MODULE 1: UNIT I — FEDERAL RESPONSE SYSTEM OVERVIEW

A. INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Objectives

- FRP process for US&R deployments
- Stafford Act authorities
- 12 ESFs and their primary agencies
- ERT structure, scope and responsibilities
- Situation assessment and needs ID:
  - Local
  - State
  - Federal
MODULE 1: UNIT I — FEDERAL RESPONSE SYSTEM OVERVIEW

B. FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN

- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, is FEMA’s authority for the National Urban Search & Rescue Response System.
  - As directed by the President, the Stafford Act allows the Federal Government to assist State and local Government in order to save lives and protect public health, safety, and property.
  - More detailed information on the Stafford Act can be found at the following FEMA R&R website:
  - Revisions just passed.

- The Federal Response Plan (FRP) supports implementation of the Stafford Act and is designed to deliver assistance and resources when State and local government is overwhelmed by a disaster or emergency situation.
  - The FRP is designed for all risks and is applicable to both natural and manmade disasters.
  - The FRP describes the mechanisms and structures by which the Federal government will deploy resources to augment State and local response efforts. The FRP allows FEMA to task the Departments and Agencies to perform disaster-related missions.
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B. FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN (continued)

- Twenty-six Federal agencies, departments and the American Red Cross have signed the FRP. More information about the FRP can be found at the following FEMA R&R website: http://www.fema.gov/r-n-r/frp/.

- The FRP provides for response to immediate needs like US&R and firefighting as well as longer-term recovery and hazard mitigation. Response to lifesaving and life protecting missions takes precedence over other Federal response activities, except where national security implications are determined to be of a higher priority.

- The scope of the FRP includes the United States and territories and all federal departments and agencies.
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C. EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

- To facilitate the provision of Federal assistance that a State is most likely to need, resources are grouped into 12 Emergency Support Functions (ESF), including Urban Search & Rescue (ESF-9).
  - Each ESF is headed by a primary agency, which has been selected based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities in the functional area.
  - Other agencies have been designated as support agencies for one or more ESFs based on their resources and capabilities to support the functional area.

- The 12 ESFs and their primary agencies are as follows:
  - Transportation (ESF-1)
    - Dept. of Transportation
  - Communications (ESF-2)
    - National Communications System
  - Public Works/Engineering (ESF-3)
    - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - Firefighting (ESF-4)
    - U.S. Forest Service
  - Information & Planning (ESF-5)
    - FEMA
  - Mass Care (ESF-6)
    - American Red Cross
  - Resource Support (ESF-7)
    - General Services Administration
  - Health and Medical Services (ESF-8)
    - Public Health Service
  - Urban Search & Rescue (ESF-9)
    - FEMA
  - Hazardous Materials (ESF-10)
    - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Food (ESF-11)
    - Dept. of Agriculture/Food & Nutrition
  - Energy (ESF-12)
    - Dept. of Energy.
D. KEY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

- **ESF-4:** Manages and coordinates firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on Federal lands, and provides personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of State and local agencies involved in rural and urban firefighting operations.

- **ESF-5:** During disaster operations, ESF-5 becomes the Information and Planning Section of the Regional Operations Center (ROC) or the Emergency Response Team (ERT) at the Disaster Field Office (DFO), as well as the Emergency Support Team (EST) at Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Headquarters.

- **ESF-8:** ESF-8 involves supplemental assistance to State and local governments in identifying and meeting the health and medical needs of victims of a major disaster, emergency, or terrorist attack.

- **ESF-10:** Provides Federal support to State and local governments in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or release of hazardous materials following a major disaster or emergency.
D. KEY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (continued)

- The 12 ESFs serve as the primary mechanism through which Federal response assistance will be provided to the affected State under the overall coordination of the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) recommended by the Director of Federal Emergency Management Agency and appointed by the President.

- Each ESF will provide resources using its primary and support authorities and capabilities, in coordination with other ESFs to support its missions. ESFs will allocate available resources to each declared State based on priorities identified in conjunction with State and in coordination with the FCO.

  - If resources are not available within the declared State, the ESF will seek to provide them from a primary or support agency area or region.

  - If the resources are unavailable from an area or region the requirements will be forwarded to the appropriate ESF headquarters office for further action.
E. FRP STRUCTURES

- The Structures of the FRP provide for orderly activation of ESFs and other elements of the Federal response. FRP structures encompass:
  - Organizations
  - Facilities
  - Processes

- FEMA Operations Center (FOC) — provides 24-hour 7 day situation monitoring, communications and notification services from Mt. Weather Emergency Assistance Center (MWEAC) in Berryville, Virginia.

- MERS Operations Centers (MOC) — serve geographic areas and support each FEMA regions with 24-7 information and communications.

- Regional Operations Centers (ROC) — coordinate Federal response efforts until an Emergency Response Team (ERT) is established in the field.

- Emergency Response Team (ERT) — is the principle interagency organization that supports the Federal response. Once established, the ERT is located at the Disaster Field Office (DFO). When ESF-9 is activated, an ESF-9 Leader will be assigned to the ERT to coordinate Federal US&R activities and processes.
  - Emergency Response Team – Advance Element (ERT-A) provides initial response and situation assessment.
  - Regionally-based ERT can replace ERT-A and coordinate Federal response activities. Activated ESFs are represented.
  - National Emergency Response Team (ERT-N) can be deployed for catastrophic disasters or WMD incidents.

- The Catastrophic Disaster Response Group (CDRG) — represents all FRP signatory departments and agencies at the senior headquarters policy level.
E. FRP STRUCTURES (continued)

- Emergency Support Team (EST) — is the interagency group that coordinates national-level Federal disaster response from the FEMA National Interagency Emergency Operations Center (NIEOC) at FEMA Headquarters in Washington. The EST:
  - Supports the CDRG and assists in assuring interagency headquarters information and coordination support for response activities;
  - Serves as the central source of information at the national level regarding the status of Federal response activities and assists in disseminating information to the media, Congress, and the public.
  - Provides interagency resource coordination support to the FCO and regional response operations. In this capacity, the EST provides coordination support for FCO, ERT, and ESF activities, as necessary. This includes identification, acquisition, and delivery of additional resources.
  - Arbitrates when multiple disasters compete for the allocation of scarce Federal resources.

- The EST ESF-9 Group — supports the Federal response with coordination of US&R resources. This includes advising, alerting and activating US&R resources, coordinating task force and IST transportation, requesting US&R support missions, and managing US&R financial requirements and processes.
  - The EST ESF-9 Group maintains management and control of US&R resources until assigned to an operational IST
  - Activates ESF-9 resources
  - Coordinates deployment to the field
  - Communicates situation and status
  - Controls ESF-9 resources until handed off.
F. OPERATING FACILITIES

In support of response activities under the FRP, several kinds of operating facilities have been identified to facilitate movement and utilization of personnel and resources in the affected area.

- **Regional Operations Center (ROC)** is the facility established at the FEMA Regional Office (or Federal Regional Center) in response to (or in anticipation of) an event that may require Federal assistance.

- **Point of Departure (POD)** is the designated location (typically an airport) within or near the task force Point of Assembly where task forces initiate their transportation to the affected area.

- **Point of Arrival (POA)** is the designated location (typically an airport) within or near the disaster-affected area where newly arriving staff, supplies and equipment are initially directed.

- **Mobilization Center (Mob Center)** is the designated location at which response personnel and resources are received from the POA and pre-position for deployment to a local Staging Area or directly to an incident site, as required. A Mob Center also provides temporary support services, such as food and billeting, for response personnel prior to their deployment to Staging Areas or operating sites.

- **Staging Area(s)** The facility at the local jurisdictional level near the disaster site where personnel and equipment are assembled for the immediate deployment to an operational site.
F. OPERATING FACILITIES (continued)

- Disaster Field Office (DFO) — the primary field location in each affected State for the coordination of response and recovery operations. It houses the FCO and staff comprising the Emergency Response Team (ERT). It will operate 24-hours a day, as needed, or with a schedule sufficient to sustain the Federal response operations. Except where facilities do not permit, the FCO will be co-located with the State Coordinating Officer (SCO) at the DFO.

- State Emergency Operations Center — emergency management organizations for each State coordinate statewide emergency response. Each State conducts its emergency response coordination activities from an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) facility. The ERT-A will normally operate out of the State EOC, when space allows.

- Emergency Operations Center — a pre-designated facility established by a agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency. Initial damage and needs assessment information is consolidated at this point to determine response needs and State and Federal asset requirements. Authority for the management of a disaster rests with the local officials and/or Incident Commander of the affected jurisdictions.

- Base of Operations (BoO) — the on-site facility at which primary support, coordination, communications, and decision-making activities occur.

- Incident Command Post (ICP) — ICS term for the location at which the primary command functions are executed.
G. REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

- Each FEMA region has a Regional Operations Center (ROC) for the initial coordination of Federal response and recovery activities. It serves as an initial point-of-contact in the region for the affected States, the EST and Federal agencies.
G. REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER (continued)

- The ROC is activated by the Regional Director at a FEMA Regional Office. It is staffed by FEMA and representatives from the primary agencies and other agencies, as needed to initiate and support Federal response activity.

- The ROC:
  - Gathers damage information regarding the affected area.
  - Serves as a point-of-contact for the affected State(s), EST, and Federal agencies.
  - Establishes communications links with the affected State(s), EST, and Federal agencies.
  - Supports deployment of the ERT(s) to field locations.
  - Implements information and planning activities (under ESF-5).
  - Serves as an initial coordination office for Federal activity until the ERT is established in the DFO in the field.
  - Supports coordination of resources for multi-State disaster response and recovery activities, as needed.

- In multiple State disasters, the ROCs remain operational to assist the EST with the prioritization and deployment of resources, until DFOs are established within each affected State within the region.
H. EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is the interagency group that provides administrative, logistical, and operational support to regional response activities the field.

- The ERT includes staff from FEMA and other agencies who support the FCO in carrying out interagency activities. The ERT also provides support for the dissemination of information to the media, Congress, and the public.
- Each FEMA Regional Office is responsible for rostering an ERT and developing appropriate procedures for its notification and deployment.

Emergency Response Team
- Interagency group
- Support
  - Administrative
  - Logistical
  - Operational
- Staffed by FEMA / agencies
- ERT rostered in each Region
H. EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (continued)

- When a significant disaster occurs, an Emergency Response Team, Advance Element (ERT-A) is dispatched by the affected FEMA Region to join with State emergency management personnel to coordinate Federal assistance.
  - The ERT-A is the initial group to respond in the field to an incident. It is the nucleus of the full ERT, which operates from the DFO. It is headed by a team leader from FEMA and is composed of FEMA program and support staff and representatives from selected ESF primary agencies.
  - ERT-A positions are filled based on the type of disaster and the nature of the requirement for continued Federal involvement.

- Part of the ERT-A will deploy to the State EOC or other locations to work directly with the State to obtain information on the impact of the event and to begin identifying specific State requirements for Federal response assistance.

- If the disaster escalates, the FEMA region may strengthen the ERT-A with additional positions within the team and the team is then referred to as an Emergency Response Team (ERT).
  - A National Emergency Response Team (ERT-N) may be assigned to disasters of national significance or when the affected FEMA region is unable to fill the ERT requirement.

- When the ERT assumes management of the disaster and the DFO is operational, the ROC is usually deactivated.

- The US&R IST is a component of the ERT, serving in the ESF-9 Group in the ERT Operations Section, Emergency Services Branch.
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I. RESPONSE OPERATIONS
I. RESPONSE OPERATIONS (continued)

- The FEMA Director will provide information on the requirements for Federal response assistance to the White House and to senior-level Federal Government, as required. The EST will be activated and the CDRG will convene, as appropriate.

- The EST will assemble in the FEMA NIEOC within 2 hours of notification to initiate headquarters interagency operations. The EST will provide support for regional response, as needed.

- The CDRG will convene in the NIEOC, if necessary. Members will report on their agency deployment actions and initial activities in support of the ESFs.

- Federal departments and agencies may activate their headquarters EOCs to provide coordination and direction to regional response elements in the field.

- FEMA will take the necessary actions to expedite the processing of a Governor’s request for a Presidential major disaster or emergency declaration.

- The FEMA Regional Director will initiate Federal response activities from the Regional Office.

- FEMA will activate a ROC and establish links with the affected State until the DFO is established in the field.
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I. RESPONSE OPERATIONS (continued)

- The FEMA Regional Director will initially deploy members of the ERT-A to the affected State for the purpose of assessing the impact of the situation, collecting damage information and determining response requirements. The Regional Director will coordinate the Federal support of State requirements until the FCO assumes those responsibilities.

- ESFs will take action to quickly determine the impact of the disaster on their own capabilities and will identify, mobilize, and deploy resources to support response activities in the affected State.

- The EST will establish communications with the FEMA Region and with the DFO. The EST will provide a liaison between the national-level participating departments and agencies for response operations support, including coordination of national-level resource requirements.

- One or more disasters may affect a number of States and regions concurrently.
  - In those instances, the Federal government will conduct multi-State response operations; for each declared State, an FCO will be appointed to coordinate the specific requirements for Federal response and recovery within the State.
  - Under multiple State declarations, ESF departments and agencies will be required to coordinate the provision of resources to support the operations of all declared States.
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J. SITUATION ASSESSMENTS AND NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

- As soon as possible after an event, local damage and needs assessments should be completed and forwarded to the State for inclusion in a comprehensive list.
  - From this, resources can be developed and prioritized at the state level.
  - Needs that are beyond the state level will be forwarded to the Federal government through the State/Federal ERTs.

- FEMA (ESF-5) is designated as the primary agency for Information and Planning. Information and Planning represents a "disaster intelligence" function for Federal operations. Information and Planning is responsible for the accurate and timely assessment conducted at various phases of a disaster from the actual incident and continuing through the response and recovery phase.

- In determining the actual or potential impact of a disaster, a number of tools are available through the Information and Planning function, including:
  - Predictive modeling
  - Graphic Information System (GIS)
  - Remote sensing and reconnaissance
  - Field and aerial observation
J. SITUATION ASSESSMENTS AND NEEDS IDENTIFICATION (continued)

- Field and aerial observation can be phased together with a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) conducted at the initial stage with the Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) as a follow-on detailed assessment activity.

- RNA involves a quick-targeted assessment conducted by an interagency team. It was designed to fill a gap in the assessment process that was demonstrated in 1992 with Hurricanes Andrew, Iniki, and Typhoon Omar.

- PDA is used as an aid in evaluating a Governor’s request for emergency or any major disaster declaration.
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J. SITUATION ASSESSMENTS AND NEEDS IDENTIFICATION (continued)

■ The RNA is a component of the ERT and reports to the ERT A Team Leader. RNA is most likely deployed to catastrophic scenarios where magnitude and scope indicates need for Federal resources. RNA Teams are designed to:
  • Deploy quickly at the request of the affected State in coordination with the involved FEMA Region. RNA may be pre-deployed at the request of the FEMA Region in anticipation of a potential disaster such as a hurricane.
  • Arrive in the disaster area within 12 hours of activation for a period of 24-72 hours.
  • Be small and self-sufficient.
  • Collect and provide information to determine requirements for critical resources needed to support emergency response activities.
  • Assess the overall impact of an event and determine Federal response requirements.
  • Provide disaster intelligence to the ROC, State EOC, and ERT-A concerning life-threatening situations and imminent hazards.

■ The position on the RNA is a Fire, Search and Rescue Specialist. The duties include:
  • Assess fire suppression and search and rescue capabilities/requirements.
  • Assess State and local mutual aid capabilities.
  • Assess status of critical/special facilities that may require search and rescue support.

■ RNA not always conducted.

■ Timelines of dates can be affected by lack of State approval.
J. SITUATION ASSESSMENTS AND NEEDS IDENTIFICATION (continued)

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SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATIONS STATEMENT

DISTRIBUTION:

TEAM LEADER DATE TIME