

# 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;



## EAG S...

- 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.

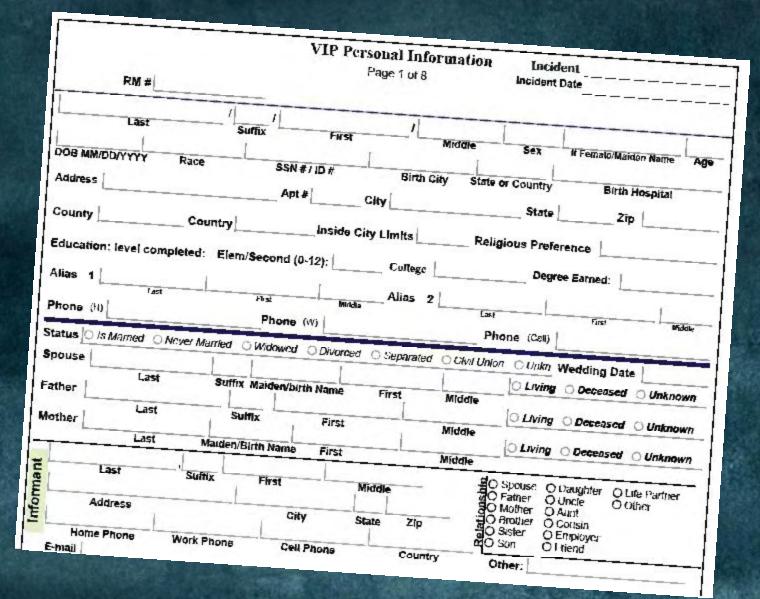
## FAC IS NOT...

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



- 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



## EAQ

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

# HOW TO SERVICES OF

- 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:



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