



Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator's Corner

By: Ken Rathje, Region III FDRC, kenneth.rathje@fema.dhs.gov

Wow, this year is flying by as we enter our third quarter of Fiscal Year 2014. I continue to be encouraged by the commitment and partnership within our Region III States and our regionally located RSF Coordinating Federal Agencies. The states have joined us in having a real "open book" approach as they prepare their pre-disaster recovery plans and we in Region III begin our All-Hazards Disaster Recovery Planning process. They, and our RSF partners, have joined us for a monthly call to discuss pre-disaster recovery issues and to discuss the use of the NDRF in non-Stafford Act disasters.

I have also been fortunate to be able to assist with disaster recovery in Alaska for the month of March. I have seen first-hand the devastation that a flooded Yukon River can produce. But the lessons learned here, and elsewhere, have been used to design an Alaska based exercise, Alaska Shield, that many participated in over the past few weeks. During the exercise, we dug deep into the long-term recovery priorities to focus on Federal support to the private and public sectors, while we thought through the actions required to restore services, continue government operations, promote economic recovery, and support comprehensive recovery.

As we enter this second half of this year, on behalf of Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney and all of FEMA Region III, I encourage everyone to stay the course in planning and coordinating as much as possible prior to this next hurricane season. I pray it will be an uneventful one, but let's be prepared for any event!



FDRC Rathje met with Alaska Recovery leaders on-site in Galena, AK.

Did you know...Green Recovery!

In honor of Earth Day, FEMA is highlighting Green Preparedness and Green Recovery during the month of April. Green Recovery is the process of rebuilding a community following a disaster by using a model of sustainability. This means reducing energy, using energy more efficiently, incorporating more renewable energy, and much more. The articles below were produced by the Department of Energy which highlights successful Green Recovery initiatives following a disaster and how communities can follow their lead.

Rebuilding After Disaster: Going Green from the Ground Up: This how-to guide describes ways to turn a disaster into an opportunity to rebuild with greener energy technologies.

Link: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/corporate/45136.pdf>

From Tragedy to Triumph - Rebuilding Green Buildings after Disaster: Fact sheet offering practical information about building energy efficient buildings and using renewable energy.

Link: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/publications/pdfs/corporate/45139.pdf>

A Tale of Two Cities: Greensburg Resurrected as a National Model for Green Communities: This fact sheet provides a summary of how National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) technical assistance in Greensburg, Kansas, helped the town rebuild green after recovering from a tornado in May 2007.

Link: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/53177.pdf>



FORWARD RECOVERY

A View Inside State Recovery Preparedness Planning

By: Devon Heberlig,

RPPG-S Work Group Member and PA Health & Social Services RSF Coordinator

Themes highlighted in the RPPG-S include:

- Recovery Planning Approach
- Decision Making / Leadership
- Establishing Relationships
- Roles and Responsibilities of Recovery Stakeholders
- Funding
- Federal Resources
- Case Studies / Examples
- Training

Region III Participants in the RPPG-S Pilot Course include:

- Devon Heberlig, PA
- Jeff Allen, PA
- Larry Belmont, PA
- George Roarty, VA
- Hope Winship, DC
- Jordan Nelms, MD
- Michelle Harel, FEMA

Please feel free to contact any of them to provide your input.

In December 2013, FEMA initiated a workgroup to develop guidance that could assist States, Tribes and Territories to address disaster recovery before a disaster strikes, The Recovery Pre-Disaster Planning Guide for States, Tribes and Territories (RPPG-S). This workgroup consists of partners who embody different arenas in disaster recovery operations to include Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. Members represent numerous states from all across the country delivering their knowledge and expertise and to identify best practices in recovery environments based upon their experience. Teleconferences are held to discuss operations and pre-planning for best practices and most of all to identify parting organizations and agencies at the Federal, State, and Local levels. This collaboration allows for the transportation (exchange) of ideas from different disaster types and helps identify the specific nuances on what can be done to speed up and assist with recovery operations.

This guidance document will aid states in implementing the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). Specifically, the guide will include pre- and post-disaster planning, coordinating, and address funding. It will also address stakeholder involvement and inclusive whole community planning.

Another area to be addressed is how to integrate state mitigation plans into long-term recovery. This establishes relationships between pre-disaster and post-disaster and incorporates a list of Federal programs that would be helpful. Of course, states will have to develop their own state-specific lists as well as identify local recourses available to assist. The discussion of creating a state network of disaster recovery coordinators involved with disasters to share information became a solid topic and is now being shared as monthly/bi-monthly webinars about specific programs that could be a major player in long-term recovery.

As the RPPG-S workgroup develops the actual document, EMI will develop a pilot course around it. The pilot course, which will take place April 14-17, 2014, will include state representatives as participants. The pilot course will provide a forum for peer-to-peer learning, as well as a forum that allows pilot course participants to provide feedback relevant to both the RPPG-S and a final version of the associated course. This exchange of information will serve to educate pilot course participants about preparing for recovery and provide FEMA and EMI opportunities to refine the RPPG-S and a final version of the course based on participant feedback. Participant feedback will ultimately help ensure that the RPPG-S and the course cover essential steps or activities that states, tribes and territories need to undertake in order to prepare for recovery ahead of a disaster strike. FEMA may also invite SMEs with relevant knowledge, resources, and authorities to supplement the peer-to-peer learning aspect of the course.

The America's PrepareAthon! National Day of Action is April 30th! America's PrepareAthon! is a nationwide, community-based campaign for action to increase emergency preparedness and resilience. Each spring and fall, America's PrepareAthon! will provide a national focus for individuals, organizations and communities to participate through drills, group discussions and exercises to practice for local hazards. This spring, we are focusing on preparing for and taking action against hurricanes, tornados, flooding, and wildfires.

To support this effort please visit <http://www.ready.gov/prepare> to gain access to a variety of documents to help you and your community prepare. You will be able to download Day of Action Guides specific to hazards and sectors of the community. You will also be able to register your actions and be part of the national campaign.





FORWARD RECOVERY



Recovery Support Function Federal Agency Spotlight Federal Emergency Management Agency

by: Michelle Harel, Regional CPCB Coordinator

Michelle has worked as a planner in emergency management for over six years. She was first deployed to Hurricane Irene/Tropical Storm Lee as a Mitigation Planning Specialist with the National Flood Insurance Program, and later as a Community Recovery Planner with the NDRF. Michelle has also been deployed to the State of Maryland, post-Sandy, and recently supported the CPCB mission providing assistance for the Colorado mudslides of September 2013.

Which Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) does FEMA support?

FEMA is the Coordinating agency for the Community Planning & Capacity Building RSF. FEMA is also a Primary agency for the Community Planning & Capacity Building, Economic, Health & Social Services, Housing, Infrastructure, and Natural & Cultural Resources RSFs.

What geographical area is your office responsible for?

The Philadelphia Region III office is responsible for the States of Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia, the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

What programs does your agency provide?

FEMA provides a number of programs, including the non-disaster Emergency Management Preparedness Grants (EMPG) Program, Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants, and Disaster Assistance in the form of Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA). FEMA also maintains the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System (CRS) Program.

How can we find out more about the organization?

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Michelle Harel at michelle.harel@fema.dhs.gov or by visiting www.fema.gov.

Washington DC Formalizes Flood Risk Management Team called Silver Jackets

by: Jon Janowicz, FEMA Region III Mitigation

In July 2006, flooding impacted the Federal Triangle area of Washington DC. Many agencies have been working collaboratively on recovery and mitigation since then. Over time the focus of the collaboration has shifted to long-term flood risk management. A big step forward is being taken in March 2014 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creating a Silver Jackets Team for Flood Risk Management. Silver Jackets is a US Army Corps of Engineers sponsored effort that aims to increase collaboration between agencies focused on flooding. Priorities for Silver Jackets are established by the Washington DC government and supported by federal and regional agencies.

On March 25 agencies convened at US Army Corps Headquarters in Washington DC to officially launch Silver Jackets for the District of Columbia. Agencies signing on to help include: FEMA, National Park Service, NOAA, USGS, District Department of Environment, DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management, DC Office of Planning and DC Water. The mission statement within the MOU speaks to the need for continuous collaboration to accomplish flood mitigation, increase flood risk communication, leverage available resources and more.

An example priority for the group since 2007 is the improvement of the Potomac Park Levee System. This is a levee along Constitution Avenue from the Lincoln Memorial to

the Washington Monument. The levee has an opening at 17th Street and Constitution Ave. that is manually closed during floods by placing Jersey barriers and other material across the road. A project is nearly complete to construct a more permanent improvement with metal posts and panels. These can be rapidly installed and provide a more secure closure.

This priority is a great example of the collaboration of many agencies. The National Park Service owns and maintains the levee. The Army Corps designed and constructed the improvements. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program mapped increased flood hazard spilling over Constitution Avenue and through a large portion of DC. Federal agencies like EPA, GSA, Smithsonian and others have buildings in this area. DC agencies including DDOE and the Office of Planning support and enforce the development decisions based on their Flood Insurance Rate Map. With so many agencies impacted, regular coordination is a necessity.

There are lots of other priorities to be worked on in the coming years including more construction projects, more community outreach, flood emergency exercises and preparedness, and implementation of priority actions within Washington DC's Mitigation Plan. The slogan for Silver Jackets is "Many Agencies One Solution". The team will continue working on goals consistent with the slogan and will also be well positioned to help DC respond and recover from the next flood.



SILVER JACKETS

Many Agencies One Solution



American Red Cross Focuses on Recovery

by: Anne Palmer, ARC Division Disaster State Relations Director

The American Red Cross has laid out a new framework that sets our strategic direction for building, sustaining, and delivering a recovery program to facilitate individual, family and community recovery and make our communities more resilient. The foundation of the Red Cross recovery program resides in our strong local presence and understanding of the needs and resources of our communities. Throughout the development of the recovery program, we consulted with our partners to ensure the program meets gaps in state and federal assistance. Government partners specifically asked that we provide assistance when declarations are unavailable and to those who are ineligible for government assistance.

The goals of the Red Cross recovery program are:

- To assist clients in bridging the gap between what they can accomplish on their own and what is necessary to allow them to move through the recovery process
- To assist and support community leaders, government and relief agencies to organize and execute an effective recovery strategy
- To provide value to our partner agencies and be supportive of their efforts on behalf of disaster affected families
- To ensure that our assistance aligns with and complements governmental disaster relief programs
- To publicly reinforce our organizational commitment to be active throughout the disaster cycle

The vision for recovery is to provide a standard, predictable and scalable set of services that align with available resources to bridge the gaps between client resources and serious human needs and that result in a similar set of assistance for similarly situated clients. To achieve this vision, the Red Cross has determined the recovery services that we will always provide and the services that will be provided when resources allow.

Red Cross recovery programs will always include:

- Community Recovery Strategy Development: Provide leadership, technical assistance, preparedness and resiliency information to the overall recovery efforts in impacted communities.
- Casework and Recovery Planning: Assistance to families and individuals in developing recovery plans, accessing the full range of community and government resources, advocacy and problem solving.
- Direct Client Assistance: Provision of gap resources when such expenditures will allow for the completion of individual or family recovery. In the case of a declaration for Individual Assistance, Direct Client Assistance will target those ineligible for government assistance.

Red Cross recovery programs will include the following, in order of priority, when resources allow:

- Expanded Direct Client Assistance: Expanded provision of gap resources when such expenditures will allow for the completion of family or individual recovery. For example: pet support, mold remediation or transportation assistance.
- Partner and Interagency Support: Provision of technologies such as interagency case management systems, material support, grants and negotiated expenses to facilitate the work of the community partners.
- Community Preparedness and Resilience-Building: We will build community resiliency through disaster preparedness programs and capacity building efforts for tomorrow's disasters.

Recognizing that government has the primary role of planning and managing all aspects of the community's recovery, the Red Cross can serve as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of effective recovery programs as a neutral, humanitarian, mission-focused organization. For more information, contact Anne Palmer at Anne.Palmer@redcross.org.



FDRC Rathje had the privilege of presenting Region III's accomplishments to the RSF Leadership Group (RSFLG) at their February meeting.

Check us out online:
<http://www.fema.gov/fema-region-iii-recovery-division/national-disaster-recovery-framework>

Have a suggestion for a future issue?
 Know someone who should receive this newsletter?
 Looking for a webinar, speaker, or materials?

Email us at:
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