**Family Assistance & Reunification Center (FRAC)**

 **OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE**

A Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) is an incident, disaster, or public health emergency that has A Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) is an incident, disaster, or public health emergency that has extended beyond the capabilities of local or regional resources. Immediately after an MCI, family and friends of potential victims/missing individuals will begin to search and gather information about their loved one’s condition and location. This guideline establishes processes for team members to follow for family reunification purposes, in the event of an incident or event that creates a large volume of patients arriving at designated facilities.  A Family Reunification & Assistance Center (FRAC) will be activated in anticipation of the arrival of a large number of family and friends seeking information about missing loved ones and/or separated/unaccompanied children who need reunification.

The Family Reunification & Assistance Center (FRAC) should be established with 12-24 hours after the MCI. The location of the FRAC should be centrally located, safe, and secure. Location will be determined dependent on the type and location of MCI. Multiple pre-selected locations will be determined. The FRAC provides support services for the Victim Information Center (VIC). It is also recommended to have separate areas for those that need only Family Assistance from those that need the Reunification Center.

Keep in mind during FRAC Center planning:

* The duration of the FRAC Center operation will be dependent on the scale of the incident, the location, and the overall flexibility of the planning stages.
* Cultural differences must be considered as an MCI may have victims that are potentially from culturally diverse backgrounds or are foreign nationals.
* The initial FRAC Center setup will take time, though basic services should be available and operative within 12 hours of initial MCI response.

No photography allowed in any part of the FRAC Center to protect the identities and privacy of victims and families

The FAC is a multi-agency operation, with services provided under a unified command. Staff will be utilized from social services, volunteer organizations, medical examiner’s office, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies. Steele County Emergency Management working with Steele County Public Health and MN Prairie Alliance for Health and Human Services will assist and coordinate the center at the designated site selected by the Incident Commander.

**Contacts**

* MN Prairie: Kris Jackson- (507)431-5608 jackson@mnprairie.org
* Steele County Public Health: Amber Aaseth- (507)444-7650 aaseth@co.steele.mn.us
* Emergency Management: Kristen Sailer- (507)475-9631 sailer@co.steele.mn.us
* Local psychologists (there is a network)- Contact through MN Prairie