



New York State

Family Assistance Commission

Helping Families After a Mass Casualty Incident



What Is...

A Mass Fatality Disaster?

Any situation where there are **more bodies** than can be handled using **local resources**. There is **no minimum number of fatalities** to become a “mass fatality incident” because communities vary in size and resources.

After a disaster occurs, families and friends...



- **Want information about the event and what happened;**
- **Need help locating their loved one(s);**
- **Desire accurate and reliable information;**
- **Look for a safe, protected environment to await notification**

About NYS FAC ...

- **2005:** NYSFDA Blue Ribbon Commission on Disaster Policy and Preparedness
- **2007:** Family Assistance Commission established

About NYS FAC ...

- **20** trained, licensed funeral directors from all areas of NYS;
- A **FREE** service provided by the NYS Funeral Directors Association;
- Services provided as **requested** by county/local officials and coroner/ME;

WHAT
WE
CAN DO FOR
YOU

FAC is...

- a **safe**, protected, and supportive **environment** for families to gather and await **information** and receive **updates**;
- a central location to **interview** family members to **collect information** to facilitate victim ID;
- assistance in **notifying** family members when positive ID is made and/or in preparing death certificates;
- assistance for families to coordinate the **release** of human remains to funeral home selected.

FAC is NOT...

A cigarette with a white filter and a dark tip is positioned diagonally on the right side of the image. A piece of white paper is torn and crumpled, partially covering the cigarette and extending towards the top left. The background is a dark, textured blue.

- physical **search** and **recovery** at the disaster scene;
- mental health counseling;
- financial resources, housing assistance, or other similar **human service assistance**.

WHY FAC?



- Experience working with **mass fatalities**
- Sensitivity to **grieving families**
- Equipped to help families with **sudden loss**
- Work in tandem with those **coordinating** disaster response efforts

Victim Identification Collection

VIP Personal Information									
Page 1 of 8					Incident				
					Incident Date				
RM #									
Last		Suffix		First		Middle		Sex	
DOB MM/DD/YYYY		Race		SSN # / ID #		Birth City		State or Country	
Address		Apt #		City		State		Zip	
County		Country		Inside City Limits		Religious Preference			
Education: level completed: Elem/Second (0-12):									
Alias 1		Last		First		Middle		Degree Earned:	
Phone (H)		Phone (W)		Phone (Cell)		Alias 2		Last	
Status		Is Married		Never Married		Widowed		Divorced	
Spouse		Last		Suffix		Maiden/birth Name		First	
Father		Last		Suffix		Maiden/birth Name		First	
Mother		Last		Suffix		Maiden/birth Name		First	
Informant		Last		Suffix		First		Middle	
Address		City		State		Zip			
Home Phone		Work Phone		Cell Phone		Country			
E-mail		Relationship		Spouse		Daughter		Life Partner	
		Father		Uncle		Aunt		Other	
		Mother		Brother		Cousin			
		Sister		Employer		Friend			
		Son		Other:					

FAQ...



- Why is an FAC important?
- How much does it cost?
- Experience with mass fatality disasters?
- How much training does the FAC have?

**HOW TO
ENLIST
THE SERVICES OF
FAC**

- NYS FAC – in conjunction with the local municipality – will determine the **severity** of the situation and the **level of need** for family assistance.
- FAC Team can be **activated** and **on scene** – in whole or part – **within hours**.
- NYSFDA will enter into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with the municipality whose official is leading the disaster coordination.

County / Local Officials Provide:

- Signed **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU);
- Private **meeting location** for interviews (hotel, school, etc.);
- County/local official to provide **regular briefings** to keep the families informed.

QUESTIONS?

**“Show me the manner in which
a nation cares for its dead and I
will measure with mathematical
exactness the tender mercies of
its people, their respect for the
laws of the land and their
loyalty to high ideals ...”**

Sir William Gladstone

CONTACT US:



WWW.NYSFDA.ORG

518.452.8230 | 1.800.291.2629

MARIANNE@NYSFDA.ORG