

***EMAP Briefing to  
NCR Emergency  
Preparedness Council***

**Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Government  
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**Tony Griffin, Chair  
Chief Administrative Officers Committee**



# First Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) Regional Assessment

- The NCR approached EMAP, as part of the NCR strategic planning process; and commissioned the EMAP Study.
- NCR first assessment in nation using EMAP standards within a region – local capabilities as well as region-level coordination & initiatives.
- EMAP plays a major role in the strategic regional planning process to identify gaps which may prevent us from successfully responding to and recovering from natural and human caused disasters.
- EMAP uses 58 national standards and outside independent assessors to conduct the assessment.
- Only 9 jurisdictions nationwide are fully EMAP compliant (8 states and 1 county in Florida) (DC Government is accredited.)

# Purpose of Assessment:

## Comparison To National Standards

- EMAP Program Assessment-region wide approach – not just emergency management agency or one jurisdiction.
- EMAP provides objective standards for emergency management programs and operations.
- The EMAP planning process encourages collaboration of regional programs and validates professional capabilities.
- EMAP highlights effective use of public resources and provides for the justification for these resources.
- The CAOs and SPG wanted an independent, comprehensive assessment of the NCR's preparedness using nationally recognized emergency management standards.
- The NCR assessment was conducted over the period of one year, starting with local jurisdictions and then moving to the NCR.

# NCR Not An Operational Entity

- Some of the identified gaps are not really deficiencies...
- Most emergency responses begin at the local level. State and federal resources are requested when a local jurisdiction no longer has adequate resources to manage the event.
- It is not a surprise that gaps were identified, they were expected.
- Many of the benchmarks are met at the local level, but documentation is lacking on a regional level.

# Overall Regional Findings – Strengths

- Stakeholders involvement in committee structures facilitated by NWCOCG; allow for input from all member jurisdictions at multiple policy and practitioner levels (standard section 4.3).
- Local emergency operations plans (standard 5.7.2.2) are established.
- The NCR and local program have determined the need for and have established a variety of mutual aid agreements (standard 5.6.1).
- The NCR and local programs possess communications and warning capabilities, including interoperable systems (standards section 5.9).
- Ongoing project expected to further improve the NCR's capabilities once complete and/or approved (i.e., regional strategic plan, format training gap analysis, resource inventory project, common EOC management software).
- ETOP-horizontal and vertical integration of information.

# Overall Regional Findings – Areas for Improvement

- Hazard identification, impact analysis, and mitigation (standards sections 5.3 & 5.4)
- Mitigation, recovery, and COOP and COG planning has not been consistently addressed throughout region (standards section 5.7)
- Incident management systems, plans, and procedures are not consistent across the region (standards sections 5.7, 5.8, & 5.10)
- Need (locally and regionally) comprehensive all-hazard look at resource needs, capability shortfalls and priorities (standards section 5.5)
- The Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) does not clearly delineate authorities or describe how it is implemented
- Authorities and responsibilities at the region level are not well defined (standards section 5.2)



# Summary

- The NCR Emergency Managers felt the EMAP process was challenging; enhanced continuity, coordination and provided the opportunity for corrective action.
- EMAP assisted local jurisdictions in identifying areas of need and strategic priorities to strengthen emergency management capabilities.
- Assisted the NCR in identifying gaps with existing strategies, plans, procedures, and activities.
- Assisted the NCR in the identification of new opportunities for the NCR to strengthen local capabilities, leverage resources and identify and address regional challenges.

# Recommendations

- The Emergency Manager's Committee has made the following recommendations to the CAO's Committee...
  - Fully Fund the UASI Emergency Planning, Exercise and Training 2006 Concept Papers:
  - Place Grant Funded Full Time Emergency Planners In Each Jurisdiction
  - Provide Grant Funding To Hire Contractors To Assist With Emergency Planning
  - Continue Grant Funding To Enhance All Hazards Approach to Emergency Planning.
  - Continue Grant Funding To Enhance Regional Emergency Planning
- Continue to Fund UASI Exercise and Training Programs in the Continuation Budget. ETOP is doing a good job...recommend continuation of this initiative.



# Recommendation Continued

- Need to prioritize local and regional emergency EMAP with other planning efforts. (Capacity Issue)...Pandemic Flu, Hurricanes, Homeland Security, Animals, Evacuation, etc.
- Use EMAP template approach to address planning initiatives. (Computerized Library of EMAP Compliant Documents)
- Share planning information among jurisdictions through regional emergency planners.

# Recommendations Continued

- Continue to fund and promote NIMS compliance and coordination efforts.
- Continue to fund WEBEOC Resource Management application that is currently being rolled out in the NCR.
- Support grant funded regional logistics and warehousing
- Support Emergency Public Information Initiatives... develop a regional preparedness message (include release of EMAP regional report, if requested).
- Support regional communications, data sharing and interoperability projects.

# Next Steps

- The CAOs have tasked the Emergency Manager's Committee to develop an action plan to close the gaps and present their plan to the CAOs by July 2006.
- The FY 06 UASI process is underway. Meetings with Regional Working Groups and COG RESF Committees are in progress. Final funding decisions will be made within next few months.
- Currently awaiting our NCR UASI funding allocation.

# Questions

