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Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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LESSON LEARNED

Information Sharing: Facilitating Information Sharing with the Private Sector during a Large-Scale Incident

SUMMARY

Local governments should be encouraged to establish a process for sharing information with the private sector following a large-scale incident. The information should encompass the overall status of the municipality, transportation situational reports, public utility status reports, financial services status reports, and the impact on major events within the city. This will help the private sector better determine how to use its resources to support emergency response and recovery operations after an incident.

DESCRIPTION

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III conducted the Region III Hurricane Preparedness Tabletop Exercise (TTX) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from May 3 to 4, 2006. The TTX scenario predicted the effects of a simulated Category 3 hurricane, called Hurricane Omni, making landfall near Virginia Beach and moving through Delaware and Maryland before dissipating over West Virginia. Representatives from 49 federal, state, and local agencies and 15 private and non-profit organizations participated in the exercise. The TTX mainly focused on the implementation of the National Incident Management System and the National Response Plan when responding to a major hurricane and on the development of a coordinated regional approach to recovery. Participating federal, state, and local officials also used the exercise to identify private sector capabilities for supporting emergency response operations during a disaster.

FEMA Region III includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Exercise participants discussed private sector capabilities that may be required to support emergency response and recovery efforts in the event of a major hurricane. Participants noted that emergency response organizations do not have mechanisms to share disaster and logistical information with the private sector. This constrains the private sector's ability to quickly aid emergency response and recovery efforts following a hurricane. For instance, the private sector cannot deliver necessary supplies to affected communities in a timely manner if it does not have critical information on road closures from the local government.

The FEMA Region III Hurricane Preparedness TTX after-action report (AAR) noted that response and recovery operations can be enhanced if the private sector has contacts within the appropriate emergency response operations centers during a disaster. The AAR recommended that local governments should be encouraged to establish a process for sharing information with the private sector. This includes sharing situational reports about the overall status of municipalities and about the impact on public sectors such as transportation, public utilities, and financial services after an incident.

Local governments should be encouraged to establish a process for sharing information with the private sector following a large-scale incident. The information should encompass the overall status of the municipality, transportation situational reports, public utility status reports, financial services status reports, and the impact on major events within the city. This will help the private sector better determine how to use its resources to support emergency response and recovery operations after an incident.

CITATION

Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region III. *Region III Hurricane Preparedness Tabletop Exercise After-Action Report*. 01 Aug 2006.
https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=20876

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