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LESSON LEARNED

Debris Management: Identifying and Acquiring a Pre-Established Site before a Large-Scale Incident

SUMMARY

Local emergency managers should consider pre-identifying and acquiring a sufficient parcel of land that can be used for debris management efforts following a large-scale 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 emergency response organizations also assessed their ability to remove debris from an incident site after a major hurricane.

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

Exercise participants discussed debris removal, including the amount of land necessary for debris management efforts. A US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) representative noted that the USACE requires a minimum 70-acre parcel of land in order to affect debris removal. Without a pre-established debris management site, response efforts may be hampered until emergency managers acquire a suitable parcel of land. The TTX after-action report concluded that jurisdictions should identify and acquire a suitable parcel of land for debris management efforts.

CITATION

Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency 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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