Local Highway Response To Large Disasters

Emergency Operations
Understanding the Process

June 11, 2015

Emergency Management Core Mission

DPW, DOT, Highway Dept – Are Non-Traditional First Responders

- Save lives
- Reduce suffering
- Mitigate further harm from disaster-affected populations

Little Moves When Roads Are Closed

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Current Trends

Three trends seem particularly relevant today
1. The trans-boundary nature of modern threats/hazards widens the range of the contingencies that can overwhelm a society
2. Modern societies have become increasingly vulnerable to threats/hazards new and old
3. The changing social and economic environment has made it more complex for community leaders to deal effectively with crisis

Your Role In an Emergency

Assist county and local governments with:

- Response:
  - Make Sure Notification Takes Place
  - Perform A Preliminary Damage Assessment
  - Complete A Rapid Needs Assessment
  - What is broken or damaged?
  - What do you need right now?
  - Send Status To The EOC
  - Get your organization placed on/off the board

Notification / Alert

- Incident Notification – All emergencies start and end locally.
  - Local - 911
  - County – County 911 or Emergency Manager
  - State – Regional Staff or State Watch Center
  - Response Starts - Use a system or job aid.

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What Is Rapid Assessment?

- Immediate response activities directly linked to initial assessment
- Used to determine lifesaving and life sustaining needs
- Performed in the first few hours of and following an incident or disaster
- Allows for the correct allocation of scarce resources

Collecting Rapid Assessment Information

- Collect data from:
  - 911 Center
  - Field report from Municipality / County
  - Initial / Rapid Assessment
  - Other

Why Open an EOC?

- Triggered by incident complexity
  - 95% versus 5%
- Scope – Magnitude
- Demographics and Geography
  - Are you ready?
  - Is your agency ready?
  - Is your community ready?
We are in this together…