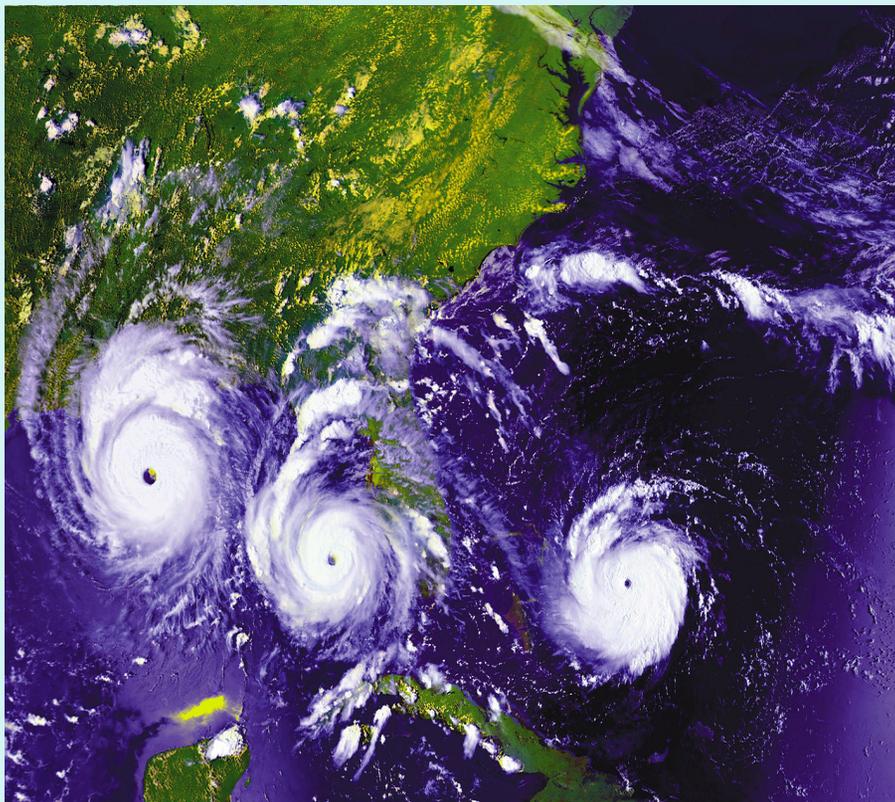


Food Assistance in Disasters and Situations of Distress



Presentation Will Address

- **Regulations**
- **Key Definitions**
- **State Distributing Agency (SDA)
Pre-Planning**
- **What Commodities to Use**
- **Commodity Replacements**

SDA Authority to Act

- **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act**

7 CFR Part 250.43:

- **Requirements for assistance during Disasters;**

7 CFR Part 250.44:

- **Requirements for assistance in Situations of Distress**

Disaster Means:

a) Any natural catastrophe, or regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in any part of the U.S., which the President determines causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant major disaster assistance; or

b) Any other occasion or instance in which the President determines Federal assistance is needed.

Situations of Distress Means:

- a) a natural catastrophe not declared by the President to be a disaster, but which, in the judgment of the DA, warrants the use of USDA commodities for congregate feeding; and
- b) any other situation not declared by the President to be a disaster, but which, in the judgment of FNS, warrants the use of USDA commodities for congregate feeding or household distribution.

Other Definitions

- **Disaster organizations means:**
 - organizations authorized by appropriate Federal or State officials to assist disaster victims.
- **Disaster victims means:**
 - persons who, because of acts of God or manmade disasters, are in need of food assistance, whether or not they are victims of a major disaster or emergency.

SDA Pre-Planning

- **Establishes** relationship with State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
- **Maintains** contact list – Keep updated names & numbers for staff warehouses, RAs, etc.
- **Assesses** commodity inventory levels – know what foods are on hand for disaster use

SDA Pre-Planning



- Educate RAs about appropriate use of commodities in disasters;
- Understand the Rapid Food Response System which may supplement disaster response (CA, CO, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA);
- Advise Regional Office of expected or actual disaster feeding occurring in state.

State DA...



- Approves applications from disaster feeding agencies for commodity donations;
- Presidential Disaster – SDA may approve congregate feeding for the duration;
- Local Situation of Distress – SDA may only approve congregate feeding up to 30 days....after that....
- Only FNS-HQ may authorize household distribution of commodities in any emergency.

Types of Food Operations

Congregate Feeding usually takes place in:

- # Shelter locations, such as schools, churches, and community centers;
- # Mobile kitchens;
- # Soup kitchens.

Household Distribution is usually allowed when:

- # Commercial channels of food distribution are disrupted; thus making it impractical to use food stamps; and
- # Justification can be provided, such as, the need for food assistance in remote or isolated communities.



What Commodity Can be Used?



Following approval, SDA may release USDA commodity to eligible disaster Relief agencies from:

- ✓ State inventories;
- ✓ Inventory maintained in schools, and
- ✓ Other recipient agencies, such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

What Commodities Can Be Used? (continued)



For congregate feeding, recommend using school commodities first, if available:

- ✓ Congregate feeding sites prefer school commodities – large sizes... easier to handle.
- ✓ Household commodities are more difficult to replace.

Commodity Replacement

If SDA wants commodities replaced:

- SDA must request replacement in writing to FNSRO within 30 days of termination of disaster;
- FNSRO will submit request to FNS Headquarters;
- FNSRO will then notify FNS Headquarters who will set aside funds.



Single Inventory Issue

- Commodities will be replaced with appropriate documentation from SDA.
- Recipient Agencies using single inventory must show that the same type(s) of food used for disaster feeding were received from USDA within past year.

Operational Costs

- **USDA will reimburse state costs to transport commodities between states.**
- **State must absorb costs to transport commodities within its borders.**
- **If further processed items are used, USDA will reimburse ONLY the value of the raw commodity in the item.**

Summary Report



- SDA must submit a summary report to FNSHQ via FNSRO within 45 days following termination of the disaster or situation of distress assistance.
- Form SF-292, Report of Coupon Issuance and Commodity Distribution for Disaster relief should be used.

LET'S TAKE A QUICK TEST!