

Disaster Management Symposium Part II: Interactive Roundtable

Preparing, Responding and Recovering from a Disaster for Elected Officials

Introductions

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What is a Hazard?

- ▶ Hurricanes
- ▶ Floods
- ▶ Tornados
- ▶ Earthquakes
- ▶ Wildfires
- ▶ Terrorism
- ▶ Chemical Plant Explosion
- ▶ Drought



Acute
Shocks

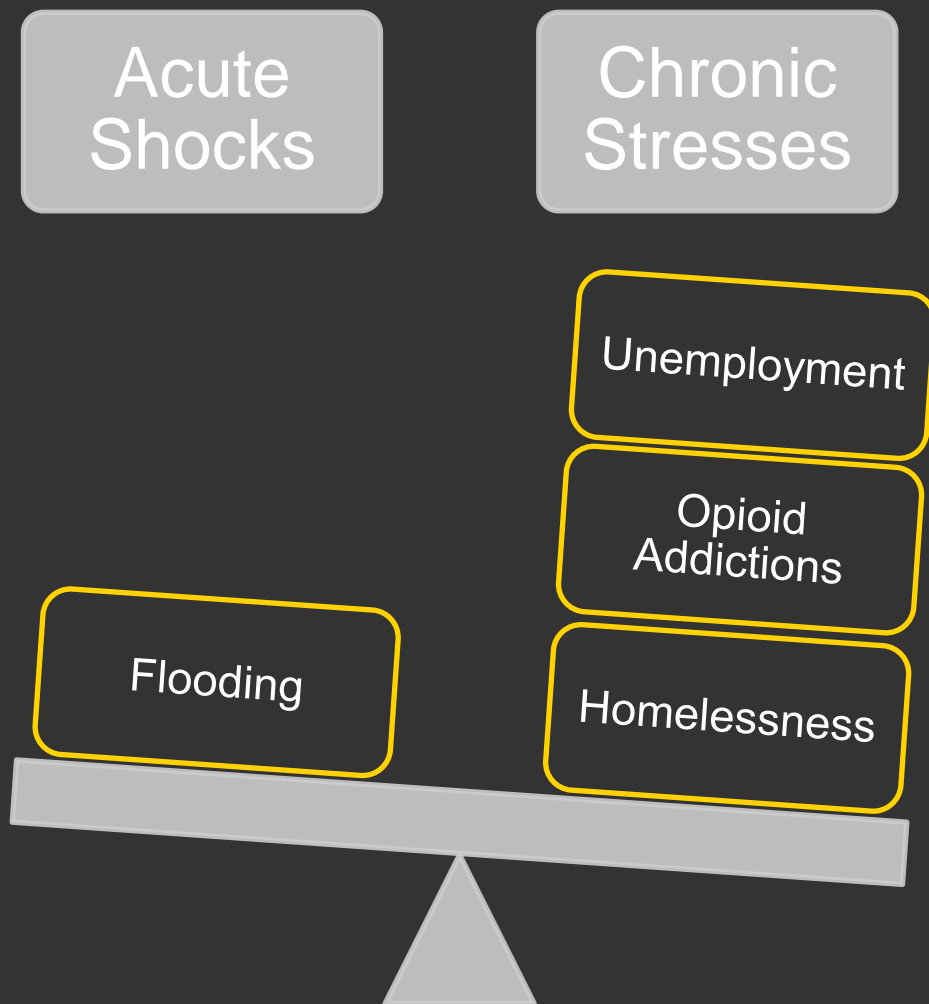
What Affects Communities?

- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Drug addictions
- ▶ Crime
- ▶ Blight
- ▶ Unemployment
- ▶ Access to Healthcare
- ▶ Underperforming Schools
- ▶ Socioeconomic Differences



**Chronic
Stresses**

What is a Disaster?



- ▶ Normal abilities to respond to acute shocks and/or chronic stresses are **overwhelmed**
- ▶ Acute shocks (such as **flooding**) can make chronic stresses (such as **homelessness**) worse
- ▶ Chronic stresses (such as **opioid addictions**) can make recovering from acute shocks (such as **earthquakes**) worse

SCENARIO: Preparedness Phase

- ▶ Your local **National Weather Service** office advises rivers in your area will overflow their banks.
- ▶ Concerned **residents are asking about preparedness actions** on social media and via phone lines
- ▶ Media is asking for **on-camera interviews** with local government officials
 - ▶ Evacuations, School closures
- ▶ Estimated time to impact is 48 hours
- ▶ County budget vote is in one week

Accurate, verified information is most important when warning the public.

Discussion Questions – Preparedness Phase

▶ Social Vulnerability

- ▶ What is your role in preparing vulnerable and low-income populations for a flooding event?
- ▶ How do you know vulnerable and low-income population concerns are being addressed?

▶ Continuity of Government

- ▶ What is your role in ensuring the jurisdiction's budget can pay for a disaster?
 - ▶ Declared/Non-declared disasters
- ▶ Has your county identified essential governmental functions to continue during and after a disaster?

▶ Crisis Communications

- ▶ What is your role in interfacing with the media (the public) in preparation for a flooding event?
- ▶ What is your role in interfacing with your employees in preparation for a flooding event?
- ▶ Does your county have pre-scripted messages for use during disasters?

SCENARIO: Response Phase

- ▶ The rivers are at or above major flood stage for 36 hours
- ▶ River to crest in the next 24 hours
- ▶ Flooding below flood stage in 5 days
- ▶ Impacts to thousands of homes and businesses
- ▶ Evacuations remain in effect
- ▶ 6 shelters are open
- ▶ Extensive water damage to:
 - ▶ Two elementary schools
 - ▶ The only high school
 - ▶ Level 1 Trauma Center ED

**Response can be chaotic
but documentation of
actions and costs is
critical.**

Discussion Questions – Response Phase

▶ Social Vulnerability

- ▶ How do you know vulnerable and low-income population concerns are being addressed?
- ▶ Are you prepared to address the special needs of opioid addicted shelterees?
- ▶ Are you prepared to address the special needs of homeless shelterees?

▶ Continuity of Government

- ▶ Do emergency procurement rules exist in your jurisdiction? What are the limitations?
- ▶ Do you have emergency (contingency) contracts in place?
- ▶ How will government functions will continue during and after a disaster?

▶ Crisis Communications

- ▶ What is your role in interfacing with the media (the public) in response to a flooding event?
- ▶ What is your role in interfacing with your employees in response to a flooding event?

SCENARIO: Recovery Phase

- ▶ Due to the financial impacts in your community, **Moody's has downgraded your bond rating**
- ▶ **Insurance rates are increasing** for the government, businesses and residents of your community
- ▶ **Federal disaster funds are available**, but will not cover everything
 - ▶ Reimbursements require legal compliance
- ▶ County leadership is concerned about the **fiscal ability to sustain operations** and **staff retention**

**Recovery can take years.
Reimbursement of costs
is not immediate.**

Discussion Questions – Recovery Phase

- ▶ **Social Vulnerability**
 - ▶ How do you address and prevent greater social vulnerability in your community?
 - ▶ What can you do to ensure the recovery is equitable?
- ▶ **Continuity of Government**
 - ▶ How do you continue to provide essential governmental services when:
 - ▶ Cash flow is impacted?
 - ▶ Government offices are damaged/destroyed?
 - ▶ Your own employees have lost their homes?
- ▶ **Crisis Communications**
 - ▶ What is your role in reassuring the media (the public) the government can provide services?
 - ▶ What is your role in reassuring your employees their jobs are secure and funded?

Where to Go for More Information

Plans, Policies and Laws

- ▶ Emergency Operations Plan
- ▶ Mitigation Plan
- ▶ Continuity of Government Plan
- ▶ Continuity of Operations Plans
- ▶ Incident Action Plan (incidents only)
- ▶ Local Procurement Policy
 - ▶ Compliance with 2 CFR 200
- ▶ Emergency Ordinance
 - ▶ Addresses emergency procurements
 - ▶ Addresses emergency powers of government

People

- ▶ County Emergency Management Director
- ▶ Finance Director
- ▶ Procurement Director
- ▶ General Counsel
- ▶ Public Information Officer
- ▶ **Who else in your county would you turn to?**