

## 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.

The FOH team 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. After mobilizing to the agency field site, 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.



### What are the benefits?

- **A customized approach** to meet the needs of your agency
- **A national network** of experienced and certified environmental health specialists
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year

“One of the biggest advantages of FOH is eliminating the need for multiple contracts all over the country. FOH provides services to our 50+ offices nationally. They coordinate onsite visits and perform direct consultations with our employees, who appreciate the one-on-one contact.”

Chief, Agency Safety  
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

### Fast Facts

- FOH is one of the largest providers of Environmental Health and Safety Services for federal agencies
- FOH has more than 65 years of experience serving federal employees
- Our EHSS team provides re-occupancy assessments for flood damaged federal facilities
- During disasters, FOH provides industrial hygiene assessments and collects samples to characterize potential environmental exposures

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your fingertips.**

**800-457-9808**

**FOH.hhs.gov**



**FEDERAL  
OCCUPATIONAL  
HEALTH**

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
- Onsite 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 and Safety Services**

Hazard identification is essential for maintaining the safety and health of emergency responders. Environmental stressors, physical and chemical 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's 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
- Environmental building surveys

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 and solids)
- Energized areas (e.g., electric wires or cables)
- Respiratory protection (e.g., asbestos, silica dust)

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.

Make FOH your partner in creating a safer environment for a healthier, more productive workforce.

