CSTE
Disaster Epidemiology Workshop

May 14th, 2015

What We Learned From The 2013 Disasters in Colorado

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History Made and Lives Changed

• September 9-15, 2013:
  – Torrential rains cause the South Platte, St. Vrain and Big Thompson Rivers to overflow, triggering floods and mudslides over 1/3 of the State of Colorado

• 14 September: The President signed a Major Disaster Declaration

• 10 fatalities

• 18,000 people evacuated

• 1,882 residences destroyed,
  – 16,101 damaged
When NWS Says’s Biblical

AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DENVER/BOULDER CO
941 AM MDT THU SEP 12 2013

.UPDATE...MAJOR FLOODING/FLASH FLOODING EVENT UNDERWAY AT THIS TIME WITH BIBLICAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS REPORTED IN MANY AREAS IN/NEAR THE FOOTHILLS. PRECIPITABLE WATER VALUES IN EXCESS OF AN INCH AND A QUARTER ON GPS SENSORS CERTAINLY SUPPORT LOTS MORE RAIN TODAY AND TONIGHT. 13Z HRRR RUN HAS ANOTHER 1-3 INCHES OF RAIN PREDICTED IN THE FOOTHILLS THROUGH 04Z SO THINGS ARE NOT LOOKING GOOD. WILL EXTEND THE AREA OF THE FLASH FLOOD WATCH TO INCLUDE ZONE 43 AND ALSO EXTEND IT IN TIME THROUGH 12Z TOMORROW MORNING.
Incident Map Overview
Questions for Comprehensive Emergency Management Programs

• How does your entire organization function during a disaster?
• You have many capabilities. How do they work together?
• Your EM Program must be able to synchronize and effectively apply all your capabilities in a disaster;
• Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) – Relationships build a MAC group, which is the strength of a disaster system;
• It takes a team!
Pre Disaster Planning Assumptions

• Local Emergency Management is Building Capacity to Support Response for Any Disaster
• Emergency Operation Centers Have Capacity to Support Extended Response
• Emergency Managers and Elected/Policy Leadership Place Importance on Program Responsibility
• Local Government is Willing and Able to Support Next Levels of State and Federal Collaboration
Field Services Regional Managers work to clear the way for multi layer integration in local community with SCO and OEM for arrival of FEMA Partners.

FEMA is one organization which supports 50 states that all have a different way of doing things;

It will take some time for FEMA to understand how your jurisdiction works:

- Take time to explain how you want them to work with your organization;
- Pay attention to transitions of personnel.

The State will help set their rules of engagement;

They are part of our team.
Response – Resource Mobilization

- Effective resource management will save lives and save you money;
- Do you have a resource management plan?
- Can you find resources quickly in a disaster?
- How do you order, track and account for resources?
- How are you going to pay for them?
Key Task
Damage Assessment

• In a large event it is important to quickly get an initial estimate of damage;

• Have a field team to observe – tie it back to GIS capability – combine with your Assessor’s data – determine an approximate value;

• This can be key in getting you included in a Presidential declaration;

• Follow up with a detailed assessment with the State and FEMA.
Key Task - Sheltering

- Sheltering is a local jurisdiction responsibility
  - The Red Cross and other agencies can and will come in and assist as and when they are able;
  - Must consider animals too.
- Do you have a sheltering plan?
- What resources will it require?
- Develop surge teams, be flexible.
- Consolidating shelters after initial surge.
- Have you exercised it?
Conclusion — It’s a lot of work

• How are you going to get it done?

• Colorado brought on many new personnel to assist;
  – Recovery Liaisons
  – Voluntary Agency Liaisons
  – Mitigation Specialists
  – Disaster Case Management personnel

• Utilize EMAC – it’s like having insurance;

• Colorado brought in many personnel from unaffected jurisdictions;

• You have to learn the processes as you go along so get out 44 C.F.R., the Stafford Act and its updates, 9500 guidance, and the policy guides and handbooks.
Contact Information

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