

## **Food and Drug Administration Response Resources**

During a disaster or other crisis situation, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may assist other federal, state, local, and/or tribal authorities in response/recovery activities which deal with FDA regulated products such as drugs, medical devices, biologics, human food and animal feed, and cosmetics. This assistance may take a variety of forms, such as assistance in inspections of establishments which produce or distribute FDA regulated products, providing subject matter expertise on the use, storage, or quality of these products, or assistance in sample collections of these products. FDA response/recovery activities may be initiated through FDA's inherent regulatory authority over these products, or through mission assignments as part of a larger federal response.

FDA's response/recovery assistance to other federal, state, local, and/or tribal authorities may include a number of different areas and forms, including:

**Inspections of Food, Cosmetic, and Medical Product Establishments:** FDA may augment state, local, and tribal staff to conduct inspections of establishments that prepare, pack, and/or hold human and/or animal food, human and/or animal drugs, biologics, cosmetics, and/or medical devices to help ensure such commodities are safe, effective, and otherwise fit for use.

**Pharmacy Inspections:** FDA investigators may augment state, local, and tribal staff to perform inspections of pharmacies and other establishments offering human and/or animal drugs, biologics, and medical devices to consumers. These investigators would assist in ensuring that drugs, biologics, and medical devices have been stored under appropriate conditions and are fit for use.

**Retail Food Establishment Inspections:** FDA staff may augment state, local, and tribal staff to perform inspections of establishments serving food at retail establishments for conformance to appropriate food safety standards. Such establishments may include restaurants, school and hospital cafeterias, daycare center food service establishments, and temporary shelters, among others.

**Food Safety Training:** FDA staff can provide food safety training to federal, state, local, and tribal authorities, as well as to relief volunteers and/or other appropriate disaster response personnel. This training would include information on appropriate food preparation, handling, storage, and disposal issues.

**Sample Collection & Analysis of Food, Medical Products, and Cosmetics:** FDA staff may augment state, local, and tribal authorities to perform sample collections of human and/or animal foods, cosmetics, human and/or animal drugs, biologics, and medical devices for subsequent analyses.

**FDA Subject Matter Expert Consultation:** FDA may provide Subject Matter Expert (SME) consultation to assist state, local, and tribal staff who work to address issues that impact whether human and/or animal drugs, biologics, human and/or animal foods, and medical devices are appropriate for use. These SMEs may also provide guidance on what steps, if any, may be employed to restore human and/or animal drugs, biologics, human and/or animal foods, cosmetics, and medical devices to a condition whereby they would be fit for use.

**FDA X-Ray Mammography Analysis:** FDA investigators with expertise in X-ray mammography may augment state, local, and tribal staff to conduct assessments and field tests of facilities where diagnostic x-ray and mammography equipment are installed, to help ensure the equipment is operating within acceptable radiation emission limits.

**Radiological Advisory Team for Environment, Food, & Health (A-Team):** The Advisory Team for Environment, Food, & Health is an inter-agency radiological emergency response group tasked with providing protective action recommendations to state and local governments. It can be activated to provide expert advice and recommendations for federal, state, and local authorities in radiation emergencies. FDA is the current A-Team Chair.

**LAST UPDATED: May 9, 2016**