Disaster Management Symposium Part II: Interactive Roundtable

Preparing, Responding and Recovering from a Disaster for Elected Officials
Introductions

► John Shaw
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  ► Former Director of Emergency Management for Alachua County, Florida
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?

Addresses emergency procurements
Addresses emergency powers of government