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Mass Evacuations



San Francisco Earthquake of 1906: [People] leaving the city, ca. 04/1906
Source: National Archives (Local Identifier: NWDNS-92-ER-26)



Houston, TX, September 21, 2005 -- Traffic is heavy on the Houston freeways as people begin to flee the on-coming Hurricane Rita. (Photo by Ed Edahl/FEMA)

Decision process and execution lies at the local level.



Search & Rescue



The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927
Highway between Mounds, Illinois, and Cairo
Illinois, March 25, 1927 - river stage at Cairo,
Illinois., 52.8 feet
Source: "The Floods of 1927 in the Mississippi
Basin", Frankenfeld, H.C., 1927 Monthly Weather
Review Supplement No. 29.



New Orleans, LA, August 31, 2005 -- Residents
are evacuated from their homes by a FEMA
Urban Search and Rescue team from Florida.
New Orleans is being evacuated as a result of
floods caused by Hurricane Katrina. (Photo by
Jocelyn Augustino/FEMA)

Best directed locally, but supported with national capability.



Mass Care and Feeding



San Francisco Earthquake of 1906: Hot meal kitchen, ca. 04/1906
Source: National Archives (Local Identifier: NWDNS-92-ER-11)



Houston, TX., September 2, 2005 -- A Red Cross volunteer comforts a survivor from Hurricane Katrina in the Houston Astrodome. (FEMA photo/Andrea Booher)

What do you do with the displaced populations long-term?

Impact to communications, power, public infrastructure and local revenue streams were devastating.





Local first responders faced huge challenges.....





...but they never backed away from doing the jobs.



How can we all do a better job?

“...a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, tribal, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity...”



The foundation of the National Response Plan **Homeland Security Presidential Directive # 5 (HSPD):** **Management of Domestic Incidents**

HSPD-5 Objectives: (Driven by 9/11)

- Single comprehensive national approach
 - Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Ensure all levels of government and private sector work together
- Integrate crisis and consequence management
- DHS Secretary as the principal Federal official for domestic incident management



Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5 Implementation

- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)**
 - Core set of concepts, principles and terminology for incident command and multi-agency coordination
- **National Response Plan (NRP)**
 - All-discipline, all-hazards plan
 - **Initial National Response Plan (INRP)** created as an interim plan until the publication of the full NRP



NIMS Components

1. Command and Management
2. Preparedness
3. Resource Management
4. Communications and Information Management
5. Supporting Technologies
6. Ongoing Management and Maintenance



Emergency Support Function (ESFs)

- ESF 1: Transportation
- ESF 2: Communications
- ESF 3: Public Works & Engineering
- ESF 4: Firefighting
- ESF 5: Emergency Management
- ESF 6: Mass Care, Housing & Human Services
- ESF 7: Resource Support
- ESF 8: Public Health and Medical Services
- ESF 9: Urban Search & Rescue
- ESF 10: Oil & Hazardous Materials
- ESF 11: Agriculture & Natural Resources
- ESF 12: Energy
- ESF 13: Public Safety & Security
- ESF 14: Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation
- ESF 15: External Communications



Some Lessons Learned

- **The need for catastrophic planning at all levels of government, private sector and voluntary agency level is critical**
- **Re-concentration on an “all hazards approach” for planning and preparedness must be re-emphasized**
 - WMD and related bio attack planning is critical
 - But, integrated planning for a catastrophic natural hazard or pandemic event must be a priority – These events can be the biggest impact to the public and health organizations supporting any response



Lessons Learned (cont)

- **Expectations must be controlled – public belief that assistance will be available in hours must be addressed from all aspects of a response including health, public assistance and immediate human services**
- **Logistical planning is critical to the success of a catastrophic response – without this underpinning, any operation will be doomed to failure**



One final thought:

The impact of the news media



Constant negative focus, heavily laden with misrepresentation of fact or incorrect information, did not serve the public well.



Homeland Security