 057 | 96 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 057 | 057 | 057 |
| 058 | 97 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 058 | 058 | 058 |
| 059 | 98 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 059 | 059 | 059 |
| 060 | 99 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 060 | 060 | 060 |
| 061 | 100 | M | | | | | 07/15/00 | 061 | 061 | 061 |

Body Identification

- ✧ Process will be completed at the autopsy site
 - ✧ Forensic Pathologists
 - ✧ Forensic Scientists
 - ✧ Forensic Odontologists
 - ✧ Forensic Anthropologists



Body Identification

- ↳ Logistical issue
 - ↳ Time frame from event to final identification is dependent on
 - ↳ Recovery time
 - ↳ Initial processing time
 - ↳ Decedent examination time
 - ↳ Receipt of antemortem comparison materials
 - ↳ Time for actual identification process
- ↳ Overwhelming event – DMORT

Conclusion

- ↳ Pandemic event
 - ↳ Local Law Enforcement and Coroner
 - ↳ ADFS assist identification issues
- ↳ Mass Fatality event
 - ↳ Trained Field Team – SMORT
 - ↳ Assisted by local personnel & ADFS
 - ↳ Mobile work site
 - ↳ Initial processing of decedents
 - ↳ Extent determined by event
 - ↳ Storage of decedents

Conclusion

- ↳ Mass Fatality event
 - ↳ State morgue/autopsy site
 - ↳ Main work site for decedent examination and identification
 - ↳ ADFS has three fixed sites with varied capability
 - ↳ SMORT to assist
 - ↳ Staff protection
 - ↳ Risk from environment and decedents
 - ↳ Minimum gear to be augmented as needed
 - ↳ Hand washing!

Conclusion

- ↳ Mass Fatality event
 - ↳ Documentation
 - ↳ Local Law Enforcement and Coroner
 - ↳ Decedent information vs. missing person information
 - ↳ Identification
 - ↳ Role of local Law Enforcement & Coroner
 - ↳ Mobile site vs. Autopsy site

