

Emergency Preparedness:

Planning for Tomorrow,
Today,
Making Our Preparedness Better Than Yesterday

October 27, 2008

Only One Objective for Today

During this short presentation, please take away one thing you can use to better prepare your community. Always remember preparedness is **past tense**, once an event starts the opportunity for planning has past.

Let's Talk – Our Preparedness - Yesterday

- Keys to our future are in our past (Study)
 - Hurricane Carla 1961
 - 1990 Storm
 - Hurricane Alicia 1983
- Lessons learned (Major Events)
 - World Trade Center
- Lessons forgotten (Time Shift)
 - New People

Yesterday – What did we learn?

- Great 1900 Galveston Hurricane
- World Trade Center
- Hurricane Katrina – Lessons Forgotten
- Tropical Storm Allison
- Texas City Disaster
- 1918 Pandemic Flu
- Hurricane Ike -2008

Today – What are we planning for?

- Avoid mistakes of the past (Historical)
- Taking an All-Hazards approach to planning
- Developing strong Leadership and Command Teams
- Remember –Daily leadership in your organization is important to the leadership of your organization during a crisis (Leadership should focus on Preparedness everyday)

Today – Doing the right planning in the right way.

- Evaluate risk and estimate your viability
- Continuity Planning - How, What, Where, When to return to normal
- Continuity Readiness - Drill, Test the Plan
- Incident Management – Who is in charge? (Tricky Subject)
- The New Normal – Closure is IMPORTANT
- Planning the Cycle – Once the disaster is over these elements quickly move to the background, you must be the catalysts to keep the community focused on Preparedness

Today – We are building the wall!

However high you were able to build the wall of Preparedness at the point the disaster strikes is better than not having tried to be prepared at all. Every brick on the wall of Preparedness helps.

Tomorrow – Are you ready?

Your plans in place today should allow your Command Staff to make critical decisions at the moment of crisis. Push Incident Command processes to the lowest levels possible, disasters do not always occur 8-5, M-F

Tomorrow – Your Plans should provide:

- Good understanding of your capabilities
- Know your vulnerabilities
- Know your resilience to an event
- Know your coping capacity
- Capability decision to absorb an event
- Know your response capability
 - Allows you to plan use of critical resources

Example: Infrastructure Preparedness Plan

Plan responsible for protecting critical electrical infrastructure from flooding events. Sites include Downtown Houston, Texas Medical Center and Uptown (Galleria)

The Infrastructure Plan was developed, redeveloped and redeveloped again to plan for the next more serious flood events. Could better planning avoid catastrophic events?

How did we do during Ike?

Let's quickly visit Yesterday, Today
and Tomorrow to protect critical
infrastructure

Yesterday- Historical Significance

- Dense Metro area on a coastal flood plain
- 100 year flood history – numerous events
- Dense Metro area subject to Hurricanes
- 150 year Hurricane history – numerous events
- 25 years since last Major Hurricane Event (**)
- 60 years since entire area experienced sustained hurricane force winds (Forgotten / Time Shift)
- Increased frequency of 100 yr and 500 yr floods

Today – Mitigation Planning

- Modify Building Codes - Utility / Commercial
- Know the Flood Plain
- All-Hazards approach should key on flooding events
- Technology Tools – Flood Warning Systems / Flood Doors / Flood Policies
- Mitigate vulnerable facilities /Adjust building designs
- Continuity Planning for the metro community (After Allison - major mitigation and drainage projects)
- Review the Planning Cycle annually (Living Plans)

Today – Examples of Mitigation Planning efforts

- New Facilities have electrical equipment at or above grade (Elevation above 50 feet)
- New facilities have emergency equipment at or above grade (Elevation above 50 feet)
- New facilities built without basements to avoid infrastructure flooding (Example)
- Basement isolation flood doors to protect infrastructure and adjacent facilities
- Flood Warning Systems and Flood Policies in place
- Readiness – Yearly drills to activate systems / monthly maintenance on critical doors

Today – We are building the Wall!

Constant review of your vulnerabilities
is required to determine your walls
Preparedness height

Tomorrow – Execute the Plan

- Command Staff is well trained for any disaster
- NIMS nomenclature for your team is a must
- Address your situational vulnerabilities
- Know when to call for assistance if you are overwhelmed
- Remember assistance may be several days away depending on the event
- Remember, in a real disaster the first day is going to be ugly, and that's O.K. You will have better days ahead.....

Use Yesterday to Plan Today
for the Disaster of Tomorrow

Are you ready!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Questions.....