



Harris County

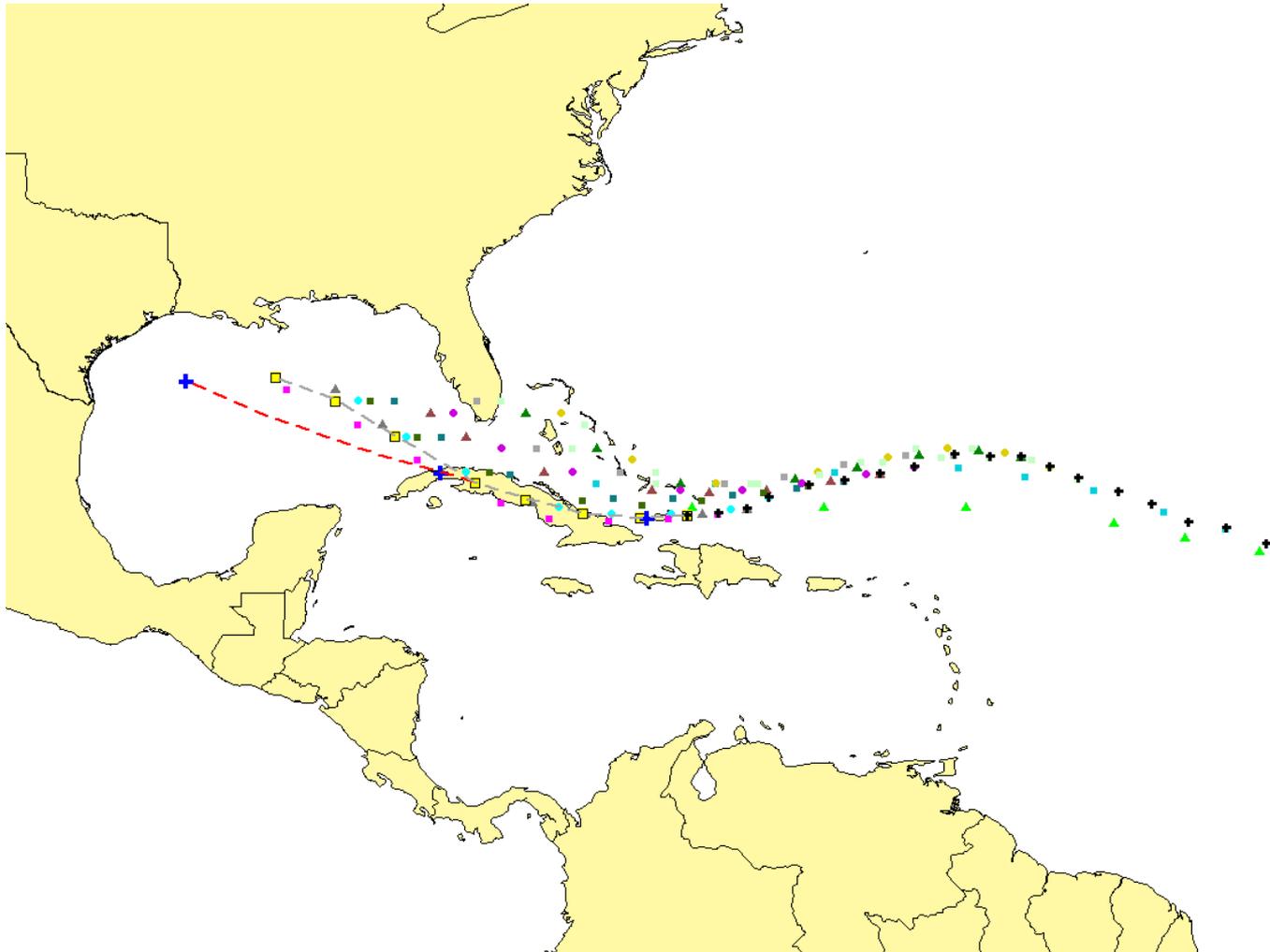
Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Planning

for

The Storm

SSPEED – Gulf Coast Conference
October 29, 2008
Rice University



Planning

- ▶ Harris County and the surrounding areas began planning for the next incident on August 18, 1983.
 - All-hazards planning
 - Yesterday
 - Today
 - Tomorrow

Timing is Everything!



How much Planning is enough?

- ▶ Dolly
 - July 2008
- ▶ Strengths
 - NIMS / ICS
 - JIC
 - Deployed a Harris County IMT member
- ▶ Improvement
 - Implementation of other agency personnel

EOC Representation: 19 different Agency with 50 participants

Timing is Everything!



How much Planning is enough?

- ▶ Edouard
 - August 2008
- ▶ Strengths
 - NIMS / ICS
 - JIC
 - Use of TxDot HurrCams for monitoring traffic evacuation
 - Developed Demobilization Plan
 - Began refining the POD Plan

Timing is Everything!



How much Planning is enough?

- ▶ Edouard
 - August 2008
- ▶ Strengths
 - Special needs population
- ▶ Improvement
 - Continue implementation of other agency personnel

EOC Representation: 31 different Agency with 140 participants

Timing is Everything!



How much Planning is enough?

- ▶ Gustav
 - August – September, 2008
- ▶ Strengths
 - NIMS / ICS
 - JIC
 - Utilization of Liaison
 - Development of “Frequently asked questions” for phone bank
 - Further developed POD Plan
 - Developed a Repatriation Plan

Timing is Everything!



How much Planning is enough?

- ▶ **Gustav**
 - August – September, 2008
- ▶ **Strengths**
 - Refined the Shelter Plan
 - Refined the transportation HUB Plan
- ▶ **Improvement**
 - Further training on WebEOC

EOC Representation: 18 different Agency with 80 participants

Timing is Everything!



Game Day

- ▶ Hurricane Ike
 - September 2008

- ▶ Strengths
 - NIMS/ICS
 - Sections closely planned together
 - Sections closely worked together
 - JIC
 - Right agencies represented at the EOC
 - POD Plan
 - Regional Communication Plan

Timing is Everything!



Game Day

- ▶ Hurricane Ike
 - September 2008
- ▶ Strengths
 - Communications
 - Internal and External
 - Validation of our Planning/Plans
 - Neighbors helping Neighbors
 - Stayed focused
 - Stayed task-oriented
 - Search & Rescue capability

Timing is Everything!



Game Day

- ▶ Hurricane Ike
 - September 2008
 - ▶ Strengths
 - Special needs evacuations
 - ▶ Improvement
 - WebEOC went down
 - Federal, state and local coordination
 - Ownership of tasks delayed progress
- EOC Representation: 50 different Agency with over 400 participants

Timing is Everything!



Rita vs. Ike – Evacuation

- ▶ Because of a persistent educational campaign, people who lived outside the surge zones largely stayed home. As a result, roads were less clogged for coastal residents, and a new public–private partnership ensured the availability of fuel along the way.
 - Run from the water, hide from the wind
 - Consistent message
 - Realistic plans

Timing is Everything!



Rita vs. Ike – Evacuation

- ▶ Gas no problem for most
 - Gasoline availability, another major problem along highways leading from Houston in 2005, wasn't a significant issue among Ike evacuees.
 - The Plan
- ▶ People more savvy
 - Houston–area residents have become more educated about hurricane preparation since Rita.
 - They had a Plan

Timing is Everything!



Rita vs. Ike – Evacuation

- ▶ “As I evacuated, I kept seeing evidence of governmental planning — a fleet of ambulances heading in, fuel trucks and an emergency rest stop with porta-johns, first aid and guys with orange vests,” wrote a Clear Lake resident. “I’m so glad (and surprised) to see that our elected officials actually developed a plan to avoid another disaster like Rita!”

Timing is Everything!



Lessons Learned

- ▶ You cannot prevent or anticipate all disasters, so you should prepare and practice for them. **Knowing where to go and what critical functions need to be restored can provide confidence to you and your employees when responding to a disaster.**

Timing is Everything!



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Partnerships with Businesses, Government and Industries
 - Industrial Liaison
 - Developed an Industry Essential Personnel Credentialing and Re-entry System (IEPCRS)
 - CMOC
 - Special Needs Population – Communications

Timing is Everything!



What can Businesses do today to prepare for tomorrow?

- ▶ Identify potential threats
- ▶ Assess your potential impacts
- ▶ Assign priorities, and develop planned responses
- ▶ Categorize threats on a scale from high to low, according to their probability of occurring
- ▶ Know the impact to your company

Timing is Everything!



What can Businesses do today to prepare for tomorrow?

- ▶ Continue forward-looking and have generators, fuel, and replenishment stock before the disaster strikes.
- ▶ Don't be afraid to take risks on stock levels. Well before a predictable disaster such as a hurricane, be bold and stockpile as many primary goods as you can.

Timing is Everything!



What can Businesses do today to prepare for tomorrow?

- ▶ Understand your power needs. The power will be off for a long time, and you should be sure that your business has enough emergency power for all its needs.
- ▶ Plan to keep your business running in as close to normal mode as possible.
- ▶ Don't underestimate the power of communication.
 - Keep Web pages up-to-date with useful information.

Timing is Everything!



What can Businesses do today to prepare for tomorrow?

- ▶ What can you do in your communities?
 - Be prepared to assist in the recovery and meet immediate needs of your community.
 - Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Timing is Everything!



THANK YOU

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett
Director



Timing is Everything!

