



FEMA

**Lessons Learned
Information Sharing**
LLIS.gov

Sharing Information
Enhancing Preparedness
Strengthening Homeland Security

LESSON LEARNED

Emergency Planning: Providing Resources to Staging Areas and Receiving Points in Evacuation Zones

SUMMARY

Emergency managers should review plans for providing resources to staging areas and receiving points in evacuation zones. These locations may need access to additional resources to support responders who are awaiting deployment to other areas.

DESCRIPTION

On August 16, 2007, Tropical Storm Dean became a hurricane as it moved through the Caribbean Ocean. National Hurricane Center forecasts indicated that Hurricane Dean could make landfall along the southern Gulf coast of Texas. President George W. Bush issued an emergency declaration for 32 Texas counties to provide federal assistance to state and local preparations for Hurricane Dean. This constituted the greatest mobilization of emergency resources in the history of the state of Texas. The direct threat to Texas lessened as Hurricane Dean approached land, although rains and storm surge had the potential to cause coastal flooding. Hurricane Dean made landfall in Mexico on August 21, as a Category 5 hurricane and dissipated several days later without impacting Texas.

A large number of emergency responders assembled at staging areas and receiving points in the Alamo, Rio Grande Valley, and North Central Texas areas to support evacuation efforts for Hurricane Dean. These locations lacked food, sleeping arrangements, and other supplies necessary to support these responders for an extended period of time. Responders remained at these locations for extended periods because no evacuation orders were issued for Hurricane Dean. This severely taxed the resources of staging areas and receiving points.

The Texas state after-action report (AAR) noted that unpredictable deployment schedules may require responders to remain at staging areas and receiving points for extended periods of time. The AAR recommended that emergency managers prepare for this contingency by expanding emergency plans to address extended resource support to staging areas and receiving points. Emergency managers should implement procedures to monitor the amount of resources at each facility.

Emergency managers should review plans for providing resources to staging areas and receiving points in evacuation zones. These locations may need access to additional resources to support responders who are awaiting deployment to other areas.

CITATION

State of Texas Emergency Management, Governor's Division of Emergency Management.
2007 Hurricane Dean After-Action Report. 26 Nov 2007.
<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=32494>

DISCLAIMER

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) is the US Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency response and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the US Department of Homeland Security. For more information on *LLIS.gov*, please email feedback@llis.dhs.gov or visit www.llis.gov.