FEMA Response

“Hurricanes, Wildfires, Floods, and Pandemics”

DHS CISA Chemical Security Seminar

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FEMA’s Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.
In November, FEMA has twice as many JFOs supporting 6X more open disasters vs. 2016

2020 is tied with 2011 & 2017 for billion-dollar natural disasters, not including COVID

More named storms in 2020 than any other year on record (29 and counting)

10+ Magnitude 5.0+ Caribbean earthquakes

First nationwide Major Disaster Declaration for COVID-19 (57 simultaneous declarations)

Five of the largest six wildfires in CA history

Most storm landfalls, beating 1916 record, including the first Greek letter U.S. landfall
A ‘New Normal’

- **Average FEMA staff deployed to disasters:**
  - Oct. 2017 → Sep 2020: 7,063 (2.1X)

- **Public Assistance Support:**
  - Most obligations in a single year
  - more than 2.5X the second highest year on record (2018)

- **Individual Assistance Support:**
  - IA declarations doubled in 2020 (11 vs. 5)
  - Delivered the full range of IA mass-care and housing missions in a pandemic environment.

- **PPE & Medical Equipment:**
  - Project Air Bridge: delivered 1.15B pieces of PPE, 87 SLTT requests daily: equal to 7+ trips to the moon
  - 18 contracts for 100% of national testing supplies.

- **Incident Support & Stabilization:**
  - NRCC activated for 250+ days, equal to the last four years combined
  - 4X more Mission Assignments than 2016 ($5B vs. $65M).

Source: FEMA Deployment Tracking System – September 2, 2020
Adapting to the COVID-19 Operating Environment

The COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season:

• COVID related challenges and planning considerations
• Outlines plans to adapt response and recovery operations:
  o Life safety & sustainment, and workforce protection
  o Whole-of-community disaster assistance to the highest level possible
• Allows SLTT emergency managers to prepare and plan accordingly;
• Creates shared understanding of expectations between FEMA and SLTTs
• Provides guidance, checklists, and resources to enable emergency managers to best adapt response and recovery plans

INTERAGENCY MODELING & ATMOSPHERIC ASSESSMENT CENTER (IMAAC)

MISSION: Provide a single point for the coordination and dissemination of Federal dispersion modeling and hazard prediction products that represent the Federal position during actual or potential incidents involving hazardous atmospheric releases.

LOCATION: Virtual

Decision Products for Senior Leaders

- Tailored for senior leaders for strategic-level impact preserves more detailed modeling products for First Responders and field Emergency Management officials.
CBRNResponder Network:

MISSION: A Free Solution for the collection, management, and sharing of CBRN incident information.

LOCATION: Every location

ChemResponder

• Powerful web-based and mobile platforms
  o Simple user interface to record, share and manage hazmat response information
  o Displayed in a geospatial environment.

• Empowers responders with data collection and sharing capabilities
• Integrates disparate systems,
• Provides means for trend analysis and investigations of lessons learned.
CBRN Operations Support Specialist (OSS)

MISSION: During hazardous preparedness or response operations, the CBRN OSS identifies and provides critical information to responders, key leaders, and decision-makers. The CBRN OSS is a state and local subject matter expert (SME) with the ability to bridge the gap between response and hazard specific knowledge in order to minimize the impact of a potential or actual incident involving the release of CBRN materials.

LOCATION: Every location

Established: Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS)

Pilot Phase: Chemical Operations Support Specialist (COSS); Executed in 2020-2021

• Qualified chemical and Incident Command System expert
• Supports state and local responders, key leaders, and decision makers.

Concept Phase: Biological Operations Support Specialist (BOSS) 2022

Impact:
• A state and local subject matter expert
• Bridges response and chemical knowledge
Conclusion

QUESTIONS?

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