



**FEMA RIX & HQ “Thunderbolt”  
EXERCISE  
Southern California Earthquake  
Scenario  
Oakland, CA  
August 13, 2012  
ESF 11 After Action Report (AAR)**



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**INCIDENT SUMMARY**

At 0714 PDT an e-mail message from FEMA’s Automated Alert Notification System was received followed by a telecom message via BlackBerry notifying all FEMA RIX ESFs that the Region IX RRCC was activated to Level 1 and that all ESFs were to report immediately to the RRCC. This “No Notice” EXERCISE was initiated to test the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan by *simulating* a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in southeast Los Angeles, California.

A “hotwash” for the RRCC participants was conducted immediately after the full day exercise with sectional breakout sessions and report outs. The following key issues were identified during the “no notice” EXERCISE. FEMA RIX is preparing a comprehensive AAR.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

**Successful Area:**

- (1) The use of the FEMA Automated Notification System electronically (e-mail) and telecommunication as a back-up were both successfully utilized. This was in response to previous disaster activation issues resulting in the recommendation that both systems be used in the event one system is inoperable.
- (2) The use of a common e-mail address (ROSS.dispatch@aphis.usda.gov) for APHIS dispatch provided uninterrupted response to resource requests (via Resource Request Workbook) and mitigated potential delays in the event a particular person was the sole contact for dispatch.
- (3) The “No Notice” EXERCISE provided all participants a realistic experience in utilizing their respective agency’s emergency procedures for notifications, desk officer checklists, resource deployment, and documentation.
- (4) The new IT support system utilizing the APHIS Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) performed effectively. An air card connection problem was identified early in the exercise, a request for assistance was forwarded to ATAC and local IT support, and the issue was resolved by local IT support within thirty minutes.

**Improvement Area:**

- (1) The use of the O-Plan Execution Checklist was useful in providing immediate anticipated resource requests by the State, but it is recommended that lists be reviewed annually to re-evaluate the feasibility and resource availability.
- (2) An RRCC documentation filing system should be developed with a filing directory posted for all documents required for an event, including documentation distribution processes, meeting and conference call schedules, and telecom directories. All templates should be pre-loaded in the work station of each ESF and FEMA ICS position.