



SCEMD

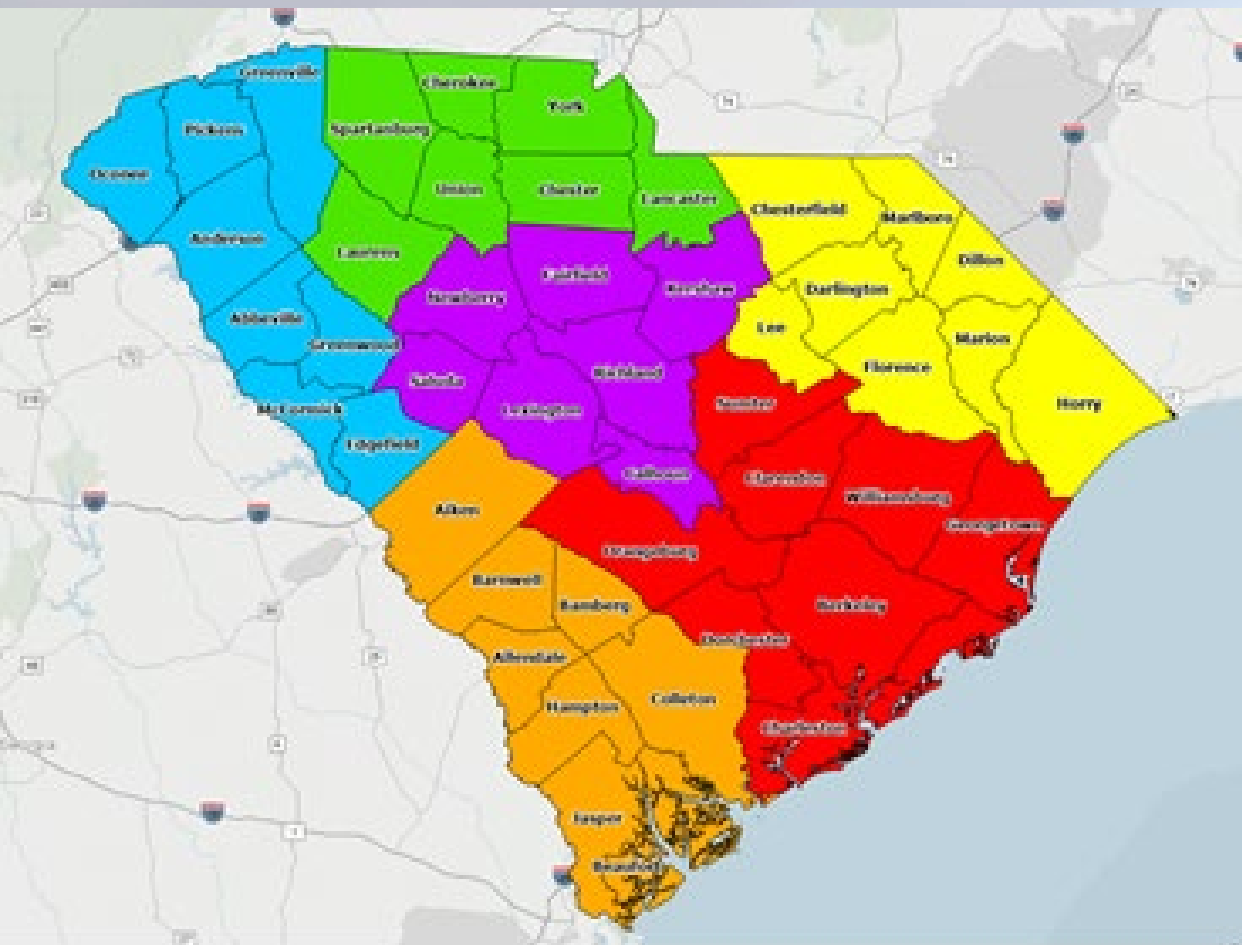
Senior Officials Workshop

Association of Counties
July 31, 2023

Who am I?



SCEMD



- Bethany Morton, SCEMD
- Doug Bryson, Spartanburg County
- Mario Formisano, Dorchester County

Purpose of Today



SCEMD

- Discuss issues in emergency management for senior and elected officials at the local level specifically county and municipal governments
- To gain a foundation and understanding of emergency management

What is Emergency Management?



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The International Association of Emergency Managers defines emergency management as:

“The managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerabilities to threats or hazards and cope with disasters.”

Emergency Management



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- Comprehensive
- Progressive
- Risk-Driven
- Integrated
- Collaborative
- Coordinator
- Inclusive
- Flexible

SC 58-I County Responsibilities



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- Must establish EM agency
- Must have
 - EM Director,
 - EM Program, and
 - County EM Plan
- Serve as liaison for municipalities' requests for state and federal assistance



- While counties are required to do so, legally constituted municipalities are authorized and encouraged to create emergency management programs

SC 58-I Municipalities



SCEMD

- Coordinate with County EM Agency
- Comply with all laws, rules, and requirements applicable to County EM Agencies
- Plan must be consistent with County EM plan
- Must coordinate request for state emergency response assistance with its County

Federal Legal Authorities for Emergency Management



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- US Constitution
 - Certain powers reserved to states
 - With exception of federal responsibility or national emergency, Governors must request federal assistance
- Federal Statutes and Congressional Appropriations
- Executive Orders
- Regulations
- Policy Guidance

State Legal Authorities for Emergency Management



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- State Constitution
- SC Code of Laws
- SC Code of Regulations
 - Regulations 58-1 and 58-101
- Executive Orders- including States of Emergency
- County Ordinances
- Municipal Ordinances

Local Ordinances



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- Vary from county to county



Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG)



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- Provides grant funds to support the building, sustainment and delivery of core capabilities of emergency management
- There are annual work elements and quarterly re-occurring work elements
- Federally-funded grant; dependent on federal budget

Additional Planning



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- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant
- Varies from county to county
- Builds relationships and understanding



Historical Disasters



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Hurricane Hugo



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- Made landfall on Sept 21-22, 1989
- Category 4 during landfall at Bulls Bay
- 35 deaths total with 10 in South Carolina
- Over 17.4 billion dollars in damages
- 264,000 people evacuated
- Presidential Disaster Declaration for 24 SC counties
- Officially closed recovery in 2006

Between 1989 and 2014



SCEMD

- 15 Major Disaster Declarations/ FMAG:
 - 3 Fire Assistance Management Grants
 - 4 Winter Weather/ Ice Storms
 - 1 Severe Weather/ Flooding
 - 7 Hurricanes including Hurricane Katrina evacuation support

Since 2014 S.C. Disasters



SCEMMD

- 2014 Ice Storm
 - \$264 million
- 2015 Flood
 - \$285 million
- 2016 Hurricane Matthew
 - \$359 million
- 2016 Pinnacle Mountain fire
 - \$4.4 million



Since 2014 S.C. Disasters



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- 2017 Hurricane Irma
 - \$43 million
- 2018 Hurricane Florence
 - \$156 million
- 2019 Hurricane Dorian
 - \$57 million

Since 2014 S.C. Disasters



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- 2020 Feb. Storms
 - \$9.2 million
- 2020 COVID-19
 - \$966 million
- 2020 April Tornados
 - \$26 million
- 2022 Hurricane Ian
 - \$42 million





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**Before
a Disaster**

Hazards



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- Natural
- Human-caused



Importance of Planning



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- A planning system supports
 - Decision making
 - Resource allocation
 - Measuring progress



Planning Process



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- Everyone has a part in emergency management plans
- Everyone with disaster responsibilities needs to be involved
- Assigning roles and responsibilities
- Developing the plan is as important as the plan
- Train on the plans

Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)



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- A plan:
 - is developed and used to ensure a coordinated, effective response
 - identifies responsibilities during disasters
 - organizes your response
- Requirement for Local Emergency Management Performance Grant funding and in compliance with SC 58-1

National Incident Management System



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- Nationwide framework
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5: National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Improve coordination and collaboration
- Common standards for overall incident management
- Incident Command System (ICS)



- Recovery Plan
- Logistics Plan
- Debris Management Plan
- Continuity of Government Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Communications Plan

Training



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- Training helps validate your plans
- Empowers your personnel
- Gain understanding



Training Opportunities



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- FEMA Training
 - Emergency Management Institute (EMI)
 - Independent Study
- SCEMD
 - Learning Management System (LMS)

Exercise Your Plans



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- Practice, practice, practice!
- Use different hazards
- Validates training, equipment, and plans
- Helps staff become experienced
- Capture lessons learned

After Action Reviews



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- For both exercises and real-world incidents
- Capture lessons learned
- Identify steps to better mitigate future incident
- Create a record of what you did and why for residents and stakeholders



- What does County preparedness look like?





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During a Disaster



- A state of emergency is declared by the Governor by executive order
- A state of emergency can be general or very specific for:
 - A localized incident
 - A disaster requiring the majority of state resources

State of Emergency



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- Can suspend and waive of rules and regulations
 - Ex- truck weight restriction waiver
- Streamlines state administrative procedures
- Enables state agencies to work together efficiently
- Can activate state resources to support local agencies



- County specific:
 - No set criteria
- Depending on how your ordinance/ resolution is written, a local state of emergency could:
 - Change procurement policy
 - Change overtime policy
 - Allow county EM to spend disaster funds
 - Define reentry policies

Local Example: Dorchester County



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- Local State of Emergency
- Emergency Council
- Evacuations
- Partner Coordination

Emergency Operations Center



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An Emergency Operations Center is the central coordinating location for all responding agencies that have roles in disaster response.

All 46 counties have dedicated emergency management positions and county emergency operations centers of various sizes and capabilities.



- Reduces confusion and increases information sharing because officials are co-located
- Coordinates with municipalities, school districts, special purpose districts, colleges, and other agencies
- Translates data into information

Staffing your EOC



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- Successful disaster response includes a functioning, trained, staffed EOC



Individual and Family Plans



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- Family plans
 - Employees
 - Citizens



The South Carolina Emergency Manager mobile app.



Download a new way to be ready.

- Build a personal emergency plan.
- Keep track of your disaster supplies kit.
- “Know Your Zone” evacuation maps.
- Local emergency manager information.
- Emergency strobe light and alert whistle.
- Share your location with emergency contacts.
- Traffic and weather.
- Document storm damage.
- Push notifications from SCEMD.





- EOC staff should have:
 - Authority to make decisions and commit resources to the agency
 - Identified multiple people per position



- Information must be managed
- Information management is an important key to success
- EOCs receive a LOT of information, some useful and some not
- Identify key information



- Become familiar with tools that emergency managers use to document and share information
- A common operating system helps everyone stay informed and engaged
- Palmetto is the State system that counties have access to also use

Palmetto



SCEMD

Bethany morton
SCEMD



AAR Input

Bookmarks

Call Centers

Chat

Communication Checks

County Closures

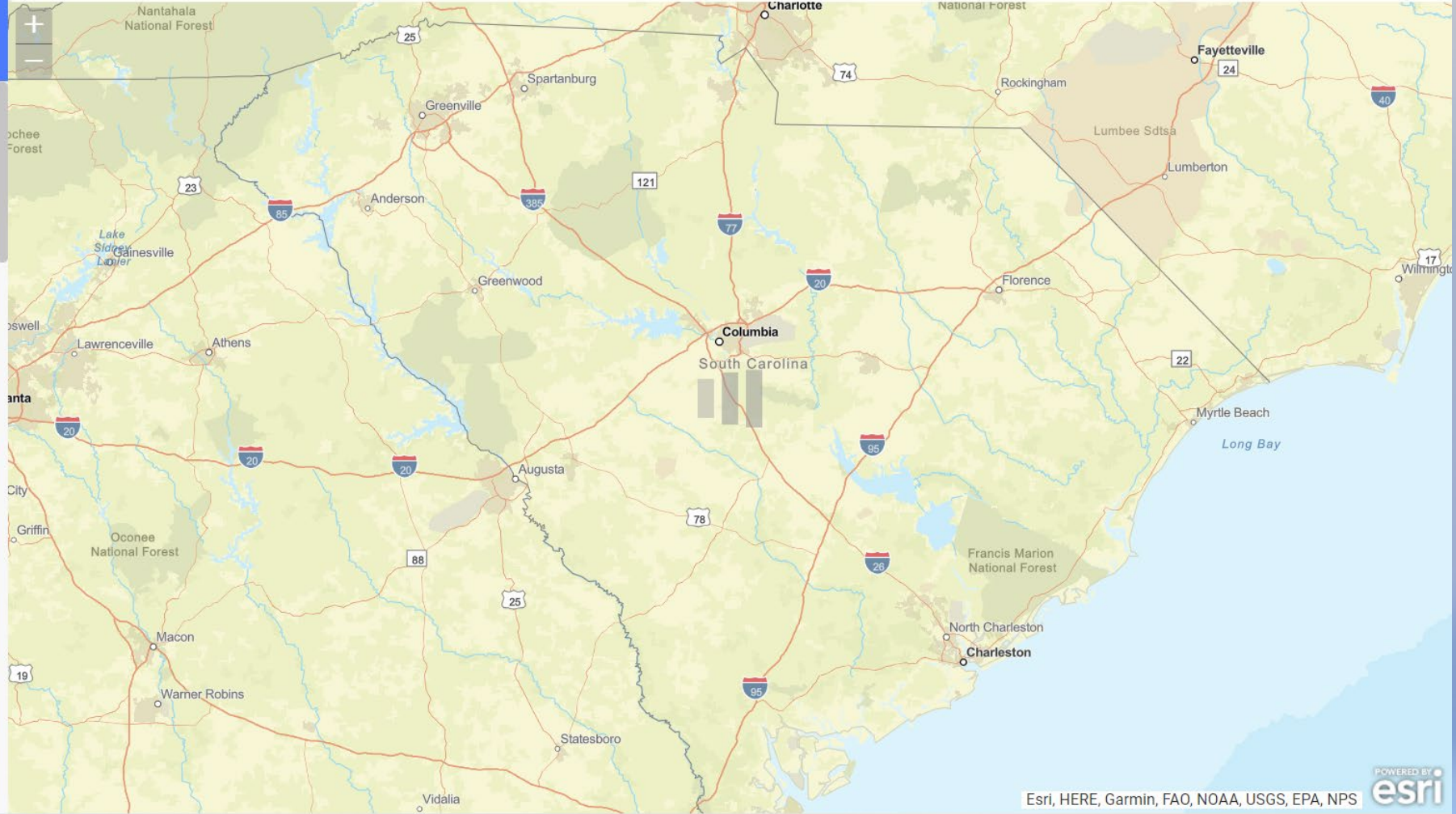
County Feeding

County Indicators

County Resource Lists

Dashboard

Debris Sites



POWERED BY
Esri

Incident Documentation



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- Situation reports and future planning help document actions taken during the incident period
- Documentation will be critical for recovery program applications and in assessing the response
- Records can protect you

Planning Documents



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Situation Reports

- Past and current activities

Incident Action Plans

- Future planning activities

Situation Reports



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- Who is compiling them?
- How often are they being created?
- Who is collecting the information?
- Who is sharing the information?
- How is the information being shared?
- What information do you want to know and how often?



- Plan for the next operational period
- Dedicate staff to focus on tomorrow
- Try to anticipate needs
- Identify potential resource requests
 - What will you need?
 - What will be the mission?
 - Ask before you need it

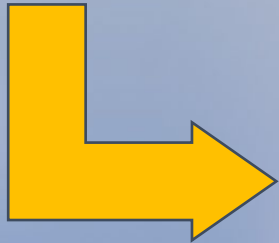
Disaster Response Process



SCEMD

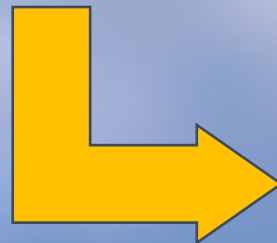
Define
Problems

- What issues pose the greatest threat to resident safety?



Identify
Priorities

- Life safety, property protection, and environmental concerns



Locate
Resources

- What is available, how fast can it be deployed and how much does it cost?



- Resource requests should be based on what you are trying to accomplish vs. any one specific item

Priority for Resources



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- Life safety
- Property protection
- Environmental concerns





- Determine resource needs and shortfalls
- Procure emergency contracts beforehand
 - Use when appropriate
- Day-to-day mutual aid may not be available
- Could be competing for resources during disasters

Disaster Resources



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- Complete resource gap assessment
- Make the state aware of shortfalls prior to an incident





- Start with what you have-
local resources
- Review existing Mutual
Aid Agreements
 - Local
 - Statewide
- Have and review
emergency contracts
- Have a plan for donations
and volunteers
- Know how to request
resources from SCEMD
 - Through county
emergency management

Resource Decisions



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- Be prepared to authorize the use or movement of resources
 - Moving resources is not a fast process
 - Ask for it before you need it
- Be prepared to order resources
 - Know your point of contact
- Understand state and local procurement
 - Know emergency procurement methods
- Understand the resource requesting process
 - Requests are made through the county EOC



- SCEMD coordinates resource requests with:
 - State/local mutual aid resources
 - Donations when available
 - Contractors
 - Interstate mutual aid
 - National Guard: EXPENSIVE and State of Emergency required
 - Federal assets

Think Logistically



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- Be sure to consider the following:
 - “Wrap Around” Services
 - Feeding plan for emergency workers and EOC staff
 - Staging area
 - Sleeping arrangements
 - Documenting staff hours
 - Family support

Be Mindful Of



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- Accountability for citizens
- Family re-unification
- Reentry
- Access control
- Continuity of operations
- Continuity of government
- Keeping citizens informed



- Personal media consumption habits have changed
 - 6 p.m. news and daily paper vs. Snapchat and Instagram
- Social Media isn't new
 - Facebook was created in 2004 (over two decades ago)
 - SCEMD has utilized social media since 2009
 - There are 2.6 million Facebook accounts in S.C.
 - Many counties have integrated social media into their overall communications plans
 - Products include news releases, press conferences, and social content



- SEOC averaged 300 media inquiries an hour during Hurricane Matthew and 2015 Flood
- During Hurricane Irma, SCEMD experienced 2.6 million hits on social media and scemd.org had 22 million hits



- Difference between Spokesperson and PIO
 - The PIO manages the media operation so the spokesperson can focus on operational decisions
- PIO serves as a coordinator for lead spokesperson
 - Coordinates media press briefings
 - Issues media releases
 - Produces written documents for media and public outreach



- Governments should make every attempt to have a dedicated public information position
 - Should not be part-time or have other duties as assigned
- The public information function requires dedicated and trained staff focused solely on the communications mission
- PIOs trained in crisis communications can support local elected officials and administrators



- Before a crisis, the PIO should be proactive, developing invaluable relationships
- The job of the PIO has changed significantly
 - PIOs are now focused more on content creation and less on dissemination
 - Traditional media still have a valuable role

This is What We Plan For



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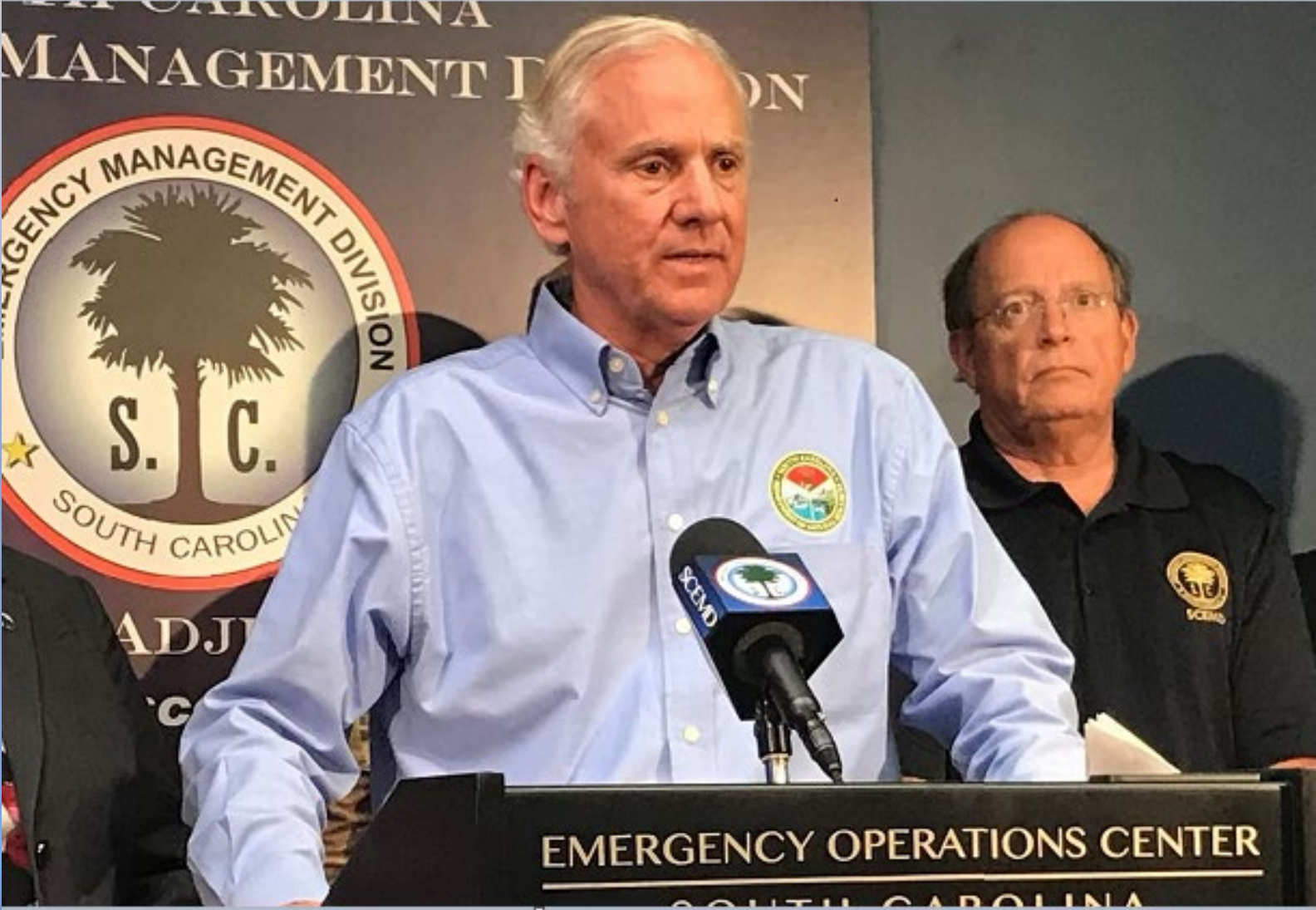
Briefing area for
the Boston
Marathon Bombing
incident



Public Information



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- The PIO
 - Works with other county and state PIOs to make sure messages are consistent
 - Needs to be connected to the statewide PIO network for message sharing and mutual aid if you need it

Residents Want to Know



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- What happened?
- What does it mean to me?
- What are you doing about it?
- When can I go home?
- How can I rebuild?
- What help is available?

The Public Message



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- Emergency management public messaging:
 - Focused on life safety
 - Accurate and current
 - Written with one clear, consistent message
 - Accessible to the whole community
 - English as a second language, functional needs
 - Sign language interpreters
 - Credible in the response and recovery phases

Reentry Considerations



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- Connect with your local Emergency Manager
- Identify and understand local reentry policies
- Determine who is going to make reentry decisions
- Help your citizens understand the reentry process



- Act No. 236, codified at 25-1-445
 - Businesses in good standing with SC Secretary of State
 - Managed by Department of Commerce

Disaster Finance



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- Disasters cost money
- Be prepared to spend money
- Know how you are going to spend it and who has the authority to spend it
- Follow your jurisdiction's and federal procurement policy
- Understand your disaster contracts



Track Your Expenses



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- Document everything including:
 - Employee hours
 - Overtime policy
 - Equipment hours
 - Volunteer hours
 - Activity logs
 - Procurement, invoices, payments



Track Your Resources



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- Be prepared to identify who was doing what, with what equipment, where, and for how long
- Ex: Paul Parker removed fallen trees from the county courthouse using 20 inch chain saw for 5 hours on 8/7/17



- Be prepared to support the reimbursement process
- Supporting documentation will be needed:
 - Insurance policies
 - Employee pay policy
 - Employee pay statements
 - Procurement documentation
 - Proofs of payment for all expenses



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After a Disaster

Returning to a New Normal

Disasters are local



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- Local government should drive recovery
- State and federal assistance, plus non-governmental organizations, can supplement local resources and capabilities
- Need to think about and prepare for disaster recovery (have a recovery plan/strategy)

Without a Federal Declaration



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- County will still have to provide services but without reimbursement from federal grants
- SBA disaster loans might be available, depending on damage
- U.S. Department of Agriculture emergency loans also may be available for agricultural producers



Without a Federal Declaration



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- Voluntary, non-profit, and faith-based organizations are vital resources
- Consider authorities that are within your scope that will assist residents in the recovery process
- Pre-identify state and local resources



- The disaster “is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government,” and Federal assistance is needed
- Does not require Governor’s declaration of state of emergency, but Governor requests federal declaration based on damage assessments

Types of Federal declarations



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- Emergency declaration (generally max of \$5m)
- Major disaster declaration
- Fire Management Assistance Grant



Initial Damage Assessment



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- First step in recovery process
- Conducted by local government as soon as safety permits
- Uses locally identified damage assessment team members who are trained in the process *beforehand*
- Requires a system to collect, verify, and consolidate damage assessment information.
 - PalmettoEOC Damage Assessment, electronic system, or spreadsheet

Initial Damage Assessment



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- Sent to the state for analysis and submission to FEMA, if warranted
- Used to determine magnitude of impact statewide and by county
- Determination if needs and thresholds are met
 - Individual Assistance: criteria but no threshold
 - Public Assistance: county and state threshold- both must be met
- Basis for requesting joint preliminary damage assessment (JPDA) from FEMA
 - JPDA will include FEMA, state, and affected county/ municipalities

Information Sharing



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- All agencies need to share information to determine the complete initial damage assessment
- Common language and format are critical to convey the impact of the disaster and help develop the narrative for federal partners
- Report damage assessment info to SCEMD for compilation and analysis

Information Sharing



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County's report should include information for the entire county including:

- Municipalities
- School districts
- Special tax districts
- All government subdivisions

AFTER MATTHEW
INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA
as of October 20, 2016

Hurricane Matthew survivors in these counties can apply for disaster aid online at DisasterAssistance.gov, on the FEMA Mobile App, or by calling 800-621-3362 (FEMA).

Individual Assistance

SCEMD FEMA

Damage Assessment Types



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- Initial damage assessment by local agencies
 - Submitted to SCEMID
- Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment
 - FEMA, state, local agencies
- Small Business Administration damage survey
 - SBA and local governments
- American Red Cross damage assessment
 - Independent
- National Flood Insurance Program
 - Federally required for properties in Special Flood Hazard Area

Damage Assessment



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- Multiple organizations conduct damage assessments for various reasons
- Emergency management makes every effort to consolidate these efforts; however, there will be some independent assessments
- Ask your county emergency manager or SCEMD if you are unsure if a group should be conducting a damage assessment in your area

Major Disaster Declaration



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- A Joint PDA verifies reported damages
- The Governor requests that the President declare a disaster for the state and affected counties
- Appropriate federal programs are activated, which could include:
 - Individual Assistance (for individuals and households)
 - Public Assistance (categories of public sector emergency work and permanent work)

Working with FEMA



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- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act governs FEMA-administered assistance
- 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- Policy and implementation guidance for PA, IA, and hazard mitigation programs
- Contact SCEMD Recovery and Mitigation Section staff with questions or for assistance

What to expect from FEMA



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- Documentation, documentation, documentation – to obligate funds and later for reimbursement
- Procurement must comply with 2 CFR 200
- Protecting personally identifiable information
- SCEMD recovery staff will assist with the recovery process

Individual Assistance



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- Residents often have limited resources and high expectations
- FEMA Individual Assistance can include:
 - Assistance to eligible residents following a major disaster (e.g., repair or rental assistance)
 - Multiple assistance programs for a variety of purposes, but they do not provide a lot of dollars (insurance is a better option)



Housing Assistance



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- Lodging, Rental, and Repair Assistance
 - Available under IA Disaster Declaration
- Direct Temporary Housing Assistance
 - Not to exceed 18 months
- Direct Permanent Housing Assistance



Low interest loans to eligible applicants following a disaster:

- Loan program
- Lower threshold than FEMA IA program
- Requires SBA damage survey of county
- May be the only assistance available to residents
- Home repairs and personal property replacement; also available for business property



- Coordinate with EM on potential temporary housing needs
 - Temporary emergency sheltering when their primary residence is impacted
- Encourage residents to have insurance including flood insurance
- Reinforce individual and household preparedness messaging

IA After a Declaration



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- Communicate to EM
 - Resident needs and concerns
 - Capabilities like churches collecting donated goods
- Share information on available IA and SBA programs
 - Manage citizen expectations
 - Disaster Recovery Centers

Public Assistance



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- Eligible applicants are:
 - Governmental entities
 - Electric co-ops
 - Certain private non-profits
- PA cost share includes:
 - At least 75% federal
 - 25% non-federal may be state, local, or a combination



PA Meetings and Project Development



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- Applicant's Briefing
- Exploratory Call
- Recovery Scoping Meeting (RSM)
- RSMs are followed by documentation of damage/costs and development of project worksheet, which FEMA reviews for obligation of eligible amount



Categories of Eligible Work



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- A: Debris Removal
- B: Emergency Protective Measures
- C: Roads, Signs, Bridges
- D: Water Control Facilities
- E: Buildings & Equipment
- F: Public Utilities
- G: Park, Recreation, Other

Public Assistance Process



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- Documentation of claims
 - Time
 - Equipment
 - Work required to repair or replace facilities
- Reimbursement process
 - Obligated work and substantiated costs reimbursed by SCEMD
 - Single audit required of organization if it expends more than \$750,000 in federal funds in a fiscal year



- Messaging about the need to register for disaster assistance is critical
- Messaging should be coordinated with the Joint Information Center
- FEMA External Affairs can be overwhelming if you do not have trained public information staff



- Pre-identify a public information point of contact
- Coordinate messages across agencies
- Simultaneous methods to engage residents:
 - News releases and media advisories
 - Flyers
 - Public service announcements
 - Social media content
 - Public forums
 - Town hall meetings

Recovery and Mitigation Assistance



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- Contact SCEMD Recovery and Mitigation Section staff with questions
 - recovery@emd.sc.gov
- Refer to regulations and policy documents
- Develop or maintain a recovery plan/strategy (SCEMD can assist counties with development)



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Wrap
Up

NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SOUTH CAROLINA

Purpose of Today



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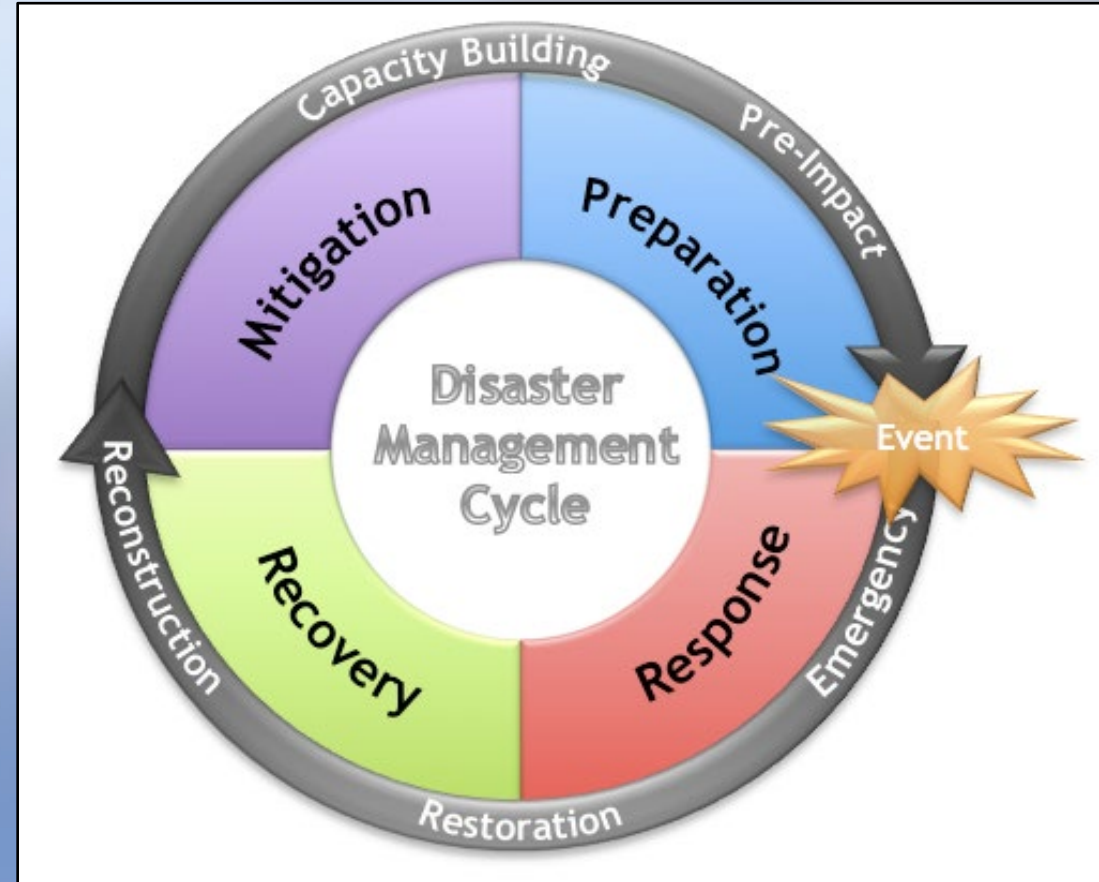
- Discuss issues in emergency management for senior and elected officials at the local level specifically county and municipal governments
- To gain a foundation and understanding of emergency management

Objectives



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- Before a disaster
- During a disaster
- After a disaster



Top 5 Take Aways



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- Emergency Procurement
- Ensure an effective response and recovery
- Communicate with your population
- Recovery is a Marathon
- Build relationships

Questions



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- Do you have any questions?

Contact Information



SCEMD

- Mike Russell, Chief of Operations
 - mrussell@emd.sc.gov
- Brittany Hammond, Chief of Finance
 - bhammond@emd.sc.gov
- Melissa Potter, Chief of Preparedness
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