



GUIDELINES FOR THE DECEASED

Introduction

Depending upon the scope of the MCI it may be some time before bodies can be collected and cared for by the Coroners Office. Therefore, the following guidelines have been included to aid local agencies in handling the deceased until the Coroner can relieve those agencies of that responsibility.

How & When To Move

When it is necessary to move the deceased in order to facilitate rescue work, protect the health and safety of others or at the direction of the Coroner Group Supervisor these procedures should be followed.

Personal Effects

Do not remove any personal effects. They shall remain with the body at all times.
If personal effects are found that are thought to belong to the body, place them in a separate container and tag.

Body Tag/Label

Attach a tag or label to the body with the following information:

- Date and time found
- Exact location where found (include floor, room number, etc.)
- Name/address, if known
- If identified, how and when
- Name/phone of person making identity or filling out tag.
- If body is contaminated, with what

Packaging

Place the body in a disaster pouch or in plastic sheeting and securely wrap and tie to prevent unwrapping. Attach a second tag to the outside of the wrapping.

Collection

Move the properly packaged body along with personal effects to an established Coroner's collection point or the incident morgue.

In case of extreme heat or direct sunlight, movement to cool or refrigerated storage will be necessary earlier.

Security

- Keep insects and other animal life away from the deceased.
- Provide strict security for the deceased at all times. Limit entry to those authorized by the Incident Command.
- Keep the identity of all deceased persons confidential.

Incident Morgue

The incident area designated and established by the Medical Group Supervisor under the Triage Unit Leader for temporary placement of the deceased.

Scope

The triaged casualties entering the system as "Immediates", "Delayed" or "Minors" that expire prior to being transported will generally be those who are cared for by the Incident Morgue.



GUIDELINES FOR THE DECEASED CONTINUED

Degree	<p>Under the direction of the Coroner Group many of the deceased may be collected in the field and not enter the incident morgue. Likewise, the incident morgue may serve as the Coroner's Collection Point and process all the deceased for transport to the County Morgue.</p>
Manager	<p>It is preferable, but not critical, that a representative of the Coroner's Office or a Local Law Enforcement Officer be the Morgue Manager.</p>
The Site	<p>The morgue area should be established in a site isolated from all other incident areas (treatment, command post, staging, etc.) where high security can be maintained and where access for transport away from the incident is possible.</p>
Site Considerations	<p>Provide appropriate facilities and consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Garages or other naturally cool storage buildings or areas▪ Self-contained refrigerated vans/trucks and rail cars▪ Local funeral homes/mortuaries▪ Avoid storage areas with floors that could become contaminated▪ Avoid using areas/facilities that could have some lasting negative effect upon the parties involved
Coroner Collection Point(s)	<p>The incident area or areas designated and establish by the Coroner Group Supervisor to stage and process the deceased for removal to the County Morgue.</p> <p>The scope and degree to which collection points are utilized will be decided by the Coroner's Office representative or Law Enforcement Officer filing the position of Coroner Group Supervisor or the Law Branch Director.</p>
Coordination	<p>The process of locating, documenting, packaging, moving and transporting the deceased needs to be coordinated by the Coroner Group Supervisor as designated by the Law Enforcement Branch Director. The handling of the deceased should be a slow, deliberate and well planned out operation.</p>
Safety	<p>Rescuers lives should not be put at risk in order to make body recoveries. All recoveries shall be done in a safe and orderly manner.</p>
CISD	<p>Consideration should be given to the lasting effects upon those involved in body recovery. CISD services should be made available as appropriate.</p>