BASIC
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
FOR
ELECTED OFFICIALS

MARYLAND MAYORS ASSOCIATION

Maryland Mayor’s Association
Winter Conference
Annapolis
SPEAKERS

Mayor Michael E. Bennett
City of Aberdeen

Mayor Kevin R. Utz
City of Westminster

Mayor Craig A. Moe
City of Laurel
What's your response to your staff or other elected official's from your Municipality that tell you?

It Will Never Happen Here!
“YES IT WILL”

- **Maryland Severe Storms, High Tides, Flooding (DR-127)** - Incident period: March 9, 1962 Major Disaster Declaration declared on March 9, 1962

- **Maryland SEVERE STORMS, TORNADOES, FLOODING (DR-601)** - Incident period: September 14, 1979 Major Disaster Declaration declared on September 14, 1979

- **Maryland Blizzard (DR-1081)** - Incident period: January 6, 1996 to January 12, 1996 Major Disaster Declaration declared on January 11, 1996

- **Maryland Tornado (DR-1409)** - Incident period: April 28, 2002 Major Disaster Declaration declared on May 1, 2002

- **Maryland Hurricane Irene (DR-4034)** - Incident period: August 24, 2011 to September 5, 2011 Major Disaster Declaration declared on September 16, 2011
HEY MAYOR IS YOUR MUNICIPALITY READY?
READY TO DEAL WITH...

Ice Storm  
Snow Storm  
Flooding  
Tornado  
Hazmat  
Fire  
Terrorist  
Accidents
COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Store Opening
- Fundraisers
- Sports Events
- Halloween
- Parades
- Main Street Festivals
- Concerts
- Memorial Day
- Ribbon Cuttings
Elected Officials & Emergency Management
**Emergency Management Mission**

- First, to reduce the loss of life;

- Then, to minimize property loss and damage to the environment;

- And finally, to protect the jurisdiction from all threats and hazards.

- Maryland’s elected officials play an important role during each phase and will help officials better understand their role before, during and after disasters or incident.

**All Disasters Are Local!**
What is Emergency Management

The managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to threats/hazards and cope with disasters.

There are numerous definitions of emergency management. The definition below is based on the one developed by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).
AUTHORITY

Title 14 of the Annotated Code of Maryland
Md. PUBLIC SAFETY Code Ann. § 14-103

- MEMA established by law
- 1989 Maryland Emergency Management Agency was created
  - Part of Maryland Military Department
  - Emergency Planning and Preparedness
- Created Executive Order which designates MEMA as the State Agency with primary responsibility & authority for emergency management

Title 14 also established:

- Local Jurisdiction Emergency Management & Plans
- Emergency Management Powers of the Governor
DEFINITIONS

“Emergency” means any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural, technological, or man-made, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property.”

“Disaster” means any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States.”

Disasters are identified by the severity of resulting damage, as follows:

“Catastrophic disaster” means a disaster that will require massive state and federal assistance, including immediate military involvement.” Chapter 252.34 (a), Florida Statutes

“Major disaster” means a disaster that will likely exceed local capabilities and require abroad range of state and federal assistance.”

“Minor disaster” means a disaster that is likely to be within the response capabilities of local government and to result in only a minimal need for state or federal assistance.”
ARE YOU READY?
Elected Officials Role

- Elected officials must have a clear understanding of how government responds to emergencies and disasters, what resources are available, what types of assistance can be provided to citizens, and how much time it may take to deliver that assistance.

- They must be able to instill a sense of calm in disaster victims and the public, and temper expectations of what government can do to aid in the recovery.

- A coordinated message between elected officials and emergency management is necessary so people do not receive conflicting information.

- Elected officials play a crucial role in public safety. Their understanding and support of emergency management is vital to the safety and well-being of the public and communities.
Essentials for Leaders to be Prepared

- Meet with your emergency management team to learn about the hazards that threaten your jurisdiction and what is being done to address those hazards.

- Take the training required under Federal law.

- Learn about emergency management and disaster assistance services, as well as limitations.

- Encourage all government agencies and business leaders to coordinate and collaborate with the emergency management agency.

- Visit your jurisdiction’s emergency operations center.

- Encourage individuals, families, and businesses to develop an emergency plan and be self-sufficient in the immediate aftermath of a disaster.
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS ROLE

- Key leader in planning

- Develops partnerships to coordinate efforts to prepare, respond, recover, mitigate incidents

- Coordinates key players during responses

- Coordinates resources with Incident Command

- Updates Elected Officials

- Liaison with outside agencies
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- The municipal responsibility during emergencies or disasters, as mandated by Maryland State law, are to help protect their residents by managing and coordinating the response to major emergencies and disasters, requesting assistance to other municipalities and their County Office of Emergency Management when needed.

- To prepare for this, the Municipal Emergency Management Agency is responsible for:
- Identifying and assessing potential hazards
- **Developing emergency operations plans and procedures**
- Training personnel
- **Conducting drills and exercises to test plans**
- Working among levels of government, volunteer agencies and the private sector to ensure that all understand their roles and responsibilities during disaster response
- **Providing critical information to the public before, during and after a disaster occurs**
- Facilitating mutual aid
- **Administering disaster assistance programs**
- Providing overall coordination for disaster response
The State of Maryland is vulnerable to many hazards, ranging from Snow Storms, and Floods to terrorism 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, Maryland’s state and local emergency managers use an all-hazards approach to emergency planning.

**Four Phases of Emergency Management**

1. Mitigation
2. Preparedness
3. Response
4. Recovery
Mitigation activities take place prior to, during, and after an incident. Mitigation capabilities are those necessary to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to persons or property, or lessen the actual or potential effects or consequences of an incident.

Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluation and improvement activities to ensure effective coordination and the enhancement of capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.
**PREPAREDNESS IN GENERAL**

**Response**
- Response begins when an incident is imminent or immediately after an event occurs, and encompasses the activities that address the short-term, direct effects of an incident. Response capabilities focus on saving lives, protecting property and the environment, and meeting basic human needs.

**Recovery**
- The aim of the recovery phase is to restore the affected area to as near its previous state as possible.
- Recovery efforts are concerned with issues and decisions that must be made after immediate needs are addressed. Recovery efforts are primarily concerned with actions that involve rebuilding destroyed property, re-employment, and the repair of other essential infrastructure.
Documenting every aspect of an emergency is critical to your jurisdictions ability to seek funding assistance if a disaster declaration is made.

The need to document must be on your list of priorities.
Disaster Declaration Process
Are You Ready!
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 Emergency Operations Plans.
- 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 qualify for possible reimbursement.
STATE 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.
- An executive order 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 state declaration is also the initial step when requesting a Presidential Declaration.
Declarations of Emergency

Presidential Declaration of Emergency

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 to which 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
TYPES OF PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATIONS

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 but can be increased if the threshold is exceeded.

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

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 man-made incidents may be considered and certain conditions must be met.
Disaster Declaration Process

Local Emergency Manager Respond

- If, local resources are exhausted;
  - Local elected officials can declare a local State of Emergency
  - Local elected officials can request assistance from the County/State

County/State Resources Deployed

- If, County/State resources are exhausted;
  - Governor declares a State of Emergency
  - Governor requests assistance from Federal Government using Preliminary Damage Assessments for a Presidential Major Disaster or Emergency Declaration via MEMA

Federal Resources Deployed

- President issues a Major Disaster or an Emergency Declaration
**What is the Public Assistance Program**

- The Public Assistance Program provides supplemental financial assistance to State, local governments and certain private, non-profit organizations for response and recovery activities as a result of a Presidentially-declared disaster.

- Provides Federal grant assistance for the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned and uninsured facilities. This grant funding is provided at a 75% Federal/25% applicant grant share formula.
The Stafford Act describes the functions and responsibilities of any federal response to emergencies and disasters.

Legislation dictates that help is available to any jurisdiction when local resources are swamped and unable to provide an adequate response and recovery effort. Help is available to your jurisdiction; however, there is established protocol to receive help from outside agencies. If you find that additional resources are needed, your emergency manager must request resources through the county emergency management agency.

The County Emergency Manager, if necessary, will coordinate with MEMA for state resources that they might not be in a position to provide. If MEMA cannot provide the resource requested, then they will coordinate with FEMA for resource requests.
What is the Stafford Act?

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) is a United States Federal law designed to bring an orderly and systemic means of Federal natural disaster assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens.

It created the system in place today by which a Presidential Disaster Declaration of an emergency triggers financial and physical assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Act gives FEMA the responsibility for coordinating government-wide relief efforts.

Congress amended it by passing the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and again in 2006 with the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act.
Overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
WHAT IS NIMS?

- NIMS is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management

- NIMS provides the template for incident management, regardless of cause, size, location, or complexity

- NIMS is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines

Authority

NIMS AT A GLANCE

- A comprehensive, nationwide, systematic approach to Incident Management
- A set of preparedness concepts and principles for all hazards
- Essential principles for a common operating picture and interoperability of communications and information management
- Standardized resource management procedures
- Scalable, so it may be used for all incidents
- A dynamic system that promotes ongoing management and maintenance
Benefits of NIMS

- Standardized approach to incident management that is scalable and flexible
- Enhanced cooperation and interoperability among responders
- Comprehensive all-hazards preparedness
- Efficient resource coordination among jurisdictions or organizations
- Reflects best practices and lessons learned
To integrate the practice of emergency management and incident response throughout the country, NIMS focuses on five key areas, or components:

- Preparedness
- Communications and Information Management
- Resource Management
- Command and Management
- Ongoing Management and Maintenance
**Preparedness**

- NIMS preparedness focuses on the following elements:
  - Planning
  - Procedures and Protocols
  - Training and Exercises
  - Personnel Qualifications and Certification
  - Equipment Certification

- Enhanced through partnerships at all levels of government, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations

**Preparedness Cycle: Illustrates the essential activities for responding to an incident**
NIMS promotes the use of flexible communications and information systems

Built on the concepts of:
- Common Operating Picture
- Interoperability
- Reliability, Scalability, and Portability
- Resiliency and Redundancy

NIMS describes standardized resource management practices such as typing, inventorying, organizing, and tracking

Allows for effective sharing and integration of critical resources across jurisdictions

Activating, Dispatching, and Deactivating those systems prior to, during, and after an incident
NIMS enables effective and efficient incident management and coordination by providing a flexible, standardized incident management structure.

This structure integrates three key organizational constructs:

- Incident Command System
- Multi-Agency Coordination System
- Public Information
Multi-Agency Coordination System

- Is a process that allows all levels of government to work together more effectively
- Occurs across different disciplines
- Can occur on a regular basis whenever personnel from different agencies interact

Public Information

- Consists of processes, procedures, and systems for communicating timely, accurate, and accessible information related to an incident
- Public information functions must be coordinated and integrated across jurisdictions and across functional agencies
NIMS Audience

NIMS is applicable to all incidents and all levels of stakeholders who assume a role in emergency management, including:

- All Levels of Government
  - Elected and appointed officials

- Private Sector Organizations

- Critical Infrastructure/Key Resources Owners and Operators

- Nongovernmental Organizations

Roles and Responsibilities

- HSPD-5 requires adoption of NIMS by States, tribal, and local organizations as a condition for Federal preparedness awards

- NIMS is based on the concept that local jurisdictions retain command, control, and authority over response activities
Community Partners & Notifications
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

- Elected officials
- Local, state and federal emergency management and response agencies
- Private sector representatives
- Volunteer agencies and other non-governmental organizations
- Members of the public
The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, replaces the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). This new system will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

NTAS Alerts

These alerts will include a clear statement that there is an imminent threat or elevated threat. Using available information, the alerts will provide a concise summary of the potential threat, information about actions being taken to ensure public safety, and recommended steps that individuals, communities, businesses and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.
Maryland Joint Operations Center

A key element of MEMA is the Maryland Joint Operations Center (MJOC). Operated round-the-clock by National Guard and emergency management professionals, it was the first joint civilian-military watch center in the country.

In addition to serving as a communications hub for emergency responders statewide and supporting local emergency management, the MJOC monitors local, state, national and international events, and alerts decision-makers in Maryland when a situation warrants.
Do you know

- Where your plan is?
- What your role is within that plan?
- Who to go to find out?
- When the next disaster or emergency event occurs will you know your responsibilities?
- Because your citizens will count on you to lead them with coordinated and timely resources and information will you know how to get that information out!
QUESTIONS