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Evacuation and Shelter Management



Hurricane Katrina:

- **Costliest** and one of the most **deadliest** disasters in U.S. History.
- Largest response effort to a disaster in U.S. history
- All 50 states affected – supporting evacuations and relocations
 - **3.9 M Evacuated**
 - **Half a million** sheltered
- Unprecedented challenges at the local, tribal, state and federal levels
- Resulted in major reforms



Hurricane Katrina – Aug. 29, 2005



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Presentation Objectives:



- **Evacuations**
 - FEMA's Role
 - General Population, Medical Special Needs
 - Other Federal Resources
- **Sheltering**
 - FEMA's Role
 - Mass Care
 - Best Practices
 - Challenges
- **Summary**
 - Planning, Training and Exercising continues



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FEMA's Role in Evacuations:

- FEMA is a **Coordinating Agency**
- FEMA **does not** make the decision to evacuate
- The local government and state is responsible for decision making for evacuating
- FEMA and its state, tribal and local partners plan in advance
- Local/state authorities request federal resources based on shortfalls



Types of Evacuations:

- **General Population**

- People
- Pets

- **Medical**

- Hospital Patients
- Special Medical Needs



General Population



- Evacuate General Population with Critical Transportation Needs by air with DOD and contracts with commercial carriers.

- Transported to host-state for temporary sheltering.

- Household Pets/Service Animals



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Medical Special Needs:

- **Dept of Health and Human Services (ESF-8)**
 - Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, FEMA
- **Hospital to Hospital**
 - National Disaster Medical System
- **National Ambulance Contract**
 - Zones
- **Tracking**
 - Airfield – Hospital – Return Home



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Other Federal Resources:

- **Technical Assistance**

- Transportation

- **Communications**

- Unified Effort

- **Additional Support**

- Other Regions

- **Host-State Coordination**

- Host-State Sheltering



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FEMA's Role in Shelter Management:

- FEMA **does not** have the primary responsibility for opening or operating shelters.
- The local and state government is responsible for sheltering activities.
- Sheltering management is planned in advance.
- Local/state authorities may request federal resources for any shortfalls.
- FEMA has pre-approved contractors, if the state requests shelter assistance.
- **ESF-6** supports Mass Care and Emergency Services.



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Mass Care Responsibilities

➤ Mass Care

- Sheltering
- Feeding
- Bulk Distribution
- First Aid
- Disaster Welfare Information



➤ Emergency Assistance

- Mass Evacuation
- Family Reunification
- Household Pets and Service Animals
- Medical and Non-conventional Sheltering

Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)

- For eligible disaster survivors with a continuing need for shelter.
- Provides short-term lodging.
- Stay in hotel or motel lodging for a limited period of time and have the cost of the room and taxes covered by FEMA.
- The initial period of assistance will be 5-14 days. May be extended



Best Practices:

- **Pre-designated staging areas:** for evacuees.
- **Pre-designated pick-up points:** for evacuees.
- **Point to Point Sheltering:** Preplanning with receiving community.
- **Voluntary Agencies for Feeding:** Can provide fully equipped mobile kitchens that produce 50,000 meals a day.
- **Funding:** for a 'one time' voluntary self-relocation.
- **Establish temporary housing:** base camps.
- **Host-State:** Coordination Calls



Shelter-in-a-Box

- In-State Disaster Sheltering Concept
- Turn-key, collaborative program
- Evacuees housed in affected state with manpower provided by another state.
- Trained team is standing by, in a well-equipped, service-oriented location.
- General population, dormitory style set up.
- Responsibilities are clearly identified.
- Louisiana has exercised this concept with its Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management counterpart.



Challenges:



- **Availability of Resources** – to execute the evacuation missions; enough buses, airplanes, etc?
- **Reliable Tracking System** – for evacuees to ensure accountability.
- **Evacuation** – of the elderly, persons with disability and critically ill.
- **Sheltering**– May take weeks or months to find adequate short- and medium-term sheltering.
- **Voluntary Agencies and limited budgets** – Current state of U.S. economy is taking its toll on voluntary groups. Budgets are tight.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** – Shelters must be compliant.



Presentation Summary:



Federal Support of local, tribal and state governments

- Assists with any shortfalls when requested.



FEMA is a Coordinating Agency

- Does not make the decision to evacuate
- FEMA does not have the primary responsibility for opening or operating shelters.
- When requested by the state, FEMA can provide assistance for shelter support through private contractors.



Continuing Process

- FEMA and its emergency management partners continue planning, training and exercising roles and responsibilities on a regular basis



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QUESTIONS?

“Our collective experience as a Nation has created a more coordinated approach to emergency management, brought more players to the table, and demonstrated the power of teamwork.”

“We are better together!”



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