Planning and Preparing for Mass Evacuations

2009 National Conference on Community Preparedness: The Power of Citizen Corps
10 August 2009
Laurel J. Radow
Size Distribution of Large-Scale Evacuations in the United States 1/1/1990 - 6/30/2003
Principal Causes of Large-Scale Evacuations in the United States 1/1/1990 - 6/30/2003

- Flood 20%
- Wildfire 23%
- Transportation Accident 7%
- Railroad Accident 11%
- Fixed Site Hazmat Incident 14%
- Pipeline Rupture 3%
- Malevolent Acts 6%
- Other 2%
- Earthquake 1%
- Tornado 1%
- Hurricane 10%
- Tropical Storm 23%
FHWA Emergency Transportation Operations Team – Who we are

We manage

- Traffic Incident Management
- Planned Special Events
- Emergency Transportation Operations including Evacuations
FHWA Evacuation Primers

- Routes to Effective Evacuation Primers Series
  - Using Highways during Evacuations Operations for Events with Advance Notice
  - Using Highways for No-Notice Evacuations
  - Evacuating Populations With Special Needs
During 2007-2008, FHWA hosted four regional workshops designed to help State and local authorities use the primer series in developing their evacuation plans.

The four workshops -
- Tallahassee, FL - May, 2007
- Long Beach, CA - January 2008
- Richmond, VA - June 2008
- Chicago, IL - September 2008
FHWA ETO Publications

- Best of Public Safety and Emergency Transportation Operations CD
- Results of the FHWA Preparedness & Response Workshops
- Communicating with the Public using ATIS During Disasters
- Simplified Guide to the Incident Command System (ICS) for Transportation Professionals
- Managing Travel for Planned Special Events: Executive Summary
FHWA Evacuation Activities

- FHWA Office of Planning in concert FHWA Office of Operations is working with the National Association of Regional Councils in the development of evacuation workshops for their members.

- FHWA continues to work with DHS and FEMA on disaster transportation operations issues, including evacuation planning for State and local governments.

- January 26-29, 2009 Gulf Coast Contra-flow Evacuation Workshop.
National Security Special Events

- Purpose: To aid State and local highway authorities operate within the national security special events environment.
  - 2009 Presidential Inauguration
  - Democratic National Convention
  - Republican National Convention

- Document will complement the highly successful “Simplified Guide to the Incident Command System for Transportation Professionals.”
Robert Davis
- Director, Ext. Affairs, DHS
- Tuesday Session, “Surviving Nuclear and Radiological Events,” will discuss *Improvised Nuclear Devices Risk Communication and Preparedness*”
Traffic Technology International

- Article in the June/July 2009 issue
- Website [http://www.ukipme.com/mag_traffic.htm](http://www.ukipme.com/mag_traffic.htm)
Evacuation: On-Line Training

Objective: Planning level education tool which brings all stakeholders together in a cooperative effort using an all hazards approach to address emergency evacuations.

These Elements among others are included in the training

- Incident Command System/National Incident Management System and the need to be NIMS compliant
- Special Needs
- Pets
- Host/Receiving Jurisdictions (States/Counties)
The Role of Transit in Emergency Evacuation

Communication with Vulnerable Populations: A Transportation and Emergency Management Toolkit
Tools for Practitioners

- Evacuation Primers
  - Traffic Management Tactics
  - Checklists (phase based)
  - Explains roles of Key Stakeholders

- Tabletop Exercise Instructions for Planned Events and Unplanned Incidents/ Emergencies
  - General Guidelines for Conducting Table Exercises
  - Explains Roles and Responsibilities
Best Practices: Preparation and Activation

- Coordination for Emergency Preparedness
  - Safeguard Iowa Partnership
  - Chicago’s Building and Managers Association (BOMA)
  - Texas’s Point-to-Point Shelter Designation

- Fuel Equipment and Supplies
  - Houston’s Fuel Availability for Transit Agencies
Best Practices: Preparation and Activation

- Public Information and Education
  - Chicago’s Text Alert to the Public
  - Los Angeles Police Department’s Multilingual Communications
  - Gulf States’ Public Education on Evacuations
  - Mississippi’s Accommodation of Families of First Responders
Best Practices: Preparation and Activation

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
  - Illinois DOT’s Text Alerts
  - Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee’s Transportation Management Center’s Information
  - Virginia’s Mobile Video and Data Collection Units
  - California DOT’s (Caltrans) Regional Integration of ITS
  - Virginia’s Pre-positioning of ITS Resources
Best Practices: Response

- Coordination for Emergency Response
  - Florida’s Multi-disciplined Evacuation Coordination Team

- Communications Systems Use and Coordination
  - 511 Systems to Provide Emergency Information
  - Chicago’s Transit Alert Network (TAN)
  - Statewide Agency Radio System (STARS)
Best Practices: Response

- Information Sharing
  - Caltrans’ Media Monitoring

- Emergency Operations Center Practices
  - Florida’s Logistics Center
  - Florida’s Site Emergency Operations Center
Best Practices: Response

- Emergency Traffic Management and Evacuations
  - Chicago’s Assembly and Transfer Centers

- Personnel and Resource Management
  - Iowa’s Incident Management Teams
  - Virginia’s use of Tiger Teams
  - Common Credentialing
Best Practices: Re-entry and Return to Readiness

- Emergency Documentation
  - Illinois’ Debris Removal
  - Mississippi’s Damage Assessment
  - Virginia’s Damage Documentation

- Public Information
  - Florida’s Multiple Means of Communications
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Civil Rights

- University of New Orleans (UNO)
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- Arlington County
Univ. of New Orleans (UNO)

- National Study on Carless and Special Needs Evacuation Planning: A Literature Review

- National Study on Carless and Special Needs Evacuation Planning: Government and Non-Profit Focus Group Results

- National Study on Carless and Special Needs Evacuation Planning: Case Studies
  - http://planning.uno.edu/docs/CASE%20STUDY%20March%202018th.pdf
Current Activities - Guidebook

- Focus is on evacuating vulnerable populations who for various reasons have limited mobility and therefore require special support before, during and after the emergency event.

- A community’s ability to provide such practical support to vulnerable people during their time of greatest need is a true test of the community’s skill and compassion.
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Regional Assisted Evacuation Plan

**Work to date:**

- Created a steering committee and held a kickoff meeting with the project team and steering committee
- Compiled existing evacuation plans to analyze existing gaps in planning among counties (and other jurisdictions)
- Established an outreach plan outline listing the outreach activities and audiences over the course of the plan
- Reached out to the EMA, planning and health agencies in all counties to engage them in the project
Goals for this first year of funding are to:

- Integrate Safety Net system with at least two integrated human service transportation databases.
- Link Arlington ALERT communication system with Safety Net system for evacuation information dissemination.
- Conduct workshops and community meetings through Arlington County Office of Emergency Management in collaboration with other community groups, including the Citizen Corps Council to promote stakeholder participation and input.
Citizen Corps in Action: Cert and Transportation

- Washington Metro (WMATA) understands they cannot be in all places at all times.
- WMATA also recognizes that trained citizens could make a life or death difference in a disaster in the transit system.
  - Partnered with area CERTs in 2003 to offer rail safety training to CERT-trained citizens.
  - To-date, more than 100 CERT members completed Metro Citizen Corps training in Arlington County alone.
Questions?
Thank you.
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