

Federal Medical Stations

Managed by the Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS), federal medical stations (FMS) are rapidly deployable caches containing beds, supplies, and medicines which can quickly turn a pre-identified building into a temporary medical shelter during a national emergency. Care can be provided for 50-250 displaced people for three days before resupply is necessary. The FMS offers health and medical surge capability and capacity for short-term inpatient persons who have sub-acute medical, mental health, or other healthcare needs that cannot be accommodated or provided for in a general shelter.

Each FMS has the ability to increase local healthcare capabilities in mass casualty incidents or potential public health threats. They are flexible, modular, scalable, and tailored to meet the requirements of each incident. The FMS operates in cooperation with federal, state and local authorities.

Use of an FMS requires pre-planning, and prior to an event, state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) jurisdictions collaborate with Health and Human Services' (HHS) Regional Emergency Coordinators (REC) to identify anticipated requirements for FMS support (e.g., conduct FMS site surveys to ensure logistical wraparound services are appropriate and to identify any gaps requiring resolution during a response.) FMS site selection criteria should be met for all potential FMS facilities. Pre-identification of possible FMS sites should be included in SLTT or regional jurisdiction emergency plans.

To assist stakeholders, DSNS deploys an FMS Strike Team (FMSST) to facilitate FMS cache set-up, conduct training for volunteers, and provide subject matter expertise, which can include among others, assessing the facility's limiting factors, providing advice and assistance in support of the FMS internal set-up, and conducting recovery procedures. FMSST members do not operate the FMS; this is done by teams from the United States Public Health Service Rapid Deployment Force, or the Department of Veterans Affairs, or a combination of other designated groups. FMS deployment for specific locations is organized through the REC.

Federal Medical Stations Minimum Requirements

One FMS requires approximately 40,000 square feet of enclosed, climate-controlled space with the following features:

- Loading dock/ramps, forklifts, pallet jacks, and parking
- Sufficient existing communications/IT support and power supply with back-up
- Availability of support services including, food and water, waste disposal, medical oxygen, laundry, and mortuary services
- Refrigeration and locked storage
- Bathroom and shower capability

From 2005-2012, DSNS deployed FMS aid to victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dean, Gustav, Ike, and Sandy.



Quick Facts Federal Medical Stations

- Each FMS has a base, treatment, and pharmacy module.
- Each FMS can quickly turn a building into a temporary medical shelter.
- Each FMS is modeled for all age populations.
- Each FMS can be transported by air, water, or ground for maximum geographic distribution.

For additional information, email sns_opcext@cdc.gov.

