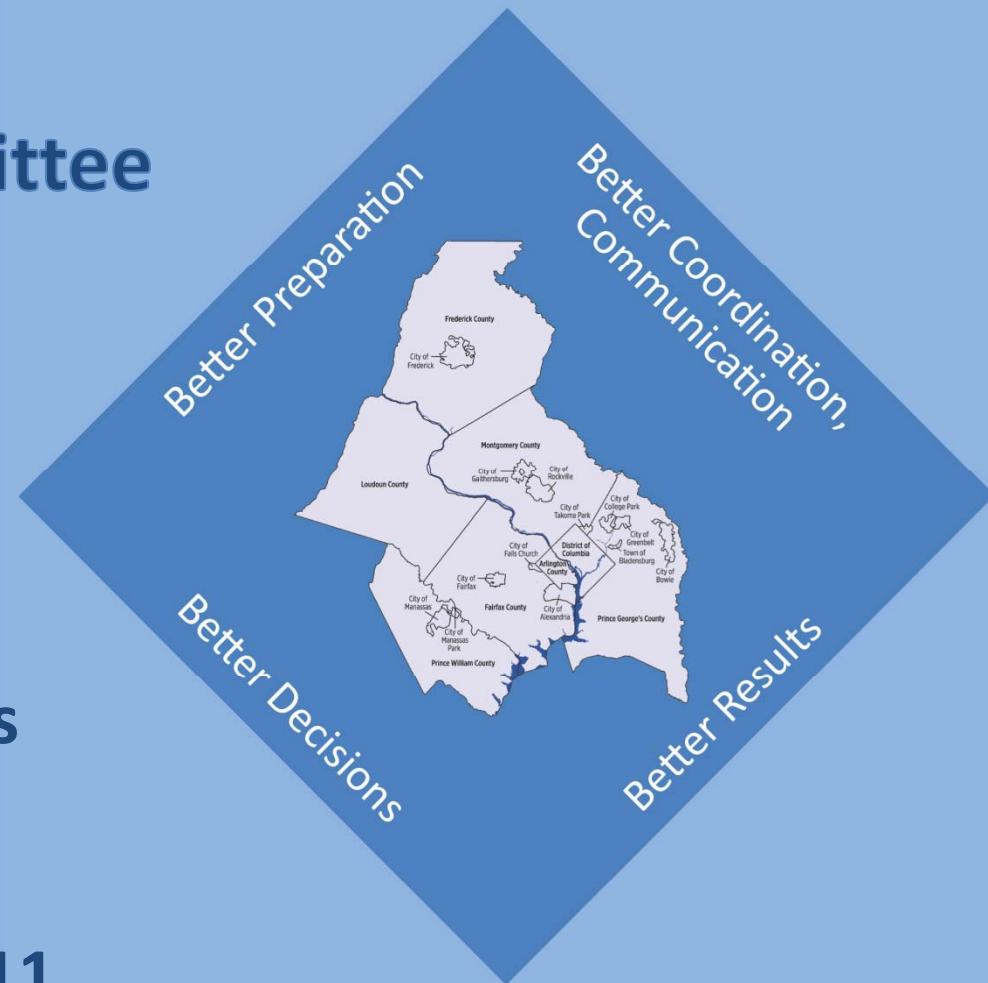


Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response

Chair:
Hon. Phil Andrews

Presented to TPB:
November 16, 2011



January 26, 2011 Snow/Ice Storm Summary

- Rain washed away road treatments
- Employees were either unaware about early release or didn't leave in large numbers until storm began
- Regional coordination was lacking among officials
- Public lacked real-time information
- Extensive gridlock resulted from treacherous road conditions, compressed rush hour, widespread traffic signal outages, and abandoned/disabled vehicles

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response



To identify improvements for future major incidents, the COG Board approved in March 2011:

- Major Regional Incident Response Action Plan
- Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response (IMR)

19 members representing CAOs, OPM, emergency managers, transportation, attorneys, public information officers, utilities, Board of Trade, and Red Cross

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response



The Committee reviewed four focus areas identified in Action Plan:

- Real-time information or situational awareness among local, state, and federal government agencies with operational authority or responsibilities
- Real-time information to the media and the public
- Regional coordination
 - MATOC, snow calls, employee releases, disabled vehicles, electric power
- Decision-making

What's done elsewhere (e.g. New York's TRANSCOM)

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response



To ensure officials understand the regional situation and can coordinate decisions, the Committee proposes a Regional Incident Coordination (RIC) Program:

- Highly trained staff to monitor region with existing tools, analyze and share information with officials, initiate regional conference calls
- Located at the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) 24/7 Emergency Operations Center, through U.S. Department of Homeland Security funding available to the region
- Oversight group to measure progress of RIC Program

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response



IMR Recommendations (continued):

- (To employers) Revise their release policies like OPM has done, take transportation conditions into account, establish/expand telework and alternative work schedules
- (To PIOs) Use new Virtual Joint Information Center, (V-JIC) established by Fairfax County, to communicate information to area residents
- (To transportation officials) Make the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination (MATOC) Program 24/7 and continue efforts to make its real-time information available to public

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response



IMR Recommendations (continued):

- (To emergency managers) Conduct exercises to test evacuation coordination and communication plans.
- (To all jurisdictions in NCR) Assess and install backup power to major traffic signals to maintain road capacity and help prevent gridlock during widespread power outages



How Would Coordination Work Based on IMR Committee Recommendations?



Photo from TBD.com

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response



Conclusion

- Region needs the functions that a RIC Program will provide beginning this winter
- Better preparation, employee release coordination, communication with public, backup power for traffic signals, critical facilities needed
- Report and recommendations unanimously approved by Committee on October 26, 2011, and accepted by COG Board of Directors on November 9
 - Requested progress report in 6 months
- RIC Program launch, V-JIC launch, new OPM release policies imminent
- Committee to remain “on call” and transform into RIC Oversight Committee

Report of the Steering Committee on Incident Management and Response

