



CRS Report for Congress: The Public Health and Medical Response to Disasters: Federal Authority and Funding: June 23, 2008 - RL33579

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By Sarah A Lister

Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. When there is a catastrophe in the United States, state and local governments are principally responsible for response activities, and state and local legal authorities are the principal means to support these activities. When catastrophes overwhelm state and local response capabilities, the President (acting through the Secretary of Homeland Security) can provide assistance to stricken communities, individuals, governments, and not-for-profit groups to assist in response and recovery. Aid is provided under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act) upon a presidential declaration. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) also has both standing and emergency authorities in the Public Health Service (PHS) Act by which he can provide assistance in response to public health and medical emergencies. At this time, he has limited means, however, to finance activities that are ineligible, for whatever reason, for Stafford Act assistance. The flawed response to Hurricane Katrina, and preparedness efforts for an influenza ( flu ) pandemic, have each raised concerns about existing federal response mechanisms for incidents that result in...



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