



*Activation of Disaster Behavioral Health:*

Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team is a state resource comprised of volunteer behavioral health professionals who may work or live in the affected area that can be requested when existing resources are not sufficient to meet the needs of the affected population. There may be instances in which DBHRT learns of an event and contacts the local authorities to make them aware of DBHRT services. DBHRT will not “show up” until requested by local authorities or assigned by the Governor. It is imperative that team members not report to an event site until officially activated.

Any requests for Disaster Behavioral Health Services or activation of DBHRT must be made through the state emergency management system in accordance with Maine Emergency Management Assistance Agency right to call for and employ assistance; *37-B M.R.S.A. §1784-A (see section III:3 Policy and Guidance)*. This request can be made either through the Disaster

Notification for activation of the Maine Disaster Behavioral Health Team Response

Behavioral Health Director, if the state Emergency Operations Center or Public Health Emergency Operations Center is not activated, who can set the teams in motion.

Notification can also be done through local or county emergency management agencies, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, MEMA, Maine CDC Office of Public Health Emergency Operations, and Regional Resource Centers.

**If a locality or healthcare organization determines that their existing resources are either insufficient or have become exhausted in response to an incident:**

- ❑ Call the DBH Director on call 24/7 at (207) 441-5466 to request assistance for a disaster event, and the Director will notify MEMA if the team members are activated.
- ❑ Call MEMA Duty Officer on call 24/7 at (800) 452-8735 to request assistance for a disaster event
- ❑ Call Maine CDC Emergency Consultation at (800) 821-5821 for Public Health emergencies and medical surge at healthcare facilities
- ❑ MEMA Duty Officer and/or Maine CDC PHEP Director who would call the DBH Program Director.
- ❑ DBH Director can contact a Team Leader(s)/Liaison and request that they report to the incident site to meet with local officials and begin to gather information.
- ❑ Memorandums of Agreement with Maine VOAD and the American Red Cross of Maine may be activated to provide mutual aid at a Family Reunification and Family Assistance Center.

In the event that the state Emergency Operations Center is not activated and a team request is made to MEMA, they will notify the Program Director, who can set the teams in motion. If the request for services is made directly to the Director will contact the MEMA Duty Officer and to give them information about the incident and ask permission to activate the teams. **The activation of the teams must officially be made through MEMA.** A DBHRT Team Leader/Liaison may be asked to respond to the local/county EOC if activated.

*Coordination with other Behavioral Healthcare Organizations*

The local crisis agency director or healthcare organization in the impacted region should be in contact with the Disaster Behavioral Health Program Director or DHHS Liaison at the MEMA State Emergency Operations Center and/or Maine CDC Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Center to inform them about actions being taken and provide them with contact names and information.