

## Determination of Disaster-related Deaths Flowchart

### STEP 1:

Consider whether the death occurred before, during, or after a disaster. Use sources such as local National Weather Service or emergency management official warnings or watches, and official alerts such as state of emergency or FEMA declaration. Keep in mind that these are not the only sources. Some local disasters, such as landslides, may not have these official alerts or official names but will likely be in the local news and meet the definition of a disaster previously described.

### STEP 2:

If yes to Step 1, explore whether the death was disaster-related, whether directly or indirectly. Apply the evidence from sources such as the death scene investigation, autopsy, and laboratory findings. And use the “but for” principle: “But for the disaster, would the person have died when they did?”

### STEP 3:

If yes to Step 2, record the disaster type, name such as Joplin Tornado, or Hurricane Sandy, and circumstance of death on the death certificate. This can be done in Part I, Part II, and/or in the Describe How Injury Occurred field. Some disasters may not have official names, in those situations, include the disaster type, location, and date.