How Can DSHS Assist?

- Help identify ongoing mass fatality management planning initiatives

- Help connect you to regional mass fatality response resources

- When requested through your local Emergency Operations Center, DSHS can deploy resources such as:

  - Disaster Portable Morgue Unit
  - Funeral Director Strike Team
  - Refrigerated Trailers
  - Body Bags
  - Disaster Behavioral Health Services

Every *Mass Fatality* Disaster is Local

DO YOU KNOW THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ROLE IN A MASS FATALITY INCIDENT?

West, Texas (2013)

What Is My Role?

- Satisfy the legal requirements of Chapter 49 of the Code of Criminal Procedures

  o Conduct an inquest

  o Maintain custody of the human remains in order to determine identity, make notification to family and authorities, determine cause and manner of death, issue a death certificate, and coordinate release of remains to the next of kin.

- Assist in developing local solutions for remains recovery, transportation and storage, morgue operations, identification, and remains release for final disposition

- Participate in the planning effort

How Do I Get Started?

- Contact your local or county Emergency Management Coordinator.

- Contact your local health department. If you are in a county without a local health department, contact the preparedness manager in your Health Service Region.

- If mass fatality planning is not taking place, advocate for mass fatality planning in your region or county

West, Texas (2013)

How Can I Learn More?

- Read the following documents:

  o DSHS Mass Fatality Toolkit: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/commprep/planning/toolkits.aspx

  o TDEM State Emergency Management Plan- Annex H- Health and Medical Services: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/downloadableforms.htm#stateplan

- Find trainings:

  o Talk to your Emergency Management Coordinator about ongoing trainings within your area.

  o Preparing Texas https://www.preparingtexas.org/index.aspx (Keyword: Fatalities)

  o DSHS http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/commprep/training/MFMOnline.aspx