

# Disaster Recovery and Preparedness

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# Top 3 Things You Have Learned (So Far)?

1.

2.

3.

# Perceptions About Disasters

“Where the hell is the cavalry on this one?”

Kate Hale, Director Miami-Dade County Emergency Management, 1992, Hurricane Andrew

“My biggest mistake was not recognizing by Saturday that Louisiana was dysfunctional.”

Michael Brown, Former Head of FEMA, 2005, Referring to the two days before Hurricane Katrina made landfall

“What a hell of an organization. I got on the phone with them yesterday, I got my claim number in already, the guy said he's going to call me in a couple of days. He's going to come out and estimate, and they said, listen, whatever doesn't work, they're going to help us put stuff in storage.”

Deb Smith, Staten Island resident whose house was flooded by Hurricane Sandy in 2012

# The Disaster Cycle



# Political Context for Disaster Policy

- Intergovernmental policy system
  - Federal
  - State
  - Local
- Shifting policy goals and leadership
  - Policy needs
  - Priorities of the President
  - Political responsiveness

# Challenges for Disaster Preparedness

- All hazards approach
- Risk and perceived risk
- Command and control strategy
- Uniformity or flexibility

# Challenges for Disaster Preparedness

- Preparedness is focused on response, rather than recovery
- What are we preparing for?
- Preparedness as a short-term or long-term goal

# Case 1: Town of Hempstead

- How did the Town of Hempstead address its capacity to be prepared for a disaster?
  - Operations
  - Resources
- Discuss how the Town of Hempstead handled fee collection for permits, documents, etc.?
  - How would this work in your community?
  - Discuss the balance of the potential to increase revenue with streamlining government processes in a disaster
- Discuss the balance between serving the public in a disaster and having staff that have also been subjected to a disaster.
  - How could you and your community handle this issue?
  - How could you plan and prepare for this aspect of disaster?



# Case 2: Long-Term and Short-Term Preparedness

- What is this community preparing for?
- How well do you think the community in this case prepared for a disaster?
- How would this approach work in your community?
- Are there any barriers to preparing for the disaster in this way?

# Conclusions

- Uniformity and flexibility
- What are you preparing for?
- Short-term and long-term risks

# Top 4 Things You Have Learned?

1.

2.

3.

4.

# Questions?

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