

Epidemiology Strike Team

Since 2002, the Florida Asset Typing Project has been in progress to support surge capacity for public health response. The project identified the need to have prepared teams who have core competencies and have been credentialed through training and experience ready to respond in a consistent intra-state support during an emergency. The initial development phase identified four teams-epidemiology, environmental health, special needs shelter and behavioral health needs assessment.

The epidemiology strike team are multidiscipline and consist of individuals from disease investigation specialties such as sexually transmitted disease, HIV, TB and general epidemiology. Team members have received specific training in the five Level A bioterrorism agents, gastroenteritis of unknown etiology and influenza. Epidemiology Strike teams provide concentrated assistance in an emergency where public health action is needed for disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, quarantine and isolation, data analysis, phlebotomy and other controls. Teams are scalable in size depending on the size and scope of the event. The teams consists of 8-10 individuals who are equipped and specially trained to work within the operation section of an incident and report to a common leader.