

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP



Lake City, Florida

- March 7, 2008
- 50 Homes Damaged
- 2 people killed
- Small, rural, poor community.
- No local state of emergency.
- Elected Officials:
“FEMA’s COMING!”



Introduction

All-Hazards Approach

The State of Florida is vulnerable to many hazards, ranging from hurricanes and wildfires to terrorism and nuclear power plant incidents. However, many of the consequences of disasters are the same, regardless of the hazard. For example, an evacuation may be required because of a hurricane, chemical spill, or a terrorist threat. Rather than planning for each hazard individually, Florida's state and local emergency managers use an all-hazards approach to emergency planning.

Four Phases of Emergency Management

Emergency management may be broken down into four phases

- preparedness
- response
- recovery
- mitigation

Purpose of the Guide

Florida's elected officials play an important role during each phase. The purpose of this guide is to help Florida's elected officials understand their role before, during and after disasters.

ALL DISASTERS ARE LOCAL!

Laws and Authorities

Chapter 252, Florida Statutes (2009) “State Emergency Management Act”

“State policy for responding to disasters is to support local emergency response efforts. In the case of a major or catastrophic disaster, however, the needs of residents and communities will likely be greater than local resources. In these situations, the state must be capable of providing effective, coordinated, and timely support to communities and the public.” Chapter 252.311 (3), Florida Statutes (2009).

The Florida Division of Emergency Management is charged with providing “for the rendering of mutual aid among the political subdivisions of the state, with other states, and with the Federal Government with respect to carrying out all emergency management functions and responsibilities.” Chapter 252.32 (c), Florida Statutes, (2009).

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (2007)

“All requests for a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists shall be made by the Governor of the affected State. Such a request shall be based on a finding that the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that Federal assistance is necessary.” Stafford Act, Title IV, Section 401 (42 U.S.C. 5170).

Preparedness

Preparedness includes plans or preparations made before a disaster to save lives and to help response and rescue operations.

Your role during Preparedness:

First – Are *you* ready? Does your family have a disaster plan? If not, go to www.FloridaDisaster.org and create one.

Second – Know the plan *before* the disaster occurs. Work with your emergency management officials to learn the community’s emergency plan and take an active role in training and exercising the plan. **YOU PLAY LIKE YOU PRACTICE!**

Third – Know the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). NIMS is a national, comprehensive approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. ICS is a widely applicable management system designed to enable effective and efficient incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

FEMA recommends that elected officials take “IS-700 National Incident Management System: An Introduction” and “IS-100: An Introduction to Incident Command System”. These courses are available at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>.

Response

Response actions are those taken during an emergency to save lives and prevent further property damage.

Your role during Response

First – Know the order of priorities.

Standing Orders:

1. Establish communication with impacted areas
2. Search and Rescue/Security
3. Meet basic human needs (medical, water, food, shelter, emergency fuel – In that order)
4. Restore critical infrastructure
5. Open schools and local businesses
6. Begin the recovery process

Second – Know who's in charge.

Local political subdivisions have statutorily designated authority to request state assistance or invoke emergency-related mutual-aid assistance by declaring a state of local emergency if necessary. Under a local state of emergency, the local elected leadership is in charge. Under a state declaration of emergency, the governor is in charge.

Response

Response actions are those taken during an emergency to save lives and prevent further property damage.

Your role during Response

Third – Know your powers and limitations.

Learn who in your jurisdiction has the power to declare a local state of emergency. Based on Florida Statute, the duration of each state of emergency declared locally is limited to 7 days; it may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments. Further, the political subdivision has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to:

- a. Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
- b. Entering into contracts.
- c. Incurring obligations.
- d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers.
- e. Utilization of volunteer workers.
- f. Rental of equipment.
- g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities.
- h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

Recovery

Activities taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following a disaster.

Your role during Recovery

First – Know the process for estimating the damage your community has sustained following a disaster.

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA)

Immediately following the disaster and depending on the severity of the damage, Preliminary Damage Assessment teams may arrive to determine the impact and magnitude of damage caused by the event. PDA teams are comprised of personnel from FEMA, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, county and local officials, and the Small Business Administration. The PDA is typically used as a basis for the Governor's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration when it shows that the cost of response efforts and damage to residents is beyond state and local recovery capabilities.

<http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/pda.shtm>

Second – Know the difference between a local disaster declaration, a state disaster declaration and a Presidential disaster declaration. The following pages describe the disaster declaration process and the different types of declarations.

Disaster Declaration Process



Event Occurs

➔ ***Local Emergency Managers Respond***

➔ If local resources are exhausted, local elected officials can declare a local state of emergency and request assistance from the State.

➔ ***State Resources Deployed***

➔ If state resources are exhausted:

➔ Governor declares a state of emergency

➔ Governor requests assistance from the federal government with Preliminary Damage Assessments or a Presidential Major Disaster or Emergency Declaration

➔ ***Federal Resources Deployed***

➔ President issues a Major Disaster or an Emergency Declaration

Declarations of Emergency

Local Declaration of Emergency

What factors to consider when declaring a local state of emergency:

- Scope and magnitude of the event
- Impact of the damage and losses
- The ability of the local jurisdiction to respond

Once a declaration is in place, it allows the following actions to be taken:

- Mobilization of resources
- Activation of the Emergency Operations Plan
- Implementation of protective actions including evacuations, emergency shelters, shelter in place orders, emergency alerts, and warnings
- Initiation of mutual aid agreements
- Suspension of statutes
- Authorization of emergency funds

A declaration is also the initial step when requesting assistance from the state and the federal government and to qualifying for possible reimbursement.

Declarations of Emergency

State Declaration of Emergency

The Governor may declare a state of emergency through this process:

- The Governor receives notification of emergency from a local jurisdiction.
- An assessment is made for damage or potential for damage.
- A declaration may cover specific geographic areas of the state or the entire state.
- A state declaration is usually made through an executive order.
- It includes the type of emergency, where it occurred and the authority by which it is made.

A state declaration allows for:

- Activation of the emergency response, recovery, and mitigation phases of the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- The authority for the mobilization and deployment of resources or any other provision of law relating to emergencies.

The declaration is also the initial step to requesting a Presidential declaration.

Declarations of Emergency

Presidential Declaration of Emergency

The Governor may request a federal disaster declaration, which is formally submitted to the regional FEMA office.

When deciding whether to recommend a federal disaster declaration, FEMA will consider the following:

- Number of homes destroyed or with major damage
- Extent damage is dispersed or concentrated
- Impact on the infrastructure or critical facilities
- Imminent threats to public health and safety
- Impacts to essential government services and functions
- Level of insurance coverage in place for homeowners and public facilities
- Assistance available from other sources
- State and local resource commitments from previous, undeclared events
- Frequency of disaster events over recent time period

Types of Presidential Declarations

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/dproc.shtm>

1) Emergency Declarations

This declaration usually supplements state and local efforts in providing emergency services or in averting or lessening the threat of a catastrophe. The amount of emergency assistance is capped at \$5 million per single event.

2) Major Disaster Declarations

The President can declare a Major Disaster Declaration for any natural event, fire, flood, or explosion that the President believes has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the capability of the state and local governments to respond. A Major Disaster Declaration provides a wide range of federal assistance programs, including:

- Teams and equipment, such as hazardous materials teams, search and rescue, etc.
- Supplies, such as food, water and tarps
- Public Assistance (emergency work, repair and restoration, debris removal)
- Individual Assistance for household needs and temporary housing
- Mitigation grants to reduce long-term risk to life and property

3) Pre-Disaster Declaration

This type of declaration establishes the circumstances in which a state can request a declaration in advance of an incident that could result in a major disaster. It is specific to threats from an existing hurricane or typhoon, but other natural or manmade incidents may be considered and certain conditions must be met.

Other Types of Declarations

Small Business Administration Disaster Declarations

When the President declares a Major Disaster Declaration that includes Individual Assistance or Public Assistance, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) disaster loan program is automatically activated. SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to individuals and businesses that may be used to repair or replace real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, inventory, and business assets.

Should a Presidential Disaster Declaration not be issued, SBA may declare a disaster and provide disaster assistance to impacted individuals.

<http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/index.html>

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretarial Declarations

Should a disaster specifically threaten Florida's agricultural industry, it is possible to obtain an agricultural disaster declaration from the United State Secretary of Agriculture. To receive a Secretarial Disaster Designation, damages and losses must be due to a natural disaster and a minimum of 30-percent production loss of at least one crop in the county must have occurred. Once this has been determined, the Governor makes a request for a disaster declaration in writing to the Secretary of Agriculture .

The Secretarial Declaration will allow eligible producers in the designated counties access to low-interest Farm Service Agency loans, up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, not to exceed a total amount of \$500,000.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navtype=MS&navid=SAFETY>

Recovery

Activities taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following a disaster.

Your role during Recovery

Third – Know the types of assistance available to your community and the thresholds your community (and the state) must meet to be eligible for federal disaster assistance.

Eligibility for disaster assistance begins on the date of the occurrence of the event which results in a declaration a major disaster exists, except that reasonable expenses incurred in anticipation of and immediately preceding the event may also be eligible for federal assistance.

There are two main types of disaster assistance: Individual Assistance and Public Assistance.

Recovery

Activities taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following a disaster.

Individual Assistance (IA)

Immediately after the declaration, disaster workers arrive and set up a central field office to coordinate the recovery effort. Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) open where disaster survivors can meet with program representatives and obtain information about available aid and the recovery process. If a Presidential disaster declaration is not received, the state officials may set up Essential Services Centers (ESC), which are similar to a DRC but without the federal government's presence.

There are two types of Individual Assistance:

Housing Needs – includes temporary housing, repair, replacement, and permanent housing construction.

Other than Housing Needs – involves money necessary for expenses and serious needs caused by a disaster.

Eligibility: To be eligible for IA, your county must be covered under a Presidential Disaster Declaration and you must have filed with your insurance company if you have one.

For more information on the Individual Assistance program, please visit:

http://www.fema.gov/media/fact_sheets/individual-assistance.shtm

Recovery

Activities taken to return to a normal or even safer situation following a disaster.

Public Assistance (PA)

Under the PA Program, FEMA awards grants to assist state and local governments with debris removal, implementation of emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of public infrastructure. The program also encourages protection from future damage by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

For more information on the public assistance process, please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pa/index.shtm>

State Logistics Response Center

In 2007, the Division of Emergency Management established the State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando, Florida. This facility represents the union of state, federal, voluntary agencies, and contract vendors that mobilize during declared and undeclared emergencies to facilitate the acquisition, management, distribution, maintenance, and recovery of Florida's disaster logistics resources.

The 200,000 square foot warehouse, complete with the latest resource management and tracking software and communications technology, is the premier disaster resource facility in the nation.

The warehouse maintains sufficient resources to support an estimated 1 million people for the first two days after a disaster. During times of non-crises, the SLRC is also home to the state's Logistics Laboratory, which provides advanced training in logistics for both Florida's state and county personnel.



Intergovernmental Relations Team (IRT)

The State of Florida Intergovernmental Relations Team (IRT) is here to serve you before, during and after a disaster impacts your area. We can provide up-to-date information on emergency management-related activities affecting your constituents and help guide you through the process of obtaining federal disaster assistance.



Website: www.FloridaDisaster.org/IRT

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