

**Alliance for Response: National Leadership Institute
Denver: July 20th, 2011**

Robin Fudge Finegan (FEMA manager, presidential appointment)

We can choose to become victims or choose to become survivors, but we need innovative strategies. Improving planning efforts, incorporating the “whole of community” (which is a FEMA term); we’ve been doing great work, keep stepping it up. Get into that community of local emergency officials.

“Drop, cover, and hold on”: earthquake drill in Utah (see the outreach of this program and how widespread it’s become).

Scott Field (Interim Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for Denver)

“Creating effective local, state, and federal connections”: Start with local.

DEMHS (Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security): Have a mission statement, collaboration is important. They are there to make sure that everyone is talking to each other, fire, cops, etc. BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER an emergency.

They have mostly small organizations in CO and are very busy. Mitigation Hazards Framework: Have a base plan and share with everyone.

Emergency Operations Center will be the hub during a disaster. They are lucky to have space for an EOC to always be available and already set up.

Incident > local disaster declaration > state disaster declaration > federal disaster declaration

All starts and ends with the incident commander (local) because the resources go back to them.

Internal and External Notifications Systems: Are we considered internal or external to EM? Or, a better question, WHEN are we considered internal and external?

May have to contact our EM and make sure we are on their list, and be put on a notifications list.

Sometimes it’s a security issue and they won’t share that information (although most say if you’re on the list, you’ll know). How do you get on it? Usually you don’t need security clearance to ask what qualifications you need to be on the list.

Denver has emergency alert units which push texts to LED boards in cultural institution sites, golf courses, etc. It’s internal, not set up for texts to cell phones. But keeps everyone on the same page and informed as quickly as possible.

Hazards: Know what your local hazards are (conduct a risk assessment, vulnerability assessment).

Every county is required by federal law to have an LEPC: Local Emergency Planning Committee (they can be used as a steering committee, they promote public awareness and emergency preparedness).

GET on that mailing list for LEPC for your county. There may be info about community preparedness, with activities such as free training.

Critical infrastructure sites vs. mass population sites: What category are we in? There is also a symbolic/psychological impact category—we may be more in this one.

Go to training.fema.gov for training and exercise plans for local, region, state.

AFR has made it much easier for EM because we organized ourselves and went to FEMA instead of them trying for outreach, especially with small organizations.

Ken Brink (Mitigation Team Supervisor for Colorado Division of EM)

Local organization is key; many state level partners means continuity planning.

Look at organizations such as Citizen Corps, Ready.gov.

EM will call in a technical specialist if the situation warrants (cultural or historic interests). We can be technical specialists in an EOC setting (look into this for AFR).

Engage with an emergency manager who cares or be willing to try to change their minds.

Life preservation is #1 priority so don’t feel put off; find another way to approach the dilemma.

Be proactive and clear about what you want.

Look at fema.gov

Steve Hardegen (Regional Environmental Officer in Region VIII for FEMA)

Look at “Field Guide to Emergency Response” and the wheel. Great resource.

NSGP: Non-profit Security Grant Program: Can get up to 75k grant award, talk to SAA (state applicant aid officer).

Learn how your state is organized, its agencies, officers. We all need to know each other.

Post-Katrina, things changed to make collections eligible for money; if damage is a result of a major disaster event, located within a designated disaster area and owner is eligible; anything associated with storage, preservation, exhibition of collections may be eligible for funds.

Check maps from FEMA to know the risky areas to be.

The state is the manager of the money, so you can't just apply straight to FEMA. Must go local and up, the state is the applicant.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Program (which can be given to universities).

Carol Small (Deputy Director for Jefferson Co. CO EM)

Great project with very clear identifying maps that show institutions and flood plains.

Recommends looking at IMLS.gov and into emergency preparedness training for libraries, museums, and cultural sites.

Sue Mencer (Director of Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP))

Public/private partnerships are valuable relationships. They've been very useful in Denver, especially for the Democratic National Convention in 2008.

Infragard is an FBI program dedicated to promoting information sharing and dialog between the public and private sectors concerning critical infrastructure protection issues. Chapters are everywhere, see if any near us.

Homeland Security is most concerned about soft targets (groceries, mall, museums, libraries) because we haven't had to protect them. It's a fine balance of freedom and national security.

Events such as Columbine have shown us that the fire dept. needs current building plans and a remote way to turn off sprinklers and fire alarms. Hazardous materials (combustibles) should be clearly marked on the plans (people forget about housekeeping closets).

It's hard to get accurate details from witnesses at traumatic events. FBI has resources, such as a checklist of details to recognize when receiving bomb threats by phone.

www.thecepp.org is a successful public/private partnership that is in Denver/Colorado (can model after).

Lori Foley (VP of Emergency Programs at Heritage Preservation) and Jack Sullivan (Region I Environmental Historic Preservation Officer with FEMA)

dPlan: A free online template that creates customized disaster plans, created by NEDCC through an IMLS grant (free).

COSTEP (Massachusetts) Coordinate Statewide Emergency Preparedness: building the framework for model state partnerships. Check out their “key relationships” checklist online.

Goals of the framework: 1: Build relationships 2: Educate cultural custodians and emergency management professionals 3: Develop and incorporate into state CEMP.

We must “institutionalize” relationships, not just rely on personal relationships. We need formal documents to set down what their duties/responsibilities/support is. When someone leaves, what happens? We need a command and control structure.

Lynette Stoudt (Senior Archivist at Georgia Historical Society)

Part of steering committee for the Savannah SHER group (AFR), which has a website, bylaws, and objectives: Should we? Sheronline.info Her presentation is an overview of their organization, when it started, work they've done, and troubles they are having.

Look at HERA, Atlanta's group, for great workshop ideas.

SHER created a membership form for critical facilities assessment info. Also, we should look at their membership forms and Heritage Preservation website.

Critical facilities got together to discuss risks/hazard assessments and discovered a surprising one. High number of traffic incidences (wouldn't have thought this was an actual risk until they met and began telling anecdotal evidence to realize how big of a problem it is).

They encourage every critical facility (70 identified) to create a disaster preparedness plan based on dPlan (one of their workshops was to bring it in and get everyone's help). Only 1 out of 15 institutions at the workshop turned in their "homework" (risk assessment). Only 31% of the facilities have submitted membership forms. Disaster response is not always a priority for small organizations. They also sent out evaluation forms to hear about training wants.

Look at local colleges with homeland security programs for volunteers and internships. They get some assistance for SHER with students. EOC has great advice and resources for standards/staffing/training. Look at your local branch, there can sometimes be free opportunities.

Break-out Sessions

Organizational Development group

Tom: Harrisburg AFR group has state archivist and state librarian on the steering committee. Excellent news!

VOAD—National Organization of Volunteers; local groups could be willing to assist, www.nvoad.org Heritage Preservation website also has resources for planning development. SHER is two year term lengths for their positions but all change at same time. They are having problems finding people willing to replace those leaving.

Should we have one person appointed to the steering committee from each main institution in Pittsburgh? Mandated from directors of those so that we always have somebody? It seems to work successfully for those groups that can pull it off.

How are other groups recruiting? (Nobody in my group really answered this) Most are expanding to other touching counties when they can.

Outreach and Services

Disaster supply cache: We should re-look at hard hats because they can be harder to get a hold of; if we look prepared to go in, we sometimes may be able to assist. (Sage advice from Julie Page, who will email me further list information)

Should we consider a go bag?

OEM: Volunteer your venues, will do tours, etc. Both sides can be interested. EM often enjoys seeing unique collection materials.

Look at more cultural heritage institutions to join, not just "historic", such as science and art museums. Point out to directors and administration and city/local officials of the tourist and revenue monies' decline if there is damage to collections. Interesting statistics from Denver that the money acquired from museum visits is more than all of the sporting events combined (from all of their teams). Doubtful if this is true for Pgh but should look into or at least have numbers as a bargaining point.

Groups could have risk management models, get insurance data and cost/benefit to adding safety features or disaster response deterrents.

Education and Training

Ideas of workshops (both potential and already conducted):

Having insurance people and appraisers come in to explain jargon

Share and work on disaster plans

Risk Assessment tools (like our visit to Martha's archives)

Follow-ups: What happened? What went wrong? Share follow-ups because they can be helpful as precautionary tales; Alaska state archives blog posted lessons learned. The instant command system was founded on this (ICS).

EM ppl: If they see it, they remember it. Show them your collections.

Westpas exercise: "Are You Ready?" This was a very successful tabletop exercise that engaged both sides (EM and cultural heritage). It is helpful to ask EM what you would be doing (or should be doing) at that moment. Or switch roles (nametags) to learn what others expect of you during a disaster. It's often very wrong, according to EM side. Have the housekeeping closet (with flammables!) on floor plan so emergency responders know right off the bat.

Major points from the meeting

- We are trying to get EM personnel to get involved in AFR but we should also be trying to get involved in their allowable groups, listservs, etc. They have some ways for the public and institutions to be involved, depending on your local group.
- We are overlooking volunteer organizations that could be a part of this (such as VOAD).
- Find your person, your champion, preferably at a local level. It all works upward from a local level. It gets you a seat at that important table of decision-making.
- There is money out there, get to know where to look, and is now including collections (FEMA).
- We must impress that cultural heritage, while not as important as lives, can't wait either. It should be addressed at the same time and needs to be accounted for. Understand that we are ALL on the same side.
- Sustainability: get something concrete (a relationship) written down and solidified so that when key people leave, the group and efforts don't fall apart. Especially in terms of the EM/CH cooperation. When possible, integrate your CH into state and local plans.