

FOREWORD

Our customers understood that there was room for improvement in preparedness for a catastrophic disaster that would require significant Federal, Provincial, and State coordination and were very supportive of using a hurricane scenario to conduct a *Federal Response Plan* exercise. The eight States, four Provinces, FEMA Regions I and II, as well as the Federal and local governments, volunteer and private industry partners, worked together to create a realistic exercise that would meet multiple objectives for each of our customer organizations.

As experts modeled the effects of a Category 4 hurricane's impact on the infrastructure, power, telecommunications, properties and lives of the people of the Northeast, it soon became evident that thousands of lives and billions of dollars in property would be at stake if such a hurricane struck. As this *Evaluation Report* clearly shows, much information was gathered and is being used to enhance emergency preparedness capabilities in the participating organizations.

From the point of view of the Chief Evaluation Officer, RESPONSE 98 was a positive experience for exercise participants and for exercise evaluators and controllers alike. During the course of planning the exercise, a robust evaluation methodology was developed. At each exercise location there were on-site evaluators. Participating States and Provinces conducted their own evaluations, as did the primary agency for each Emergency Support Function. At the Federal level, FEMA evaluated coordination objectives. For each objective, RESPONSE 98 was designed to assess and evaluate specific expected actions, and evaluators identified points of review or questions to be answered. Standardized forms were prepared for evaluators to use, and extensive training of controllers and evaluators ensured consistency in implementation of the evaluation methodology. The emergency management community, as a result, now has a cadre of experienced and trained evaluators and controllers who can assist in future exercises.

The evaluation work of this team is found in Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of this *Evaluation Report*, while summaries of participant observations are in Chapter 5. Chapter 1 introduces and explains the RESPONSE 98 planning, scenario, evaluation, and management concepts.

I would like to particularly express my appreciation to the members of the Exercise Evaluation Group who are largely responsible for the successful development of this evaluation methodology, the evaluation plan, and training for controllers and evaluators.

Vanessa E. Quinn
Chief Evaluation Officer
RESPONSE 98

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