



Governing Board Workshop: *Role During an Emergency*



April 17, 2012

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2



Challenges of a Major Event

Limited or inaccurate
information

Communication
breakdown

Compromised
roadways, railways
and airports

Size of impact area





Typical Public Safety Challenges

Limited personnel resources for long-term operation

Impact of disaster personally on local emergency personnel

Difficulty infusing outside personnel

Logistical support for both local and mutual-aid personnel



Pre-Event Actions

- Develop a community-wide emergency management disaster response strategy
- Select and appoint a competent emergency management and related staff
- Develop reasonable plans & supportive procedures – EMP, Care & Shelter, Evacuation and related
- Review your statutory responsibilities and seek relief for activities or responsibilities in advance



Post Event Considerations

- Organize an Emergency Operations Center
 - Develop response, community support and recovery strategies
 - Plan for long-term operations
 - Establish scene security and control procedures
 - Coordinate the requests for outside resources
 - Identify the logistics associated with outside responders
 - Establish a process of dealing with volunteers – both professional and individual citizens
 - Plan to continue providing service to the remaining portion of your community

Coordinate all aspects of public information – provide frequent updates - develop **Key Messages**



How does the executive leadership differ from a first responder or department role?

- Broader planning for jurisdictional-wide response and recovery
- Emergency response is coordinated for all disciplines
- Mitigation efforts are ongoing
- Plans for long-term recovery



EOC/Executive Leadership differ from a first responder or department role?

- It's the "***what to do***" not "***how to do***"
- **POLICY**/not Operations – let your competent professionals do their job



Director of Emergency Services (CEO) Official's Role

Proclaim Local Emergencies
(Concurrence from Governing Body)

Coordinates Evacuation/Curfew Notices
within EOC

Provides Overarching Incident Public
Information

Balance converging professional
guidance and recommendations





Elected Official's Role

- Provides policy guidance to emergency services director (the CEO)
- Provides for visible leadership and the voice of the community
- Instills public confidence – Delivers Key Messages
- Ensures Long-term recovery – infrastructure & economic – the return of the community's vitality



Elected Official's Role

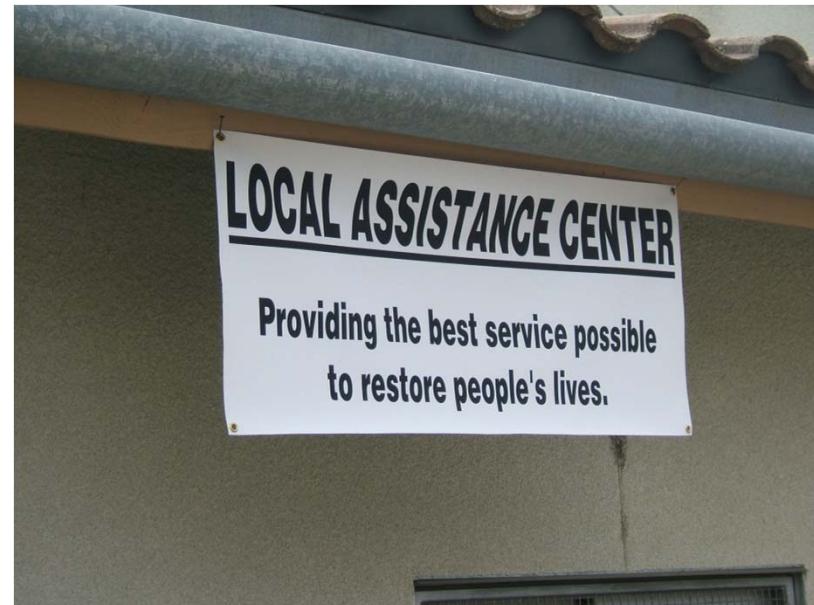
Communicate With &
Support Local Efforts to
State and federal Officials
Share Incident
Information -
Bidirectional





Elected Officials' Role

Remember all
disasters are
local disasters
and will be
solved locally





What's the real world?





April 17, 2012

Governing Board Workshop

14



April 17, 2012

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15





April 17, 2012

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17



April 17, 2012

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18





April 17, 2012

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20

Areas Searched - US&R, Hancock Harrison & Jackson Counties, MS

9/8





Why do you have an emergency management office?

- It speaks the state and federal language “where’s our support”
- It ensures that you take the appropriate steps pre, during and post event and formulate the appropriate actions to get your community back to “normal”



Top Ten Lessons Learned

1. Things will always take longer than you think
2. There will be less of everything available than you need
3. Things are not going to go according to the plan
4. Not everyone is going to follow or even know there is a plan
5. More systems or equipment are going to fail



Top Ten Lessons (continued)

6. The disaster/crisis will last longer and take a greater toll on you and your staff – plan for the long haul
7. The one person you really need will be on vacation
8. The one person you wish was, won't be
9. Eat when you can
10. Sleep when you can



Final thoughts

- Don't underestimate the impact on you, your staff and your residents
- Recovery is long, difficult and requires effort.





Avoid Mission Creep

There's always plenty of work to go around. All staff need to share information, and do their job.
