

Food Supply Chain Resilience

Presentation to MWCOG Freight Subcommittee January 10, 2019

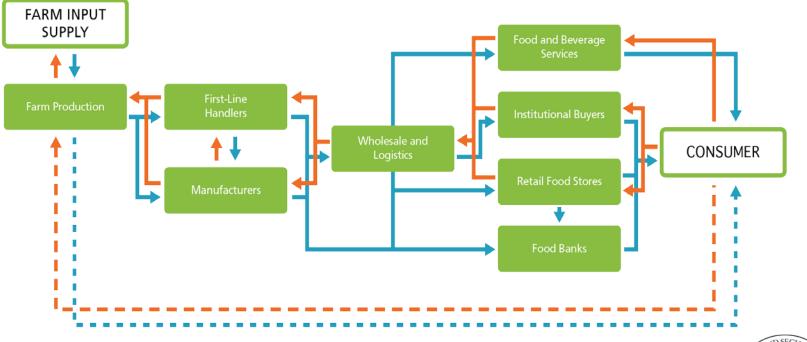


Why we did this study

- Characterize the food supply chain serving the District of Columbia
- Understand what would affect the resilience of the supply chain
- Use that information to improve operational planning and decision-making



Food supply chain





Scope and methodology

- Focused on conventional retail outlets (supermarkets and grocery stores)
- Described supply chain components:
 - Supply nodes where food is staged for distribution
 - Demand nodes where consumers buy their food
 - Demand-supply links how food gets from supply node to demand node
- Identified potential impacts on the supply chain from a catastrophic event (hurricane), including infrastructure dependencies

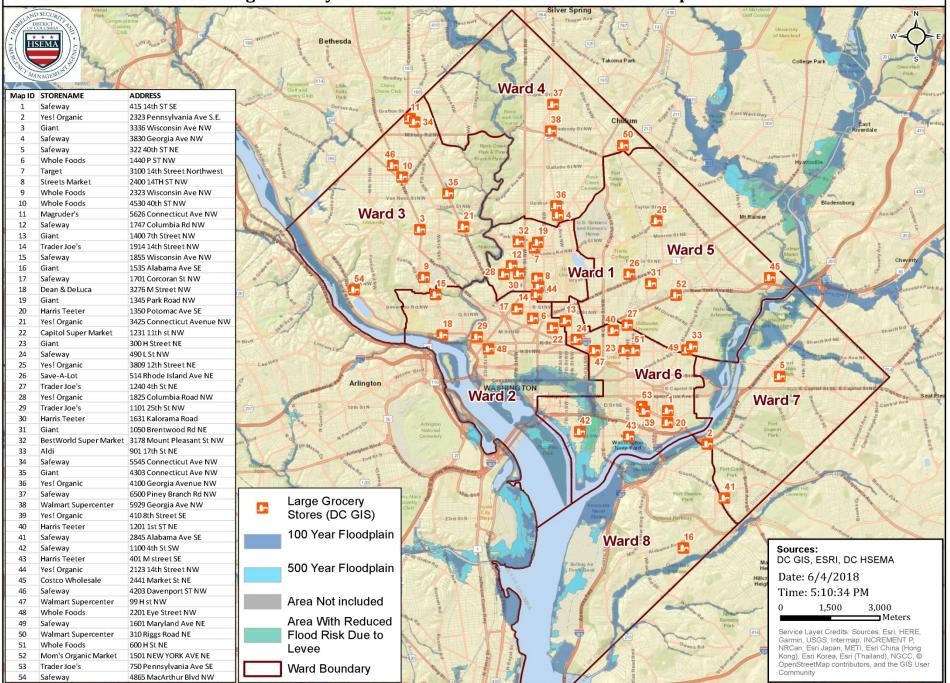


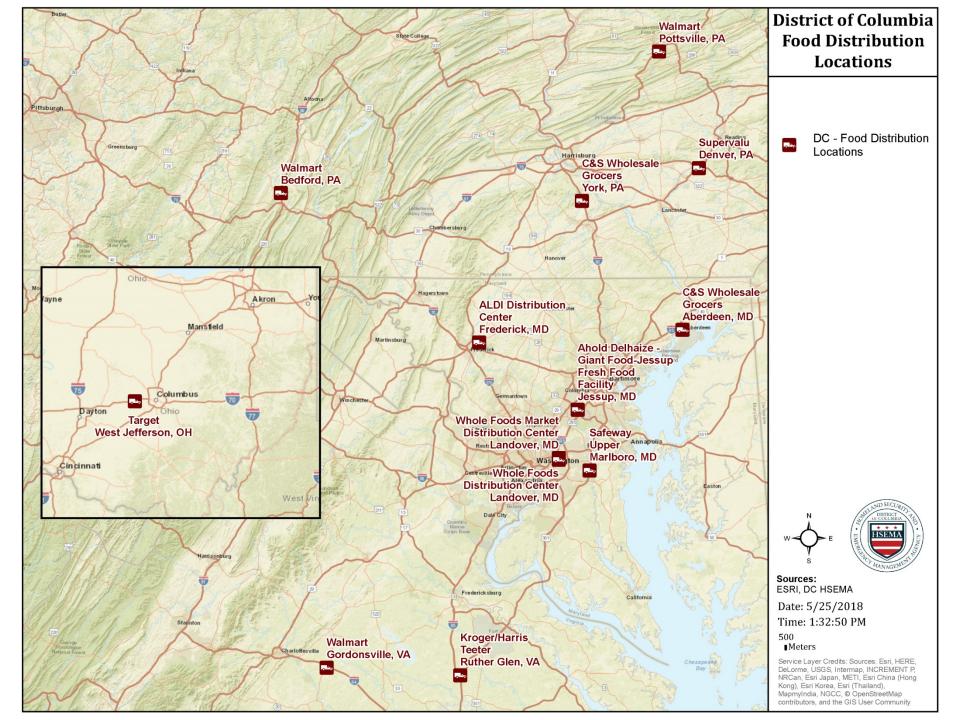
Some findings

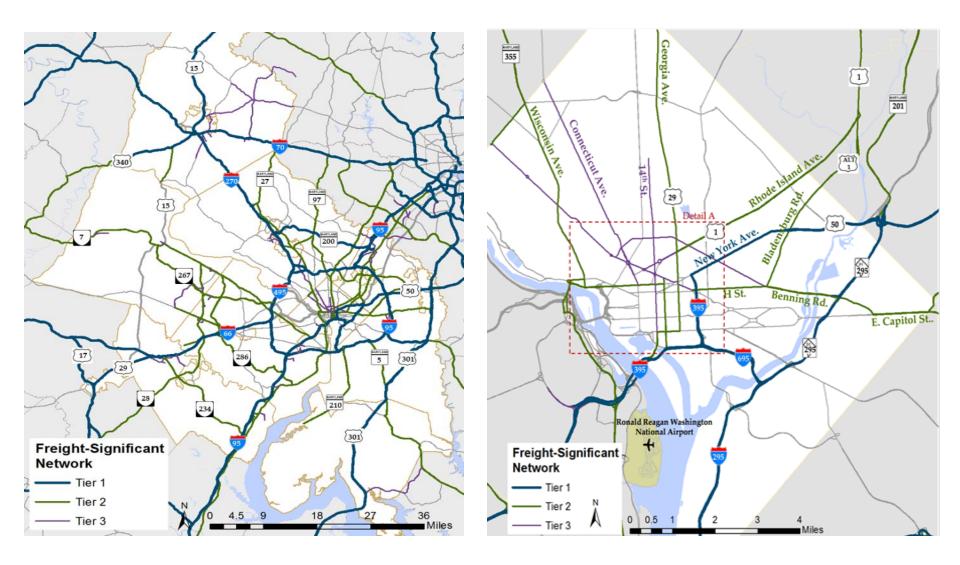
- There are 54 large grocery stores in the District, representing 17 companies, but the stores are not equitably distributed
- There are at least 12 major grocery distribution centers supplying District grocery stores; all are located outside the city, with concentration in eastern Maryland
- The District's largest wholesale grocery distributor also serves several other Mid-Atlantic and northeast U.S. urban areas
- Virtually all food arrives in the District by truck
- There are multiple freight corridors into the District
- While grocery stores are the primary source of food, many residents rely on smaller retail outlets and non-retail options

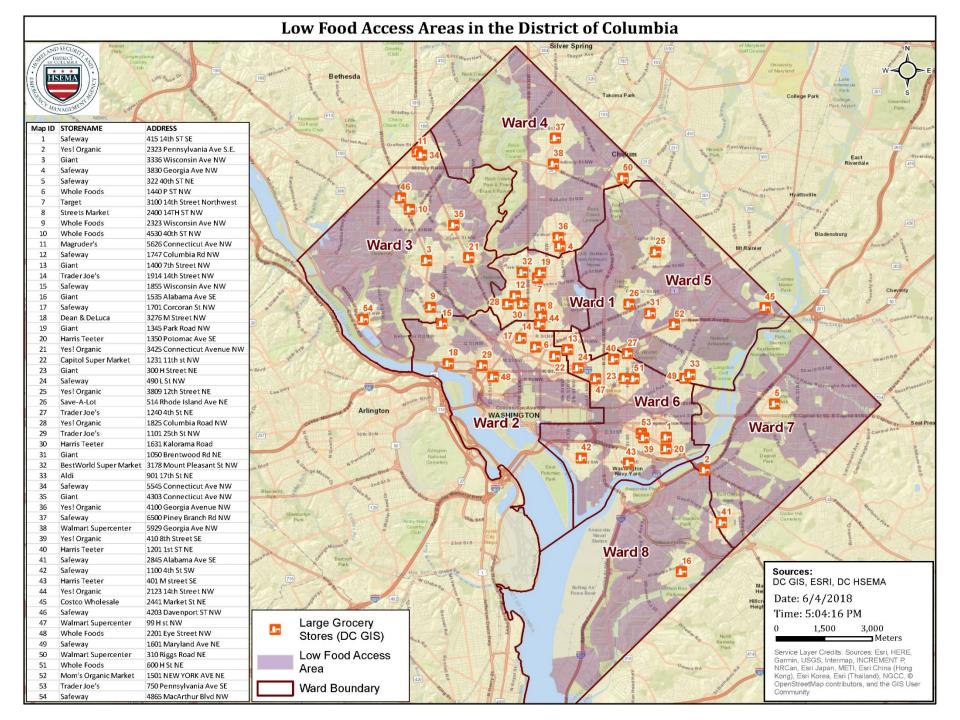


Large Grocery Stores and the District of Columbia Floodplains



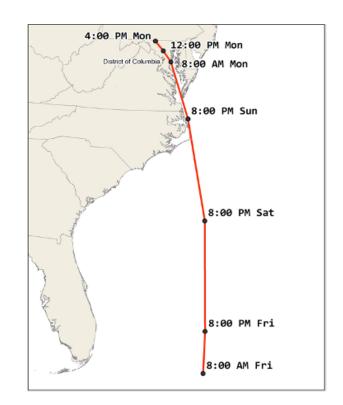






Disaster scenario

- A Category 3 hurricane makes landfall south of Ocean City, MD and moves inland toward the District, with top wind speeds of 115-125 mph. By the time the hurricane reaches the District, winds hover between 96-101mph, reducing the hurricane to a Category 2.
- Impacts: wide-scale power outages; blocked roads and highways due to flooding and debris; displaced residents and businesses; related infrastructure damage.





Some conclusions about resilience

- Most retail outlets and distribution centers are outside highhazard areas, but could be isolated by transportation disruptions
- Many areas in the District considered "food insecure" may be more vulnerable to coastal storms
- Greatest impacts to the food supply chain: long-term power outage, limited fuel availability
- Geography and urban concentration in Mid-Atlantic and Northeast corridor would likely lessen the impact of a localized disaster in the District
- The District's grocery supply chain appears to be pretty resilient – but a regional-scale disaster could change that dynamic



Some freight-related questions

- Are our assumptions about the availability of multiple freight corridors correct?
- Have any NCR freight corridors been prioritized for restoration following a disruption?
- What mechanisms are in place to ensure coordination among NCR jurisdictions for maintenance and restoration of freight corridors?
- To what extent is last-mile delivery affected by traffic congestion in the District?
- How much of a concern is fuel availability during a disaster?



How we will use the results

- Identify and implement changes to District operational plans and procedures
- Identify and pursue actions to strengthen private sector engagement
- Develop regional collaboration arrangements
- Support related policy and planning initiatives



Next steps

- Continue study of the grocery supply chain:
 - Engage with supply chain stakeholders to validate information and assess their emergency preparedness posture
 - Identify supply nodes, demand nodes, and supply demand links for other sources of food for District residents
 - Assess risk from other hazard scenarios
 - Develop recommendations for improving resilience
- Use the methodology to analyze supply chains for fuel and healthcare supply chains serving the District
- Convene a Supply Chain Summit in November 2019



Contact

Mark Scott

Critical Infrastructure Specialist

HSEMA/NTIC

mark.scott@dc.gov

202-369-7132

