



**Earthquake/Tsunami/Flooding on
American Samoa +
Typhoon Melor on the
Commonwealth of the Northern
Marianas Islands
September 29 – October 3, 2009
After Action Report (AAR)
Emergency Support Function 11**



- **September 29th** – The Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF 11) Coordinator received an activation Mission Assignment (**MA 7220SU-AS-APHIS-01 \$10,000**) from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX for the Earthquake/Tsunami/Flooding in American Samoa. American Samoa experienced a 7.9 earthquake at 1111 PDT. Following the earthquake, a Tsunami impacted American Samoa at 1130 PDT. A FEMA Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) was deployed. ESF 11 contributed to FEMA SitRep and began submitting ESF 11 Daily Reports from Official Duty Station.
- **September 30th** - ESF 11 Coordinator for FEMA Region IX Report to the ESF 11 desk at the RRCC and established communications with APHIS, ESF 11 Partners (FNS, FSIS, DOI) and other USDA Agencies (NRCS, FSA), and FEMA to facilitate coordination of response resources. First ESF 11 Coordination Conference call held. Both NRCC and RRCC at 24/7 activation. A second ESF 11 Mission Assignment was issued for continued support to the FEMA RRCC (**MA 1859DR-AS-APHIS-01 \$10,000**). The ESF 11 Coordinator submitted a Resource Request to APHIS Dispatch for two additional ESF 11 Desk Officers.
- **October 1st** –Typhoon Melor upgraded to a Category 3 typhoon headed toward Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. A second FEMA IMAT was deployed and a third MA was issued to ESF 11 for Typhoon Melor (**MA 7220SU-MP-APHIS-01**). ESF 11 was deactivated on October 3rd due to minimal impacts from Typhoon Melor and no further assistance requests by American Samoa.
- **Successful** –
 - Participation and responsiveness of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) at the Region and Headquarter levels provided requested information of food commodity, process of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and the availability, location, and quantity of food commodities on the mainland for replenishment.
 - Coordination with ESF 6 in the RRCC provided a conduit of “on the ground” information with the American Red Cross personnel deployed on the IMAT to American Samoa.
 - A recommendation to FEMA to modify language to request “USDA” rather than limit the request to “APHIS” was implemented for the second and third MA’s which broadened the resources that USDA could deploy.
- **Improvement Area** –
 - Wireless connection in the RRCC was severely impacted and not reliable throughout our activation. Having the ESF 11 desk work station “pre-loaded” with information (resources, contact information, etc.) and having an air card (provided by APHIS Western Region during activation) significantly improve our response and support.
 - A call from FEMA Region IX to officially activate ESF 11 would have provided us the ability to “stay ahead of the curve” of situational awareness. The FEMA Spot Report/s stated “will be deployed” which created confusion and a delay in our responsiveness. In addition, FEMA Watch Center did not return voice mail calls to confirm activation to the RRCC.