

Maximum of Maximums Table Top Exercise (TTX) Script

Below we have provided the scripts that go along with each Virtual News Network (VNN) inject video that is included in the TTX PowerPoint. Additionally, on-screen text and imaging is described throughout in ***bold, italicized text***.

SCRIPT 1 (Length: 3-5 minutes): Setting the (disaster) scene with hurricane impact narrative via anchor Jeanne Meserve; breaking news covering the earthquake and potential tsunami.

On Screen: VNN logo animation

Jeanne Meserve:

Welcome back to VNN as we continue our coverage of the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Kenley. I'm Jeanne Meserve, live from the VNN headquarters in Washington, DC.

On Screen [News Ticker (bottom of screen)]: This is a FEMA Exercise scrolls continuously throughout the news broadcast.

Jeanne Meserve:

It's been nearly three days since Hurricane Kenley came barreling ashore on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Three days of mounting losses.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: In Kenley's Wake: Day 3
Devastating aftermath of Hurricane Kenley***

The storm tore its way up the Eastern seaboard...its 20 foot storm surges and 120 mile-per-hour winds wreaking havoc from the Carolinas...to Long Island...to the New England coast.

On Screen: Animation on screen shows a map and radar graphic of the storm hitting the Outer Banks and pivoting to turn up the coast toward Long Island, making its way inland through Connecticut and upstate NY, then fading out.

When Kenley finally made its way inland in Connecticut, its force diminished and it was downgraded to a tropical storm. But that wasn't the end of Kenley. The system dumped more than 14 inches of rain on most of New England...and now severe flooding has completely submerged many communities.

On Screen: A brief montage of hurricane devastation b-roll video, including storm surge, wind and storm surge aftermath, and inland flooding appears on screen, behind anchor.

We have new statistics and data about this killer storm...and the numbers and facts are stunning:

- The human toll continues to rise. 8-thousand forty people are confirmed dead...with 11-hundred twenty still unaccounted for.

On Screen [Graphic]: Satellite map graphic of areas without power.

On Screen [News Ticker]: 10 Million Without Power

- Some who have survived are in dire straits. Nearly two million people need medical care, emergency shelter, and/or housing.

On Screen [Graphic]: Satellite map transforms to show 13 states that have declared disasters and are receiving Federal assistance.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Federal Resources Fully Deployed.

- 10 million people are still without power and communications networks.

- Rhode Island has now become the 13th state to declare a state of emergency. The president has approved all states' requests, and they are now getting Federal assistance...everything from boots on the ground medical support, to shelter assistance, and search and rescue coordination.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Federal Government supplying assistance to 13 states that have declared disasters following Kenley in areas of: Incident Management, Urban Search & Rescue, Medical Surge Support, Shelter, Mobile Emergency Response Support for Communications

- And pause for a minute to absorb this: No event in American history has demanded as many resources. Officials say the Federal response to this disaster is unprecedented.

On Screen [Text]: In Kenley's Wake: Day 3

The breadth of devastation and catastrophic impact of this storm will likely eclipse Hurricane Katrina. Kenley has torn up vast stretches of the Eastern seaboard. And inland, the drenching rains have put much of New England in jeopardy.

It's difficult to imagine how any nation, even the United States, can be prepared to deal with something of Kenley's magnitude.

Joining us now on the phone... we have Doctor Sienna Mills of the American Disaster Response Coalition.

Dr. Mills, if people living in affected areas are able to pitch in and help with the relief effort, how do they do that?

On Screen [Graphic]: BREAKING NEWS: 7.8 EARTHQUAKE HITS PUERTO RICO

Oh, hold on just a minute, excuse me Doctor Mills. We're gonna have to wait for just a moment. I'm told by the control room that we have some breaking news situation in Puerto Rico. Uh, according to our control room... VNN correspondents are reporting that an earthquake hit moments ago. This is early, we don't have confirmed information, but the epicenter, early reporting says, is about 70 miles north-northeast of San Juan, that's the capital of Puerto Rico. My recollection of the maps tell me that that would put it on the Bunce fault line. That's the line that runs deep under the waters of the Atlantic near Puerto Rico.

On Screen [Graphic]: Puerto Rico, surrounding area islands, and Florida on satellite view map with Bunce fault line and epicenter notation.

On Screen [Graphic]: Text messages from VNN correspondent, Rafael Mendoza:

Jeanne Meserve:

Now we do have some reports coming in from VNN correspondent Rafael Mendoza who is on the ground in San Juan. Most of the communications, I'm told, have been knocked out by the quake, but Rafael was able to reach us with SMS text messaging until around 6:55 this evening, when his mobile network apparently went down.

On Screen [Text]: 6:20PM: RMENDOZA – Massive earthquake just experienced first-hand in San Juan, P.R. Buildings collapsed. Several fires visible. Chaos.

His messages, we're gonna put them up on the screen so you can see them. They give us a graphic and frankly terrifying account of the quake hitting, the devastation it's caused, and warnings that have now been issued about a potential tsunami.

On Screen [Text]: 6:22PM: RMENDOZA – Confirmed earthquake in San Juan, epicenter likely offshore on Bunce fault line. Magnitude reported at 7.8 via P.R. Seismic Alliance.

We're of course trying to re-establish contact with Rafael to bring you more on-the-ground coverage via satellite phone.

On Screen [Text]: 6:25PM: RMENDOZA -- Chaos in San Juan with city in crisis / infrastructure damage severe. Tsunami warning siren activated. GET TO HIGH GROUND, NOW!

Until then, our thoughts and prayers are with him and with everyone in Puerto Rico and the surrounding islands who are in the middle of yet another unfolding disaster. Now just before his last message to VNN headquarters, Rafael texted this brief video clip from San Juan just minutes after the earthquake struck. Let's take a look.

On Screen: Brief (5 second) video of devastation in San Juan, on screen with scratchy narration by Rafael and chaos in the background.

Rafael Mendoza: *Audio from P.R. video clip, post earthquake.*

Hello Jeanne, thank you. Well as night falls on San Juan, darkness is not going to cover the devastation I have seen here.

On Screen [Graphic]: Tsunami potential impact graphic.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami alert mode with a warning message and a list of potential tsunami impact areas, including Puerto Rico, surrounding islands and the Southeast Coast of the U.S.

Jeanne Meserve:

As Rafael mentioned before his communications were cut off, the big fear now is that this earthquake will trigger a tsunami. Experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have identified the potential tsunami impact areas you see here. Please...if you are in any of these red shaded areas, and can still see this broadcast, please, move away from the coastline and get to highest ground you can find. And do it quickly. As quickly as you possibly can.

Tsunami waves move fast...very fast... typically several hundreds of miles per hour. Again...we cannot stress this enough...if you are on the coast in any of these areas which could be hit by a tsunami...move to higher ground. Get away from the coastline. Now.

We're gonna take a short break to collect more information. When we come back we'll be speaking with a representative from the American Red Cross about these twin tragedies... an earthquake in Puerto Rico and the ongoing and unprecedented effort to help East Coast communities cope with the devastation of Hurricane Kenley.

On Screen: Anchor desk fades to onscreen graphic of Rafael's last message, montaged with the video clip he sent and a headshot, along with the headline: BREAKING: 7.8 Earthquake Hits San Juan, Puerto Rico. TSUNAMI WARNING: US EAST COAST.

SCRIPT 2 (Length: 3-5 minutes): A triple-threat disaster scenario yields extraordinary communications challenges as initial response efforts ramp up.

Jeanne Meserve:

Welcome back to VNN as we continue our coverage of this Triple Threat Disaster. I'm Jeanne Meserve, live from the VNN headquarters in Washington, D.C.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Triple Threat Disaster

Mission: SURVIVAL

On Screen [News Ticker]: Triple Threat Disaster

Hurricane Kenley response efforts at peak crisis levels along East Coast

Jeanne Meserve:

With Hurricane Kenley response efforts continuing at peak crisis levels all along the East Coast of the United States, it is difficult to imagine that our lead story deals with two additional--and devastating-- disasters in the same geographic area of Kenley's wake, but this is our reality.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Triple Threat Disaster

Earthquake near Puerto Rico and East Coast tsunami in Hurricane Kenley's wake

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake originating from the Buncce fault line, just 70 miles from San Juan, Puerto Rico struck yesterday, during our broadcast, and generated a massive tsunami that made impact on the East Coast. Its primary and catastrophic impact is being felt from Florida to North Carolina.

On Screen [Graphic]: Satellite / map of Puerto Rico, surrounding islands, and Florida included. Animation pointing to Buncce fault line and impacted area is identified by moving white line.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Earthquake creates massive tsunami

7.8 magnitude earthquake just 70 miles from San Juan, Puerto Rico

On Screen [News Ticker]: Earthquake creates massive tsunami

Impact on the East Coast catastrophic from Florida to North Carolina

Secondary, though life-threatening, effects occurred all the way up to the New Jersey and Long Island coastlines.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Coming up: Rafael Mendoza's vivid accounts in Puerto Rico after the earthquake hit

In just a few minutes, we'll be speaking live via Sat phone with our Rafael Mendoza, our VNN colleague in Puerto Rico. His vivid first person accounts, filed shortly after the earthquake hit, gave us our first glimpse of the devastation.

But first, let's take a look at the areas that suffered the greatest damage from the tsunami and earthquake.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage

Areas affected by San Juan tsunami and earthquake

The tsunami has compounded the devastation already wrought by Hurricane Kenley on the East Coast of the United States.

On Screen [Graphic]: The map of Puerto Rico, surrounding islands and Florida is shown. Red shading occurs starting at Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico then moving northwest to cover

parts of the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, parts of Haiti and Cuba. Yellow shading also moves to cover parts of Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Florida and up the East Coast.

The wave generated by yesterday's earthquake was 8 to 10 feet high. First it hit the coastline you are seeing here and then, roughly one hour after the quake, it roared ashore in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. Its height at this point: 6 to 8 feet. Its speed: roughly 700 miles per hour.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage
Tsunami waves reach 8 to 10 feet high***

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage
Speed of tsunami roughly 700 MPH***

The tsunami then continued up the coast, making landfall all the way up to Long Island.

The quake that unleashed the wave was a big one...this was not a minor seismic event. As you can see, we have heavily damaged areas throughout this part of the Atlantic... including the US Virgin Islands and Dominican Republic.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage
Heavy damage throughout the US Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico***

But it was Puerto Rico that really took the brunt of the quake's impact.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage
Earthquake and tsunami create substantial infrastructure damage***

Preliminary reports indicate substantial infrastructure damage, many buildings down, and there's no electricity or running water.

Additionally, traditional communications—cell phones, land-lines, internet service—are inoperable in 90% of affected areas.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage
Traditional communications inoperable in 90% of affected areas.***

That could have a devastating effect on response efforts and critical logistics up and down the East Coast and in Puerto Rico.

All this as the aftermath of Hurricane Kenley continues to tax response resources.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Tsunami and earthquake damage.
329 casualties added totaling 8,369 deaths caused by hurricane, earthquake, and tsunami.***

The list of the dead has grown. 329 casualties have been added...for a total of 8,369. It seemed like it couldn't get any worse...but it has.

We'll have more about the response to Kenley in just a moment, but first, we're speaking with Rafael Mendoza, live via satellite phone, from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: San Juan, Puerto Rico
First person accounts of the devastation of the earthquake.***

Jeanne Meserve:

Rafael, we're all happy that you're alive and safe. And thank you for your really terrific reporting. I'm sure your text messages yesterday from San Juan probably saved thousands of lives. But what can you tell us about what you're seeing in San Juan right now?

On Screen [Graphic]: Aftermath in Puerto Rico headline. Rafael Mendoza headshot with name and on the phone text.

Rafael Mendoza (scratchy reception):

Hello Jeanne.

Thank you. Well, as night falls on San Juan, darkness is not going to cover the devastation I have seen here and have reported on throughout the day.

On Screen [Graphic and Video]: Rafael's remains and is accompanied by video footage montage of overturned truck, citizens of Puerto Rico surrounded by rubble piles and conducting clean-up efforts, and collapsed homes and damaged residential areas.

There are estimates from several officials that nearly half of the buildings in San Juan are either compromised beyond repair or completely flattened.

Jeanne Meserve:

Rafael, what have you been able to learn about response efforts...either underway or in the planning stages? And have officials released updated information on the number of deaths there?

Rafael Mendoza (scratchy reception):

Jeanne, from what I have heard from top level local officials, larger US government response and relief efforts are delayed due to the aftermath of Hurricane Kenley and now the east coast tsunami.

The official death toll in San Juan alone is estimated at 4,500 lives lost, as of today and is expected to grow.

I can tell you first-hand that the lack of any means of communications we are used to—phones, internet, television—are all massive roadblocks to even local or regional response efforts and the *[transmission becomes difficult to understand and fades out]* problems are magnified when you can't--

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Aftermath in Puerto Rico
Rafael Mendoza on phone in San Juan, Puerto Rico***

Jeanne Meserve:

Sadly, we seem we have lost the satellite phone connection to Rafael...a reflection of those communications issues he was just talking about. We'll get back to him just as soon as we possibly can. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and everyone feeling the impact of the earthquake and tsunami this evening.

But we're now gonna be joined remotely by Dr. Steven Abbott, disaster response planning consultant and former executive director of the American Academy of Meteorology.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Disaster response planning

On Screen [Image]: Split screen with Jeanne Meserve on left and Dr. Abbott on right.

Jeanne Meserve:

Dr. Abbott, welcome, and thanks for taking a few minutes to discuss what has to be the most widespread natural disaster crisis to hit America really since its inception as a nation in 1776.

Dr. Abbott:

Thanks for inviting me, Jeanne.

On Screen [Image]: Split screen view changes to full-screen view of Dr. Abbott.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott
Former Executive Director of American Academy of Meteorology***

Jeanne Meserve:

Doctor, we're entering new territory here. From a disaster response standpoint, what insight can you give into our current situation?

Dr. Abbott:

To be frank, with respect to government resources and even national NGO support at this point, we're in dire straits. Every resource, every individual, every piece of equipment, technology and manpower that we employ from agencies like FEMA and other federal disaster relief organizations, are completely tapped, just with the response to Kenley.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott
Disaster response resources in dire straits from Kenley's response.***

We have never encountered an area this large and with so many towns and cities in crisis mode.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott
We have never encountered so many cities and towns in crisis mode.***

And with the addition of tsunami and earthquake damage to confront, we need to rely on non-traditional methods immediately to help save lives and reestablish some kind of order.

The first key step, in my opinion, is trying to reestablish some traditional forms of communication in affected areas and if that's not possible in a very short timeframe, then alternative methods must be engaged and used as soon as possible. Communications are key.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott
Reestablish some traditional forms of communication in affected areas.***

On Screen [Image]: Split screen view with Jeanne Meserve on left and Dr. Abbott on right.

Jeanne Meserve:

Well Doctor, given this scenario and the lack of resources, are there non-traditional response and communications methods that people could put to use here?

On Screen [Image]: Split screen view changes to full-screen view of Dr. Abbott

Dr. Abbott:

I think that if we're gonna be as effective as possible, our approach should be more holistic. I mean we need to embrace any potential resource in our local, regional, national, even international world that can assist in useful ways.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott
Embrace any potential resource that can assist in useful ways.***

While that is happening, on-the-ground examples of what I'm talking about would be doctors and medical personnel — or any members of a profession like this with response qualifications and skills as a unifier — coming together to assist victims.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott

Anyone with response qualifications needs to help assist victims.

Their existing networks are important because they're already connected and they don't need to rely on traditional communications to link up. One person can post a sign at their place of work, like a local health center or hospital, and let others know when to meet up and take it from there.

And this method applies to communications in general, I mean, it may be weeks until phones and internet are back, so less tech-reliant vehicles like posters, loudspeakers, fliers, or regular community meetings will certainly be useful.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Dr. Steven Abbott
Could be weeks until phones and internet are back.***

Jeanne Meserve:

Thanks, Dr. Abbott for your time today, and for your insights into how communities can better communicate during these unprecedented and trying times. Some time in the future, we'll do a follow up segment and find out exactly what worked.

On Screen [Image]: Split screen view of Jeanne Meserve on left and Dr. Abbott on right.

Dr. Abbot:

You're welcome.

On Screen [Image]: Full-screen view of Jeanne Meserve.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Triple threat disaster
Visit VNN.com/response for ideas on how on how to overcome the communications
breakdown.***

Jeanne Meserve:

And if you have any ideas or examples for how victims and responders can overcome the communications breakdown which is so profound, please visit vnn.com/response and share them.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Coming up
New developments concerning North Carolina's Outer Banks***

When we return, a look at some new developments, including what's happening on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

It's estimated that as many as 8-thousand people are stranded there. The storm and the tsunami have severed all routes to the mainland. Stay with us.

On Screen [Graphic]: VNN logo animated close.

SCRIPT 3 (Length: 3-5 minutes): As more details emerge about the amount and severity of devastation on multiple fronts in a world with limited response resources, the need for improved search and rescue efforts by any means, becomes dire.

On Screen [Graphic]: VNN logo animated open.

*On Screen [News Ticker]: Breaking News
Devastating Aftermath of Hurricane Kenley*

Jeanne Meserve:

I'm Jeanne Meserve and thank you for choosing VNN as your news source.

*On Screen [Graphic]: Triple Threat Disaster
Mission: SURVIVAL.*

Jeanne Meserve:

There is an old Japanese proverb that says if you fall down seven times, then stand up eight.

The stories I'm about to tell you are not easy to hear or see. There has been, in the words of the proverb, a lot of falling down. The unthinkable is now the reality for millions of people over thousands of miles.

But before I begin, I'd like to offer some hope that we all have a chance to stand again, together.

That said, as a result of Kenley and the tsunami, on the East Coast of the United States...in Puerto Rico... and on surrounding islands...there is one word that you hear over and over again: devastation.

On Screen [News Ticker]: Search and rescue coordination center locations and phone numbers.

Today the death toll from Hurricane Kenley continues to rise. Communities that had been isolated because of flooding and road damage have now been reached. And as they have, the tally of the dead has risen to 9-thousand, 320. And that is from the hurricane alone.

When you add deaths caused by the earthquake and tsunami – in the southeastern U.S., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean islands – the number of lives lost skyrockets to an almost unfathomable 27,000, with 70,000 people still missing.

Along the southeast coast of the U.S., the government is mounting large scale search and rescue efforts. But it continues to be difficult or impossible to reach some communities because of the scope of the damage to roads, bridges and tunnels.

On Screen [Image]: A satellite view of the Outer Banks before, and after Hurricane Kenley and the tsunami impact. The long, thin island noticeably has no bridges connecting it to the mainland and now consists of several, smaller islands, with ocean in between. (News ticker still has "Triple Threat Search and rescue coordination center locations and phone numbers" superimposed over map. Is that OK?)

The North Carolina governor's office confirms that the Outer Banks of his state remain largely isolated. The only way to reach them is by small boat.

Heavy flooding and a literal shift of the islands during the tsunami has made it impossible thus far to assess damage...or to begin search and rescue.

Nearly 8,000 residents chose not to evacuate. We have heard reports of unorganized citizen search and rescue efforts to find the missing. It's a challenge. It can also be extremely dangerous because of damaged buildings and downed power lines.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Triple Threat Disaster
Caribbean Devastation
Puerto Rico is largely cut off***

In the Caribbean, Puerto Rico is reeling. Approximately 11,000 people are confirmed dead in San Juan alone.

On Screen [B-roll Flip-cam Footage]: Montage of Puerto Rico, devastated, scenes of confusion, damaged buildings

There are at least 15,000 people unaccounted for...assumed trapped in rubble from toppled buildings.

There are similar numbers of missing being reported in the US Virgin Islands and Dominican Republic.

Puerto Rico is largely cut off. Inspections of the San Juan airport today revealed serious structural damage to every single runway. It is not clear when planes will be able to fly in and out...and that will hamper relief efforts.

In addition, huge piles of debris from the tsunami have made ports and harbors impossible for large boats or ships to navigate.

In San Juan, as in the Outer Banks, we have reports of local, informal, search and rescue efforts. Citizens are desperate to try to find and free people trapped in the rubble. They know that time is of the essence. But officials warn that most people are not trained to undertake this kind of dangerous work, and could end up casualties themselves.

On Screen [Live Feed]: Scratchy video quality coming in showing Jane Hansen, standing outside of a heavily damaged gas station/ convenience store.

Jeanne Meserve:

I'm joined by VNN field reporter Jane Hansen in Point Harbor, North Carolina, and Rafael Mendoza joining us via satellite from San Juan. To Jane first: Jane, can you tell us where you are and how you managed to get there?

Jane Hansen:

Well Jeanne, I'm in what's left of a gas station that used to be the last stop before you'd cross the Wright Memorial Bridge over to the Outer Banks. That bridge and all others leading to the Outer Banks are gone. I got here by powerboat on a river that used to be Highway 158 here in Eastern Carolina. That should say it all.

Jeanne Meserve:

It certainly does, Jane. In your journey from Norfolk down to Point Harbor, did you see or hear of efforts to locate the missing?

Jane Hansen:

I can tell you that the area is so vast that my report is limited to a narrow window of time and our sightlines from the trip, but we only came across two federally organized search and rescue operations and one local police and fire effort during the journey down.

The Governor of North Carolina today requested search and rescue assistance from any other state able to help, and has also issued a request for international assistance in this endeavor.

We did see several members of each local community from Hickory, Virginia to Barco and Coinjock in North Carolina. People out in boats, patrolling and looking for survivors house by house, in homes were left standing.

Also, we came across a home with a white bed-sheet draped from the chimney in Jarvisburg, NC, and brought three members of a family on board our boat and treated them for minor injuries with our first-aid kit. And, we've contacted the nearest search and rescue task force in Virginia Beach via satellite phone for information on what our next steps should be in assisting this family. Now they're in no need or in any condition to be interviewed at this time. Just based on what I've seen, I'd say that there have to be hundreds, if not thousands of situations like this in our vicinity.

Jeanne Meserve:

So Jane, it sounds like local people are, at least at this point, augmenting the federal search and rescue effort. I know from years of reporting on disasters that this is dangerous work, even for trained professionals. Can you provide some first-hand insight on this, Jane?

Jane Hansen:

Well, it's dangerous work, for sure. We nearly tipped the boat over bringing our three survivors on board and the water is not clear, so in trying to reach the house, we scraped submerged objects and debris and nearly got ourselves stranded a few times. I can't imagine how needs in the larger area, from Florida on up, are going to be addressed in time to save lives. I think that we're going to have to rely on the people and organizations who are in those areas to find ways of safely helping. Maybe there are companies that can share equipment to aid the search efforts. It seems to me that, if we're going to have any hope of saving these people, it's going to be critical for those on the ground to come up with innovative – and safe – ways to assist.

Jeanne Meserve:

Thank you, Jane. If you have ideas on how to help search and rescue efforts...please share them with us on our website, vnn.com. In the meantime, best of luck with your journey back to Norfolk. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and everyone on board.

On Screen [Graphic]: Hurricane Kenley

Share, search and rescue ideas

www.vnn.com/response

On Screen [News Ticker]: Share your rescue ideas

Submit your cell phone videos

And let's go live now to Raphael Mendoza, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

On Screen [Live Feed]: Jane Hansen fades out, Rafael Mendoza appears in the live feed window, split screen with Jeanne (scratchy feed).

Rafael, we've been using your cell phone videos and the images you've been texting to show people what it looks like Puerto Rico right now. But can you tell us what is happening please?

Rafael Mendoza:

Thanks Jeanne. When you're in a situation like this, everything, I mean *everything*, is different, so it's tough to pick out moments when it's all new. But, I'll tell you, I was up in old San Juan, interviewing officials about the airport very late last night, and a glowing light appeared from behind the cliffs and got stronger and stronger until we saw that it was coming from fishing boat that was just floating by, completely engulfed in flames.

Jeanne Meserve:
That sounds surreal.

Rafael Mendoza:

It was, believe me. It's odd though, I think I've been in shock for the past couple days and when I saw that fire, it reminded me that growing up here on the other side of the island, I was a volunteer fireman and that's a valuable asset for the search and rescue teams they are establishing. So I signed up.

I obviously don't have much spare time here, but I feel like I have to use that time to help out.

Jeanne Meserve:

Rafael, thanks for sharing the story. And thanks to you and to Jane and the crew for volunteering. All of you, please stay safe there.

***On Screen [News Ticker]: Search & Rescue Centers
7th Coast Guard District
Miami, Florida, (305) 415-6800***

Jeanne Meserve:

And when we come back from the break, we'll have a live report from Ridge, New York out on the eastern end of Long Island. There, a woman named Dottie McSherry has been reunited with her (Rafael breaks in with "Thanks Jeanne" and speaks over her starting at 7:27) toddler grandson who has been missing since the storm surge hit 6 days ago. Some good news...at last. Let's hope there is more...much more...to come.

On Screen [Graphic]: VNN logo animated close.