



# CURRENT ISSUES IN LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Alan S. Harris, Emergency Manager  
Seminole County Office of Emergency Management

# The Basics

- All-Hazards Approach to Planning
  - State of Florida is vulnerable to many hazards
  - Many of the consequences of disasters are the same, regardless of the hazard
  - All disasters are local... first in, last out.
- Four/Five Phases of Emergency Management (EM)
  - Preparedness
  - (Prevention)
  - Response
  - Recovery
  - Mitigation



# Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)\*

- Day-to-day emergency management coordination is not the same as during an emergency.
- The frequency of activations occur much greater at the local level.
- The number and nature of emergency response is based on the size of the community.
- Local EOCs open for different types of activities than the State: including space launches, special events, wildfires, high profile court cases, civil unrest, protests, repatriation.

# Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)\*

- The local EOC serves as the central point for exercises and trainings similar to the State.
- The needs of disaster survivors are met by collaborating and communicating with all the stakeholders and coordinating efforts with other jurisdictions to facilitate a countywide response



# Local State of Emergency

Local government has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required pertaining to:

- Performance of public work and taking action necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community
- Entering into contracts / rental equipment
- Incurring obligations
- Employment of permanent and temporary workers
- Utilization of volunteer workers
- Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation
- Mobilization of resources
- Activation of Emergency Operations Plans
- Protective actions - evacuations, emergency shelters, shelter-in-place orders, emergency alerts/warnings
- Initiation of mutual aid agreements
- Suspension of ordinance and rules
- Authorization of emergency funds





# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- Local Emergency Management Planning
  - Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Updates
  - Continuity of Operations Plan
  - Continuity of Government Plan
  - Healthcare/ALF Plan Reviews
  - Emergency Management Training
  - Local Mitigation Strategy
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plan
  - Floodplain Management Plan / Community Rating System
  - Post Disaster Recovery Plan
  - County Terrorism/Homeland Security Plan
  - Repatriation Annex
  - NIMS/ICS Implementation Plan
  - Tsunami planning and exercises
  - Critical facilities inventory
  - Mass Casualty planning
  - Disaster housing
  - Public outreach and education



# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- Feeding Emergency Child Care Plan
- Local Transportation / Evacuation Plan
- Disaster Fuel Plan
- Volunteer Reception Center Plan
- Donation Center Plan
- County Points of Distribution
- Disaster Recovery Center / Essential Services Plan
- Joint Information Systems and Protocols
- Dependent Sheltering Plan
- General Population Sheltering Plan
- Special Population Sheltering
- EOC Management and Staffing
- EOC Sleeping Accommodations/Feeding
- Debris Management
- Coastal Oil Spill Response Plan (dovetails with the USCG Area Contingency Plan)
- Damage Assessment Plan
- Pet Shelter Plan
- Local / State / Federal Media Policy



# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- Technology / Communications

- 800 mhz
- Portable satellite receivers
- EM Net / NAWAS
- IPAWS / CMAS - COG
- Mobile Satellite
- EOC Telephone System
- VTC
- Web Conference Systems
- Local conferencing networks
- Radio Station Downlinks
- Siren Systems
- Mass Call Notification Systems (Code Red, Reverse 911, etc.)
- Electronic Text Notification System
- State Warning Point notification
- Social media
- Billboard Emergency Alert Systems





# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- Technology / Computer Systems
  - EM Constellation
  - GIS Mapping
  - State Sharepoint
  - E-team / Web EOC / EM Resource
  - Milestone / Live View / DOT
  - Damage Assessment / GeoCove
  - Special Needs Database
  - Shelter Management System
  - Main star / Road Management System / Traffic Engineering
  - Weather / Meteorology
  - Federal Software: HSIN / LLIS
  - Local Software: Hallogen, NeoGov, Skillport, JD Edwards, Hurrevac
  - Social Media – policy, expectation of locals, partnerships with response agencies, single messaging, etc.
  - Local Mobile App



# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- County Emergency Response Team Coordination
  - Local Emergency Planning Committee
  - Regional Domestic Security Task Force
  - Urban Area Security Initiative
  - Public Information Networks / Committee
  - Long Term Recovery Committee
  - Disaster Housing Committee
  - COAD / VOAD
  - Citizen Corps - CERT / BERT / NERT
  - ARES/RACES
  - Unmet Needs Coalition
  - Interfaith Council
  - Local Fire Chiefs / Police Chiefs Committees
  - TRIAD / RSVP
  - Emergency Shelters Working Group
  - Special Needs Shelter Program Committee
  - Disability Working Groups – FNSS Services
  - Council on Government for EAS
  - Emergency Management Operations Teams
  - Healthcare Coalitions State Agricultural Response Team
  - Radiological Emer. Response Coordination



# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- Non-specific to emergency management functions
  - Attend County Commission Meetings
  - Develop Local Ordinances / Rules
  - Contracts with Vendors / Emergency Services Providers
  - MOU with supporting agencies
  - County Senior Staff Meetings
  - County Budget Process/Hearings
  - County Strategic/Business Plan Update
  - County Agency Specialized Programs
  - Regional / Urban Committees / Councils
  - Hiring/Firing
  - Personnel Performance Evaluations
  - Staff Meetings / Scheduling
  - Special Event Planning / Management
  - Internship programs



# “Blue Sky” Responsibilities

- Counties near Nuclear Power Plant facilities:
  - Large scale (210,000 people for our plant) protective actions including rapid evacuation
  - Rapid evacuation for special needs clients
  - Risk communication
  - Mass reception centers
  - Mass decontamination
  - Mass shelter and care
  - Command & Control
  - Responsible for providing the NRC through FEMA “Reasonable Assurance” (of actions undertaken to) protect public in event of emergency.
  - There can be a steep penalty for failure in those Counties that are evaluated by FEMA. (For instance, loss of revenue when shutting down 2 reactors that generate 2.8 million a day).



South Florida - The St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant



# THE ROAD AHEAD







# Questions?

Alan S. Harris

Emergency Management

[aharris@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:aharris@seminolecountyfl.gov)