

FEMA Monthly Preparedness Call – March 2012

Event Started: 3/13/2012; 3:00 pm ET

I'd like to turn it over to Chris Bernstein from Ready.gov to take it away.

Thank you for joining us this month. Apologies for having to move the date from last week but we were having technical issues we wanted to iron out so we appreciate your flexibility. Just some technical information before we get started. We will be doing a question and answer session, one after two of our speakers and a second session toward the end of the call at about 3:45. When that session opens up, you can reference the box that will pop up in the place of the presentation. You can submit questions there. We will move them into the queue and get them answered as best we can. For this week's call, we will have Joshua DuBois from the White House. We will have several representatives from local campaigns on the call. I will be presenting for the ready campaign and we will have Paulette Aniskoff for the Individual and Community Preparedness Division. Why don't I toss it to Regina Moran right now from ICPD to provide some brief statements on youth programs and then we will get started with Joshua.

I'm Regina Moran, National Youth Director for FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division. I just wanted to give a quick update on where we're going with youth preparedness in general. We have updates online right now at citizencorps.gov. Some of the highlights, we are continuing on with implementing youth preparedness workshop in each of the FEMA regions and in some of our states. If you're interested in attending, we would like to have you. If you are interested in materials, please e-mail me at regina.moran@dhs.gov.

Two dates to keep in mind, March 21st is Region 7 in Kansas City and April 18th in Seattle Washington for Region 10 workshop. There is space for you if that is something you and your partners would like to attend.

Another thing hot off the presses is an announcement about our youth preparedness council. We will have a council here at FEMA comprised of youth in their teenage years that will help us as we move forward as a larger strategic initiative. If you know of youth or if you yourself are a youth and would like to serve on that Council, our nomination process will be up within a day or two, so check www.citizencorps.gov because there will be an application and a formal announcement posted there. Because we have this call, we want to make sure you heard about this exciting opportunity for our Nation's children to serve and help us as we move forward. Thanks Chris for the time.

Thank you very much. Do we have Joshua?

Yes, I'm on!

Thank you for joining us. Joshua is the director of the White House Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships Office.

Thank you for joining. I'm so glad we are coming together to highlight effective practices for engaging faith-based organizations in emergency management. I want to say our thoughts and prayers are continue to be with those who lost loved ones and those whose lives have been affected by the storms that hit the Midwest and South. Our friends at FEMA and across the federal government and nongovernmental organizations have focused their attentions on that area and our thoughts and prayers are with the affected families. I'm with the office of faith-based and neighborhood partnerships in the White House and our 13 partnerships centers across the federal government. Our office is charged with coming alongside and supporting boarding faith and community-based organizations serving people in need. The way we do this is by coordinating 13 centers for faith-based and neighborhood partnerships around the federal government and we are delighted to work with David Myers and his team at the Department of Homeland Security FEMA. We have seen time and again that faith-based organizations play a critical role in times of disaster, whether it is providing shelter and food to those in need or removing debris to help communities start recovery or helping families to rebuild their homes, faith-based organizations have played a pivotal role before, during, and after disasters meeting the needs of the whole community. I've been able to see this firsthand from the Tennessee floods a couple years ago to the disasters in Alabama and communities affected by hurricanes Katrina and Irene and working closely with faith-based groups to help those families put things back together. I can personally attest to the power of these groups. With support from the DHS Center for Faith-based Partnerships, FEMA has provided engagement opportunities with emergency management of all levels including the regional readiness conference as a key part of their work.

FEMA recognizes it takes the whole community, including volunteer and faith-based organizations, the private and public sectors, and survivors themselves to prepare for, and to protect against, respond to and recover from disasters. These storms serve as a reminder it is critical we continue our partnership to withstand potential impact of these events and respond quickly. I encourage you to not only make great use of this information but continue the conversation with FEMA and with the DHS Center on Faith-based Partnerships on how we can work together to engage the faith and community-based organizations in disaster preparedness and response. We have seen the impact first hand and we would love to expand our work to move this initiative forward. Thank you for joining and for your partnership and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you very much. Now I will toss it off to Sherry Capers of the Miami-Dade office of emergency management. Sherry is here to talk about engaging faith-based organizations in emergency management. So, Sherry, why don't you take it away.

Thank you very much. I'd like to take a minute to echo what Mr. DuBois said -- it has been an interesting time during disasters and we know our faith-based organizations and churches are a stronghold for the long haul when we are responding to emergencies and disasters throughout our nation and nothing has been more clear than the last two years with the unusual weather patterns we have seen.

My name is Sherry Capers and I'm with the Miami-Dade County fire department in the office of emergency management. I am an emergency management planner. My title is the whole community planner. Even by the title of my job for my position, you can see our counties are embracing the whole of community planning and we are trying to push that sentiment forward because it is a great one.

Emergency management today has seen a lot of changes. We are still working toward getting the job done and we are all seeing limited resources. We are trying to meet the needs of the whole community and it is a requirement we do this and it's important we engage all aspects of the community when we are defining those needs and getting different ways to meet those needs. We can't always rely, especially in this economy on our traditional organizations that usually respond to disasters to get something done. They are, as government is, limited in their resources and we are losing not just funding resources but also personnel to get the job done. Now is the time where we need to rely on more volunteers, more youth groups, our CERT programs, our voluntary organizations and most importantly churches who always stepped forward with a mission to support the work that the community does.

>> Working together to prepare communities is something that is important to us in Miami-Dade County. My work trying to do that with our county, I know one of the key things is assessing the organizational capabilities, what their strengths and limitations are. Sitting with them and talking about that we know you did this already, can you tell us who you do it for? Is that food services? A lot of the services have food pantries. Are you doing warehousing and see how best when there is an emergency we can leverage what they already do to support resilience throughout their community. We are okay if it is their church and neighborhood and that is all the resources they have, we just want to know that is happening and we want to bring them into emergency management and make sure we can support that, not necessarily monetarily but support that when it is time for the community to be able to recover because as we know, people go to their churches first.

We want to make sure as organizations come on board with us and say we are willing to take on this challenge to keep our communities more resilient that they themselves and their families have their personal preparedness stuff together because we get a lot of storms in Miami and we also get other disasters as well. You probably wouldn't see a sinkhole in Miami but we have we have had one. We have chemical threats in Miami because we have a nuclear power plant here and we want to make sure everyone is personally together and not only do they themselves have your emergency supplies and their emergency plans, but they also have some kind of plan for their the community if they're going to support the community. We talk with the organizations about what their organizational preparedness level is. If something happened to their church and resources, what would they need to do to make sure their organization can still support its mission and then support the county as a whole. We have done that by having assessments and a set of questions that say basically what I just said. What would make you feel like your church is prepared? Does your church have a generator? How does your church take care of its members? How do the members learned about preparedness? Mitigating things so our churches can feel good about the work they do on a day-to-day basis and especially during a crisis.

Once we have established we have a nice group of folks that are going to do this and be a part of this, what we have noticed is that it's important to keep that entity engaged, just like you do with larger organized organizations, in order to keep people coming to the table especially in times like people down here where we have had a major incident, we need to make sure we have meetings and people continue to come and they continue to be supportive. What we have done is we have tried to match that church or their volunteers inside the emergency support functions. If that church can support ESF 6, mass care, we have connected them with our staff member that is the lead for mass care and then we connect them with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army so they can support that. If they can support volunteers and donations, we tried to connect them with the Adventist disaster services which does a lot of donations management down here and keep them engaged so when there are non-disasters, they can continue to be interested. We connect entity with our VOAD were introduced into the CERT teams into the organizations and build the capacity for those organizations and keep the church connected with emergency management and response and recovery for the resiliency for our communities. We have also been trying to introduce ever churches and business and industry support function so they can support in some way but the churches are doing, and we have offered training. Have an official course that may be advertised or have our emergency management and fire personnel professionals put on a course and invite them so they can come and enjoy those things. We have had some success with the training. It is still work in progress for us so we are still trying to look at new and better ways to improve and keep our community supported.

For the long haul, like I mentioned, we have to keep them engaged. One of the ways we are looking at keeping the churches engaged is the new nontraditional partners and starting an e-mail group. We are probably going to start a newsletter on our website just for them just like we have for CERT or VOAD and making sure we invite our new partners to our meetings such as drills and exercises and our tabletops and hopefully being able to tailor some of those trainings and/or exercises just for that particular community so they can exercise their capabilities like we exercise the capabilities of our larger agencies or more traditional partners. I think that's going to be really important when it comes to making sure that when the trigger is pulled, we don't have to worry about pockets of churches doing things by themselves, but we already know which other and we know what we can do and know that church is going to do that mass care supporting. We know we can get the Red Cross involved and things like that to keep it good and keep us all together.

What I wanted to share before I get off the call is some of the lessons learned over the past year and a half on the role that we here in Miami-Dade County have been taking on in the community and trying to make sure we involved our faith-based organizations and connect with emergency management and local government in general. The biggest thing I would say is you have to begin with the organization. The churches are organizations just like the Red Cross is an organization and I think the mindset is the same. You begin where they are. We haven't tried to say to that organization that you are not going to fit because we need someone who will feed 50,000 people and you can only feed 500. We will take that 500 and know that is 500 people being cared for. The next thing you know, they are supporting each other and we have a big investment going on. The other thing is flexibility. Being flexible was something that was important because not all the churches run to their computers everyday-- and when we were

doing assessments and trying to communicate through e-mail, for me, e-mail was the first thing I went to. I may have to call or go and talk to whomever so I know they are meeting our needs and we support them even though they can't go to a computer every day.

Think out of the box. One of the things we have been working towards is finding ways in which we can change the criteria in which someone would be eligible for a local mitigation strategy (LMS) grants there you have your big entities that win grant money all the time because they have a widespread project that may fortify a hospital, but to make the criteria so that our churches can be grantees and how they can support distribution. We found those were our highlights when it came to lessons learned.

The last thing I went to share is our success story which is Miami-Dade communities organized to respond to emergencies, which we call Miami-Dade CORE. Out of our effort to work with faith-based organizations, we've been able to get 25 new affiliated faith-based organizations. They have the capacity of about 250 additional community volunteers. We have been able to identify 8000 new methods of providing support during a disaster. Nine potential new feeding and sheltering sites, 5 new POD sites, and our CORE members themselves have identified 65 potential new stakeholders. I think we are going in the right direction and our biggest goal is to keep our community as resilient as possible and our biggest challenge is to make sure partners stay involved with us and we keep them in the loop on things we do and to make it flexible enough so they can continue to be key stakeholders so our community can be resilient. Thank you.

Thank you, would you mind hanging on the line for a few minutes. We're going to do a Q&A in a few minutes. Our next speaker is David Maack from Racine County Office of Emergency Management. David, why don't you take it away.

Good afternoon and thank you for inviting us to present this afternoon. When I went to EMI about 20 years ago I picked up a shirt for my son that said "A prudent man foresees the difficulties ahead and prepares for them; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences" (Proverbs 22:3) -- and I think that is an ample model or proverb for those of us that are emergency managers and a good introduction into faith-based groups. In Racine County, we are in our infancy. It has been my goal is to work with the faith-based community for several different reasons. One is being a person of faith myself. I see the need for it within the churches and the houses of worship but also when there is a major event that takes place, I will get a few phone calls from pastors that want to help after a major hurricane, or during Y2K, they were wondering how that was going to affect us. When I made an effort to start reaching out to the churches, I ran into several challenges. One is that it is a diverse group. Even within the Christian churches. There is no one-stop shop to reach that faith-based community. You will also have many churches that already have mission and it doesn't include emergency preparedness. That doesn't mean they are not willing to help, but it is not one of their core missions and something they think about all the time. The third challenge is a lot of active churches have multiple programs and activities that already compete for time and attention and therefore, how do we engage them and get them to identify that it should be part of their core mission of nurturing the community. I have also seen several opportunities in the challenges. Churches are mission minded, they are adept at raising money, organizing donations and that sort of thing. Churches are trusted in many ethnic communities. They

serve as a community resource, especially within the Hispanic community here in Racine. There is a lot of trust placed in the churches themselves and therefore a great opportunity to reach a large number of people by going to one or two churches.

That leads us into the third opportunity where we are able to reach large groups of people at one time versus randomly going out one at a time. Here, we can speak to larger groups. Those are some of the opportunities we have sensed. As I mentioned before, the two typical questions I have gotten from churches are, “how is this even going to impact us” or “how can we help?” Sadly, a lot of times people get into the mindset that helping means we were going to have a food or clothing drive and during Hurricane Katrina, we had to put the stops to that to say to don't do that. We are in Wisconsin, they're down there in Louisiana and there are logistical issues we need to deal with, plus do you know what they need what you're going to collect and so we have encouraged them to find sister churches in areas that have been impacted to make sure they are meeting the needs of the community they want to help.

Finally, the impetus for us working together comes from my own church which was hit by a tornado on January 7, 2008. In Wisconsin, we typically get winter storms in January, not tornados, but it was unseasonably warm and two tornadoes hit Kenosha County which is just to the south of us here in Racine County. Prayer House Assembly of God was hit by an EF1 tornado. This church was built in 2003 and it was partially destroyed - The exterior walls of the youth room, the storage area and a portion of the sanctuary. One of the inside support walls was lifted up and they found a Bible underneath that support walls and that Bible was literally holding up the rest of the structure from collapsing. Because of moisture damage, they had to gut the entire church and go down to the studs and, therefore, they were out of there for 10 months, worked out of a mobile office trailer, and had to relocate services. In the aftermath they made some improvements – they added a sprinkler system, they have a NOAA weather radio and don't necessarily have to rely on outside warning sirens, and they reached out to the community around the church to help them recover from the effects of the tornado.

As we see it, there are three main plans that all faith-based organizations should have: the first is an emergency response plan. That would deal with the typical things like fire, tornado, severe weather, medical emergencies, and those sorts of things. The second would be a church recovery plan and the third would be a church outreach plan. We brought faith-based organizations together a year ago in January and we will repeat this workshop again in the near future and took them through this planning process. We told them about the emergency response plans and to identify your hazards out there and put together procedures of how you would deal with that. Also, develop and train a crisis response team. Ushers, for example, would be logical people because they are up and about during church services. And then, put together a crisis response kit – have first aid and other things you would need and then practice your plan.

The second plan we encourage them to develop is a church recovery plan which in essence is a business recovery plan. We gave them the model used by the Institute of Business and Home Safety and the Open for Business templates. As my own church saw, they needed to be able to recover from that tornado. They needed to find an alternate location quickly; they needed to find other offices and back up computers. Making sure they have enough insurance coverage. Keeping a list of items the church

owned so if they need to be replaced by the insurance company or they have to replicate it, it is in one spot.

The third plan which is where we want to see the churches start to participate would be a support plan for the community in the aftermath of a disaster. There are two areas churches are good at. One is spiritual support, the other one is food, water and shelter. What we want to encourage them is to work with the local community so we can avoid those two common problems, the merged volunteers and donated goods and have some sort of organized structure and we could collect a faith-based community interested in helping the community and say, could you be a reception center, could you prepare meals? Could you house out-of-town disaster workers?

We identified several different ways faith-based groups can help – they can provide child-care services. A lot of faith-based organizations now have child care and day care centers that operate 5-6-7 days a week. They can encourage survivors by praying for them and showing personal care. Form survivor support groups. Support appropriate chaplaincy at the scene. Offer temporary shelter and food items. What I found is each church has its own flavor or feel for what they are good at. One church might be good at the felt needs whereas another group would be good at hospitality. We want the churches and faith-based groups to focus on their strengths as a congregation and we want to catalog that so we know who to turn to for a specific issue. Other ways they can help is assisting survivors in salvaging personal property and organizing volunteer work groups; they are very good at organizing volunteers already and they manage them on a weekly basis. They can offer housing and food for out-of-town recovery volunteers and direct survivors to recovery sources like the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other caregiving agencies. One of the things that we found is that if we open up a disaster center in the event we get a presidential declaration, going to the churches to get at that information out is often times a valuable thing for us to do.

Other ways they can help is encourage members and people in the community to apply for assistance. Contribute money and material goods. Communicate and cooperate with other disaster organizations. We want people talking together and not doing their own thing. Encourage local religious leaders to explore the need for a cooperative disaster recovery program. In Racine County, we are not where I want is to be. We've taken the first steps and I think we are on the right track.

David, thank you very much. In accordance to time, I'm going to see if we can skip the interim Q&A session here. David and Sherry, if you have to drop off, we understand. If you are available for the next 20 or 25 minutes and you can stay, we would appreciate it. If you can't, we will make sure to route specific questions your way.

I can stay on (David).

Thank you very much. Getting into the ready campaign update for this month's call, I wanted to let everyone know the national preparedness month collaboration community we launched last year has opened up for new coalition members for this year. For those of you on the call that were coalition members for the national preparedness month last year, this will look similar. We are basically using the online tools we offered for national preparedness month last year. We are looking to expand them for a

more year-round engagement program. National preparedness month it's a great time to encourage awareness about preparedness but that doesn't necessarily mean that is something folks should only think about for three or four weeks which is clearly what Sherry and David were talking about and that is what we talk about here on a monthly basis. We wanted to open up that system for you for year-round engagement. We have event calendars and discussions. There are additional tools that can be used year-round. We thought why not open it up early this year. This is the earliest we have accepted coalition members. I think it will provide a great service for emergency managers and those working in the local community to work on preparedness at that level.

To begin, I wanted to mention the calendar component of the system we have. This will allow registrants to post preparedness events going on in their community to a national calendar system. Folks from other areas of the country can log on and see what you are doing in your community. They can exchange ideas with you. The calendar allows you to post trainings, there is, seminars, workshops, anything you think is appropriate for an emergency management and preparedness audience. A lot of the audience that David and Sherry were discussing would greatly benefit from being on this calendar. Posting a fair and church might be hosting and offering general preparedness information would be of great use to the system and a great way to promote the event you would be hosting. We allow for two kinds of searching. You can search for events by zip code to see what is going on in your area, nearby, or you can search on a more traditional calendar view if you'd just like to see what's going on on a traditional day.

Some highlights from the calendar from last year we saw as particularly effective events, I wanted to highlight an event that happened in Arizona for national preparedness month and sponsored by the Arizona division of emergency management. It was a cookoff to have folks come up with recipes for items that might be in a traditional emergency kit. They posted this event on our calendar and two other states were able to engage with the person sponsoring the event in Arizona and offer similar challenges in their states. They wouldn't have had that visibility of our colleagues event in Arizona had he not been posting to this calendar. In addition, quite often we get private sector partners posted on the calendars about fairs or events they are hosting and this gives us the ability to get them any brochures or family plans that might be useful to distribute to their clients or to the visitors. We were able to secure some senior leadership from FEMA to attend one of these events last year as well and we wouldn't have known about the events had the organization not posted on the calendar. We encourage you to look at this resource and see what events might be going on in your area that would be appropriate for this calendar to not only promote them to folks in your community, but to promote them to folks in your community and the emergency management community that will allow us to work toward that shared goal of emergency preparedness.

In addition, we have discussion forums on the site. We have national, regional and topic specific discussions. We will feature guest posts from guests throughout the emergency management community from government, private and faith-based organizations. We'll have toolkits and resources coming. The toolkit and resources will come at a later date but the discussion forums are currently active I encourage you to check those out. They are a great opportunity to read about activities members are undertaking. They are great way to exchange ideas and connect with fellow coalition

members in your area. The discussion forum also works alongside your general e-mail. You don't have to log into the system to participate in the discussion. Once you sign up, you can have the post sent to your e-mail and respond through your basic e-mail. You can hit respond in your e-mail system and it will go right into our system and share on the forums and with the community. That's a great feature that was effective last year. Opening up the forms earlier this year would be more effective.

For other ideas engagement I encourage you to check out our 2011 after action report. I mentioned that on the call last month but wanted to bring it up again here. I just want to say to stay tuned for updates on the rest of the national preparedness coalition system throughout the year. Those will be coming out 2012 and we hope to see on that forum so thank you very much.

I think we're missing a slide that I went to mention that this week is flood awareness week. March 12 to 16. Flood awareness week is designed to let folks know about flooding. Spring is most often the time when flooding happens, though it is a year-round hazard – it happens every month in every state. We have information for public outreach. We have interactive resources and recommended trainings at the website: www.ready.gov/floods. We have printer friendly information by region and we have specific outreach materials you can use to promote flood awareness in your community. With that, Paulette, I can toss off to you for the ICPD update.

We do have a flood site so when folks go back to which we will be able to show the sites. I want to back up what Chris said about national preparedness month starting early and I think one of the critical things about starting early is making sure we are giving the public access, when a final winter storm comes through, flood awareness, they are driving to the Ready site and for the general public knowing you exist to get resources is a great opportunity year round. We want to try to make this more of a year-round consistence for people to reach you. At the same time, in particular at a time when we have got potential grants cut across the board, I know some programs will take a hit for that, giving folks inexpensive ideas and free tools and the ability to have discussion boards is the kind of thing we are looking to do more and more. More than ever, we need to collectively show what you all are doing and I thought that we put together a great after action report on the work folks did last year and that was the link Chris put in his slides. It was a great chance for us to show Congress and leadership what folks are doing as well as things that can be shown on the state level. It's a great way to show as a nation but we are doing for preparedness. Last year, there were over 1300 events posted. My assumption there were many thousands more that were not posted, but knowing we can learn from each other and as we are starting this conversation in March, you telling us what additional technical assistance would help you both over all and for national preparedness month and against the discussion going. We are hoping you would tell us like last year -- I would like you to do whatever else it is. We do have to sign up every year and that's important for folks outside of emergency management to make that commitment to sign up. We know this preparedness conversation goes on year and the planning and messaging should as well. I know you do it all at your pet national preparedness month is a great time for us to get free media during the month of September about preparedness. I love the new calendar. It's great to search by zip code. Two of the new discussion groups we hope to put up based on request include CERT so folks running CERT programs and on CERT teams can discuss specific items. And now, we've got over a

thousand people going to youth workshops or have been doing a youth program around the country. I think Chris and I will be working to make sure new tools are sent to everyone as they come out.

I just mentioned that we know across the board there are some massive cuts to funding for many of the grants. I wanted to make sure folks had access to the grants webinar. If you are not getting grants information if you feel like you're missing out, make sure you subscribe to our mailing list. We send out a weekly e-mail. We're going to have upcoming webinars and posting things on our Website about alternate sources of funding, new models that certain CERT programs and Citizen Corps Councils have used both on a state and local level. We will keep you updated on those and we will make sure we've got time at the end of the call if you have additional grants questions. There may be a few states we don't have coverage, like two states, but the other 48 states and the islands all have a person who knows grants at the state level and we want to make sure you make that connection if you still have grant questions. A lot of the states filter questions to us when they have them.

This is the flood awareness week. These are the websites Chris mentioned. There's a lot of great stuff going on around the country. There is an outreach toolkit here as well – I just wanted to make sure I shared that slide with you.

Next I went to give you another heads up. Every year we have community preparedness awards and they will come up again this year. We are working on collecting the information we need to make sure it is legally okay to announce this contest. Once that is done, we will get it out and you will have time to apply. This year's award winners were such an exceptional group and it was awesome to see them in action. Their stories got circulated well and it's a great opportunity to share the best practices. We want to make sure that if you want to nominate someone for you what to be nominated, it is coming up so it will be the same categories as last year. We wanted to put that out as something to think about since it will be coming up in the upcoming weeks. Since we had our faith-based webinar guests today, we wanted to make sure we put out helpful links and resources. We have been trying our best to catalog as many youth in faith-based and voluntary organization resources as possible. It is never complete and we would love to know if you have more. This link will give you an opportunity to scroll through what we have. There are some organizations that have some tools. Share them with whatever you think might be interested. We've got community preparedness activities for everyone listed with links and one more time for national preparedness month, make sure you sign up for the boards and everything we have coming.

We have begun updating our youth preparedness webpage and I went to make sure you need additional information on youth, Regina Moran's contact information is on that page. It gives you an overview of what we have had. I think this is a one-stop shop to have a good sense of what is coming.

Last I would say, we are definitely looking for your comments. I think the national preparedness month discussion board is a great way to talk to each other. FEMA has already gotten a lot of great comments. If you have ideas, particularly around community preparedness, they get voted up or down. FEMA leadership takes a look at them and talks about how we can implement some of these, how we can do better and coordinate with more state and locals to get this feedback more efficiently. This has been a

cool way for us to hear back what the emergency management world has to say. If you have not gotten on it, it is fascinating. There are a lot of comments and back and forth. If you haven't gotten it opportunity, go on there and say what you think and give ideas you think we should be working on.

The last thing I will say, I know it's only happening in Utah, so it probably only applies to a few of you on the call, but I would say the shakeout is one of the greatest action oriented things I have seen when it comes to something that gets a mass number of people to do something. There is such momentum behind it. I don't know if people know this, but Utah is a state of about 2.8 million people. 730,000 people are going to be doing the shakeout on April 17. I think of that as a sign of resilience and the message getting out and I want to applaud the folks working on the Utah shakeout. This is picking up steam and I think it's a great opportunity to consider that Utah, who has not been doing this for all that long, is already up to 25% of their population being willing to do this. I think it is an amazing example of communities that are stepping up. We have amazing CERT programs and an amazing person running Citizen Corps out there. I think there are a lot of connections to be made with other states as well and other statewide things we can do with many people that are simple and fast and relevant to communities. I wanted to get them a plug in doing an amazing job. If you would like to see a topic or you think there is something else we want to highlight overall, let us know. We are always looking for new ideas. If there is a topic, there is a good chance we may have covered it so you can look at our past webinars. The next webinar at the end of March is engaging Latino communities in emergency management so I hope you would join us for that as well.

With that, my portion is done and we can start a Q&A session. I know we only have five minutes but I will remain on to do more Q&A and if you don't have any questions, you are welcome to drop off in a few minutes but if you do, we have a few hundred folks on the line.

I already see one question: How can we obtain copies of the slides? Every webinar we do, we post on our webinar site. You can always click on www.CitizenCorps.gov where we store them – CitizenCorps.gov. While folks are putting in questions, I wanted to let our listeners know, the next preparedness call will be April 3rd at 3:00 pm Eastern/Noon Pacific. Please mark your calendars.

Do we still have Sherry on the line?

Yes.

There is a question about how folks can obtain a copy of the assessment questions you used in Miami-Dade?

I will talk with my leadership but I guess we can provide that. It was something we made up. It wasn't something...

You didn't take it from another structure?

No.

There were questions you worked on?

Yes.

Please let us know.

I will.

Paulette, we have a question about wanting to know about tabletop exercises.

We have some on the FEMA website but we want to make that a topic. I know we are working on the private sector side on our website but I think we need to look and see if we have links we can send out. Let me do a little digging on that. I see a question saying you said April 3rd is the next webinar, but March 27 -- we do webinars on specific topics. The Latino webinar is specific. We do the monthly ready webinars which are standing every month. We have hundreds of people on each webinar and folks have been asking for more so we are thrilled to host them but that is the difference between the two webinars.

These preparedness calls are held each month and the more specific webinars that Paulette mentioned have been basically throughout the month. They can be scheduled on Tuesday or Wednesday, these are just always on the first Tuesday of every month.

We had a question from David: how can we get information on developing emergency response plans? I think this is in reference to Mr. Maack's discussion of emergency response plans. We have information on the business section of ready.gov about what should be included in the emergency response plan and how you can put it together. I encourage you to visit that section of our site to get specific templates that can be used to formulate that plan for your faith-based organization or business or nonprofit. They are applicable for a lot of different groups.

We also put online the templates we shared at the workshop. We modified some templates. If they go to www.racineco.com/emergencymanagement and go to our news and click on that, there is a faith-based emergency planning section with a number of handouts, otherwise they can send me an e-mail.

We have a question, what has been the most effective tool or process to enhance connectivity between churches?

We have found the most effective tools so far to enhance connectivity has been having engagement sessions and having monthly or bimonthly phone calls and that has really helped the churches remain connected with each other. We just had a call with folks two or three weeks ago and they were supporting each other on the phone call. One had an issue and that they said they could probably help. So far it has been phone calls.

Marcus, who would be responsible to approach local churches for emergency preparedness resources?

Thank you for asking that question. I think a lot of that has to do with the structure of that particular house of worship. On our site and on the webinar today, we provide resources to faith-based groups that talks a little bit about preparedness resources provided by other denominations and interfaith

organizations so I will post that link as well. Sherry or David, I didn't know if you want to add to that question.

I don't.

I don't either.

The next question is basic, are there plans available in different languages? Ready.gov has information available in 11 languages in addition to English. You can navigate to those on our home page at the top on emergency planning and templates in all of the 11 languages.

It looks like we are a little bit after 4:00 so why don't we wrap up the Q&A presentation. We would like to thank you for joining us and we look forward to speaking with you in the future. If you have questions, you can shoot you an e-mail. Thank you.