



NCR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL (EPC)

November 8, 2017
2:00 PM to 4:30 PM
COG Board Room – 3rd Floor

MEETING NOTES

ACTION ITEMS

- EPC members will identify avenues to improve participation of elected officials to support increased with communication with the public, creative ways to assist with pushing out messaging, and the promotion of preparedness programs.
- EPC members will determine how best to launch regional First Care Training.
- EPC members will explore ways to standardize portions of regional public messaging.
- COG staff will implement suggested changes to the EPC Workplan and re-send a draft to the group for review and input with a two-week turn-around for response.
 - The EPC will work with RESF-15 for guidance on revising EPC Workplan Focus Area 2.
 - COG staff will request to review the District of Columbia 100 Resilient Cities resources for initiatives the group can support or build on.
 - EPC members will work on improving attendance and participation from the targeted audiences such as elected officials, the business community, and public private sectors.
- EPC members will work on improving attendance and participation from the targeted audiences, such as elected officials and private sector representatives.
- The council will discuss the 2011 document, NCR Key Response Planning Factors for the Aftermath of Nuclear Terrorism to determine which portions are still applicable and useful.

MEETING DISCUSSION

OPENING REMARKS

- On behalf of Stuart Freudberg, the EPC, and COG, Ms. Garrard congratulated Mr. David Snyder for his re-election to the City Council of Falls Church, Virginia on November 9, 2017.
- Chair Snyder opened the floor to self-introductions and status on pertinent projects.
 - *Paul Carden, National Capital Region (NCR) American Red Cross*, noted that RESF-6/11 (Mass Care, Housing, Human Services, and Food Safety) are currently focusing on shelter and feeding outreach initiatives and will continue to do so in the coming year.
 - *Dustin Williams, representing Brett Armstrong, US General Services Administrative*, is currently serving as co-lead for RESF-7 (Logistics). Response operations were active in Puerto Rico, Florida, Georgia, and Texas supporting emergency leasing and requisitions.
 - *Natalie Jones-Best, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)*, noted that RESF-1 (Transportation) is kicking-off Phase II of the emergency annex transportation evacuation plan, will work through the RESF standardized structure throughout development, and will plan to present to the EPC once complete.
 - *Chief John Donnelly, DC FEMS*, noted that the Securing The Cities (STC) initiative has distributed approximately \$10M in equipment and plans to conduct a table-top exercise at the beginning of December 2017. The exercise will focus on validating the concept of operations. There are approximately two-years remaining for the program.
 - *Chief Richard Bowers, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue*, noted that the Fire Chiefs are very engaged in regional projects, such as establishing the governance for complex coordinated attack, and are committed to regional interoperability. As an example, there is now a full-time Rail Operations

Control Center Liaison (fire personnel) stationed 24/7 at the Metro Operations Center assigned to assist in life-saving situations by sending accurate and pertinent communications to the correct parties. This initiative is a partnership between COG, WMATA, the Fire Chiefs, and several NCR jurisdictions.

- *Rob Bodmer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority*, reported the completion of the fourth quarterly exercise held November 5, 2017 where over 95 first responders participated, including police and fire. The scenario was a simulated fire and derailment where 71 people had to be evacuated from the train.
- *Mary Ann Floto, NCR United Way*, reported there is an initiative underway for entering into an MOU with Montgomery County for volunteers and monetary donations.
- *Tony Rose, Charles County Emergency Services*, noted that Fairfax County has issued a contract award for the development of ESINet. Arlington County and other COG jurisdictions have signed the participation agreement to move forward with implementation of the project.
- *Kim Kadesch, Office of National Capital Region Coordination*, was deployed to Georgia to work on Hurricane Irma response. A wealth of information was learned about FEMA's program with gained knowledge related to both public and individual emergency assistance.
- *Patrice White, NCR Regional Planning Coordinator*, mentioned an NCR Regional Planners meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2017 to bring together stakeholders to synchronize plans, training, and exercises for 2018.
- **Action item:** EPC members will identify avenues to improve participation of elected officials to support increased with communication with the public, creative ways to assist with pushing out messaging, and the promotion of preparedness programs.

FIRST CARE PROVIDER TRAINING

Geoff Shapiro, Director, EMS & Operational Medicine Training at George Washington University

- The Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) Community program is preparedness program that trains community members to recognize and respond to a threat such as direct threat care, indicated threat care, report and interacting with public safety officials, and teaching the public how and when to interact with first responders.
- Communities tend to prepare for what happened the last time when we need to be prepared for the *next* time.
- George Washington (GW) School of Medicine was awarded a \$1.3 million Continuing Training Grant (CTG) from FEMA to provide Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC). The over-arching goal of GW's training is to better prepare citizens and responders to provide care during events where there may be a delay in response due to operational challenges and barriers, and teach responders to work in environments that they have not traditionally worked in the past.
- First Care Provider training focuses
 - Lesson 1: Recognizing and Responding: includes how to distinguish attacks, fear versus response.
 - Lesson 2: Direct Threat Care: includes emergency evacuation.
 - Lesson 3: Indirect Care: includes warm zone care and what people can do without formal training.
 - Lesson 4: Report and Interacting with Public Safety Officials: includes how to interact with first responders, messaging, and what should be provided/not provided.
 - GW has been approved by FEMA to leave materials for jurisdictions to continue to develop their own train-the-trainer options.
- Local example: Arlington County hosted a TECC course paired with FEMA on Be the Help Until Help Arrives. The resulting course:
 - Was multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary
 - Focused on "doing the right thing"
 - Changed bystanders into force multipliers
 - Built community resiliency
- Civilian initiatives based on military combat data focus too much on external bleeding control without considering other preventable lethal injuries Limited in scope, because the need goes further than stopping

blood loss.

- It would be helpful to get more elected officials involved in the process.
 - EPC members want to find ways to connect with elected officials to push out these messages.
 - EPC is the nexus that can be used effectively to promote these types of programs.
- How long does training take to be effective? Answer: as much time as providers can dedicate. Examples of past training times are:
 - Arlington Co module: ½ day
 - Stop the Bleed: 2 hours
 - FEMA course: 4 hours
 - We can do more with less resources and time, like including training during lunchtime hours for businesses.
- **Action item:** EPC members will continue to pursue and determine how best to launch regional First Care Training.

UNIFIED REGIONAL MESSAGING

Lorrie Andrew-Spear, RESF 15 representative (External Affairs Committee) & Regional Public Health Committee

- The NCR Health Public Information Officers (PIO), COG Health Officials, and RESF-15 held a Risk Communications Workshop in July 2017 that focused on regional coordination of messaging with during an exercise scenario.
 - The objective of the workshop was to better understand the roles and responsibilities of the different PIOs, health officials, emergency responders, and others involved in emergency response.
- Some materials covered and lessons learned included outlining and defining trigger points for notifications with timelines during significant health events that have the potential to affect more than one jurisdiction.
- The Health Officials Committee is in the process of developing a regional public health significant event notification framework that will be used for coordinating communications.
- There is no one unified message campaign in the region; messaging is based on jurisdiction(s). It is too difficult to obtain mass approval for integrated messaging during an emergency.
- An NCR Crisis Communication Guide was developed by RESF-15 in 2015 but was never approved. The Guide is in line with the joint information system framework of the incident command structure.
- There is a need to capture, update, and maintain PIO contact information throughout the region.
- **Action item:** EPC members will explore ways to standardize portions of regional public messaging.

EPC WORK PLAN

Christina Garrard, Chief of Homeland Security and Policy, MWCOC, DHSPS

- The EPC seeks to engage the whole community.
- The mission statement in the draft differentiates the EPC from the Homeland Security Executive Committee (HSEC), whose primary focus is incident response.
- For messaging purposes, should the NCR Crisis Communication guide be revisited and updated? How will the maintenance of contacts be monitored? Who will take the responsibility to coordinate this effort?
- There is a need to define the group objectives.
- Improve training of elected officials to better understand roles and the importance of participation.
- The District of Columbia is a part of the 100 Resilient Cities program pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. There is an opportunity to review D.C. practices for ideas to build-on from a regional perspective.
- Loudoun County has expressed interest in getting the business community more involved in preparedness issues. The Board of Trade has shown interest in the past, but has since undergone some changes. The EPC can build on these connections.

- **Action item:** COG staff will implement suggested changes to the EPC Workplan and re-send a draft to the group for review and input with a two-week turn-around for response.
 - The EPC will work with RESF-15 for guidance on revising EPC Workplan Focus Area 2.
 - COG staff will request to review the District of Columbia 100 Resilient Cities resources for initiatives the group can support or build on.
 - EPC members will work on improving attendance and participation from the targeted audiences such as elected officials, the business community, and public private sectors.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Snyder opened the group discussion by asking when is the right time to discuss sensitive citizen preparedness issues, such as nuclear threats.

- The group discussed what threats are high risk, when to message on the threat, and how to message on the threat.
- Information on nuclear threats can be combined with protective measures the public can take, such as sheltering in-place.
- **Action item:** The council will discuss the 2011 document, *NCR Key Response Planning Factors for the Aftermath of Nuclear Terrorism* to determine which portions are still applicable and useful.

Chair Snyder acknowledged the meeting notes of September 13, 2017, and stated that the EPC will no longer vote to approve minutes. However, the notes will remain as part of meeting material distribution and available for review.

UPCOMING MEETING:

- The next EPC meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2018.