

RISC Meeting Highlights January 16th-January 17th 2013

Regional Planning Update*	Mike Sharon, Response Division
National Frameworks and Interagency Operational Plans*	FEMA HQ, PPD-8 Program Office
Inauguration Update*	Mike Sharon, Response Division
RRCC Orientation and Tour	Cam Collins, Response Division
National Weather Service Seasonal Outlook*	National Weather Service

**Some presentations are available online:*

<https://www.fema.gov/regional-advisory-council-regional-emergency-communications-coordination-working-group>

ESF & Federal Partner Operations Reports (approx 10 min each)

Infrastructure

ESF-1 Transportation (*Not in attendance*)

ESF-2 Communication

- National Communications System (NCS) and Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) are now a single organization
- GETS/WPS also under OEC
- ESF 2 will conduct annual training/exercise in Massachusetts March, 2013.

ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering (USACE)

- Baltimore District assisting with debris management in NY and NJ for Hurricane Sandy
- Water mission contract is coming up for re-bid
- Power- Sandy response was the largest ever for power restoration
- De-watering PSMA going to be proposed
- Inauguration- National team leader will be at the RRCC for the Inauguration
- Baltimore District- Met with Philadelphia District on debris management: Debris workshop at PEMA Western Area at the end of February
- Working closeout of Pennsylvania temporary housing site mission
- Philadelphia District supporting power mission in NJ
- National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF)- 8 staff deployed to support NDRF

ESF-4 Firefighting (U.S. Forest Service)

- Large Response to Hurricane Sandy in Region II
- 10 IMTs, 41 crews
- National assets were provided
- Inauguration- On-call for the Inauguration, available if needed.

ESF-6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services

- ESF 6 will conduct a planning workshop on 6 February, 2013.

ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services

- Current flu outbreak is a major concern

ESF-9 Search and Rescue (*Not in Attendance*)

ESF-10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

- Dennis Carney will be retiring. Dave Wright to replace Dennis as co-chair of Regional Response Team (RRT)
- Linda Marzulli retiring next year and Linda Baines retiring in February
- RRT meetings: 14-16 May in Rehoboth Beach and 19-21 November in Charlottesville
- EPA IMT will be at Ft. Meade for Inauguration
- LNOs at various locations and RRCC for Inauguration
- Participated in Debris Workshop

ESF-11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources (DOI)

- Heavy involvement in NY/NJ
- NDRF support- new item developing; resource advisor training curriculum – trains DOI resource advisors with unified training/cross-training across natural and cultural resources, will also be available to non-DOI partners

ESF-12 Energy (*Not in Attendance*)

ESF-13 Public Safety and Security (ATF)

- ESF 13 made a presentation on the new regional support structure provided by ATF and partner agencies (Presentation can be found on the link provided on page 1).

ESF-15 External Affairs

- The new division director of External Affairs (Dan Stoneking) introduced himself to the RISC members and gave an overview of FEMA's role in ESF 15.

Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO)

- Vibrant Response Exercise 26 July- 7 August, 2013

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- Provide health and occupational safety technical assistance to ESFs
- DOL EMAC for reach back and assistance for inauguration

Small Business Administration (SBA)

- Provided an overview of SBA Disaster Response
- Hurricane Sandy- 400 staff deployed
- Works closely with ESF 6 then transitions to JFO and Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) and Business Recovery Centers (BRC)

Day 2

State Partner Highlights and Lessons Learned Discussion: June 2012 Derecho (10 Min each)

Delaware – *(Not in Attendance)*

District of Columbia- *(Not in Attendance)*

West Virginia

Derecho

- Major problems due to the fact this was a no-notice event, no time to prepare. Also no-notice event caused problems getting and sheltering staff
- Unusual for event to be statewide
- Cell Towers knocked down, lots of difficulty with communication
- In this type of event, we cannot wait on local requests. It is particularly important to know the local points of contact, also a challenge when commodities or services are double ordered.
- Abundance of ATVs in Rural areas was a real asset to navigate roads

Hurricane Sandy

- Major Snowfall- 36 inches in higher elevations
- Downed trees and blocked road access caused major issues; took 2 weeks to get to some areas
- Developed teams: Power, forestry, highway to support
- Emergency management staff were impacted by the event
- Some homeowners and renters continue to experience issues with insurance coverage

Other

- Bluestone Dam ; failure would cause flooding to Kanawha Valley
- Bluestone Dam Full scale exercise to occur 21 March, 2013

Maryland

Derecho

- Before the storm struck, they did not key in that the 70-80 mph winds could have direct effects on them
- Needs weren't clear initially, decided to go into "push" mode
- Major power impact on 3 most populous counties
- Mutual aid partners came from farther away because of wide impact of event
- Called assisted living facilities to verify generator requirements
- Leveraged private sector for aid (Giant Foods/Duracell)
- Need better granularity of where specific electricity problems are

- Power resiliency is needed especially for traffic (in DC- Metro area)

Hurricane Sandy

- Felt they leaned forward in their response to sandy
- Good public messaging with the use of social media (Twitter, Facebook)
- Thought there was good state, local, and federal coordination
- Adopting PPD-8 principles

Pennsylvania

Hurricane Sandy

- Did not receive a direct hit from Sandy; however PA felt NWS tools were very valuable (initially thought they would get the brunt of the storm; NWS accurately predicted they would not).
- Were able to redeploy assets to affected areas based on good weather intelligence
- Had some power and fuel issues, but were fortunate
- Advanced deployment of FEMA assets has been a great help
- Appreciated the lean forward approach; pre-deployed heavy generators

Other

- Still currently engaged in Lee/Irene Recovery; some people still in temporary housing units, likely to ask for extensions
- TSA was a success, were able to successfully transition to other options
- New EOC construction project out for bid

Virginia

Derecho

- Addressing public and private coordination on water
- Communication is critical to power restoration
- Need alternate means to communicate
- Mobile phones were frequently used to get information
- It is useless in this type of event to refer people to websites (not accessible)
- Western part of the state is not as resilient as it was previously because of over reliance on cell phones
- VA has a power task force; jointly work priorities
- In VA power delivery grids do not coincide with geographic areas
- Terminology issues- Prior to the Derecho, the term was not understood or used previously
- Know what gas stations are operational without recourse to power companies

Hurricane Sandy

- Based on potential impact of initial forecast, VA felt prepared for the storm

- Based on post Sandy Planning, VA has new evacuation timeline
- Pushed extra capability over bridge to impacted area in anticipation of shelter/home repair needs (VA does not use regional staging areas)
- Great collaboration with the DCE team from Texas
- Concern over senior citizen issues
- Need to leverage assets like gas stations and pharmacies that we regulate
- Requested that DOT consider ways to expedite waivers for weight and hours of service limitations

Other

- Busy year in Virginia as commonwealth (not a lot of authority over 138 localities)
- Localities achieved 100% compliance in plans, great success
- Verizon representative will not be in EOCs for activations. This was a great lesson learned from the Derecho.
- Earthquake aftershocks still continue

Regional Administrator

- We need to understand what facilities are critical and what it would take to fix them
- Currently reviewing power and commodity planning; realistic burn rates

Response Director

- Weather forecasting support can be provided to states, we have assets at the RRCC
- For future RISC discussions, possible discussions should include: How can we identify non hospital medical needs (blood banks, dialysis centers)
 - HHS will share data
 - No incentive for doctors to come back to hard hit areas
- ESFs should send decision makers to the RRCC

Defense Coordinating Element (DCE)

- Use of DCE back up teams from other regions showed great flexibility; worked well with IMATs

Infrastructure Protection- Hurricane Sandy

- Fuel was a major issue
- Pre-planning is critical
- Database management/firewall planning is a concern for critical infrastructure
- Need to exempt supplies traveling on toll roads (delay of time is a concern)

Additional Comments:

- ESF 2- Better to provide power companies with situation needs, not how to fix the issues
- ESF 3-Models for storm surge projections were accurate in Hurricane Sandy
- ESF 6- Need to learn to communicate better with nontraditional ESF 6 partners (behavioral health, VOAD, ARC, etc)
- ESF 7- Learned a lot about sourcing oxygen (from Derecho)
 - LCAT is a great tool for planning
 - Better to bring a team (not one person) for activations; one person for day shift, one for night shift. (You need to be able to notify suppliers of requirements any hour day or night
 - Need oxygen, chain saws, temporary power supplies for Sandy
- ESF8- West Virginia National Guard “Wellness Checks” were a great idea in Derecho event
 - Currently developing coalition to pre plan power restoration for critical facilities
 - Saw an increase in behavioral health needs in Sandy
 - HHS preparedness level paid off in Sandy (only \$58,000 spent)
 - Homebound people were issue in Sandy
 - Behavioral health group homes in NY were not able to re-open quickly
 - There is a system that tells which pharmacies are still open
 - Concern over rigidly tying events to an “L+” (hours post Landfall)

DHS Infrastructure Protection Update – Presentation was moved to a later date, however presentation is available for viewing on link above

Protective Security Advisor

Review/ hot wash; Closing Remarks

Response Division; ORA

Next RISC date TBD: proposed for May at the Virginia EOC