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Subject: Hurricane Table Top Exercise
Location: SC Hospital Association Conference Center, 1000 Center Point Road, Columbia, S.
C.
When: 5/13/2016 10:00:00 AM - 12:00:00 PM
Attachments: ATT53483
ATT19471

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2016 Hurricane Table-Top Exercise and Press Conference

DATE: Friday, May 13, 2016

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (TTX); 12:10-12:25 p.m. (Press)

EVENT: Annual Hurricane Table-Top Exercise with State and Local Officials prior to the start of Hurricane Season (June 1-Oct. 31) with a following enhanced press conference.

LOCATION: SC Hospital Association Conference Center (large room for TTX; small room across the hall for Press Event)

STAFF/POC: Rebecca Schimsa, Brian Symmes

TOTAL ATTENDEES: Approx. 80 state and local representatives

THEMES: The TTX will focus on Pre-Landfall (evacuation, sheltering) and Post-Landfall (economic recovery) Coordination, and the press conference will focus on Evacuation and Shelter Preparation for citizens.

Agenda for TTX:

- **10:00 a.m. – Opening Remarks** by Director Kim Stenson and Governor Haley (see talking points below)
- **10:05 a.m. – Lessons Learned from October Flood** by Director Kim Stenson
- **10:10 a.m. – Hurricane Season Outlook** by State Climatologist, Dr. Hope Mizzell
- **10:15 a.m. – Module 1: Pre-Landfall Coordination** for a Category 3 Hurricane landing near Pawleys Island:
 - Mandatory Medical Evacuation (DHEC, Hospital Assoc., counties)
 - Evacuation for General Population (DOT, DPS)
 - Fiscal Considerations (SFAA)
 - Mass Care – Lessons Learned from October Flood (DSS, DHEC, counties)
- **11:05 a.m. – Module 2: Post-Landfall Coordination** for Destroyed/damaged buildings (hospitals,

- schools, fire and police stations), Debris, Displaced Households, Temporary Unemployment, Economic Loss, and Crop and Timber Losses.
 - Shelter Transition (DSS, counties, nonprofits)
 - Tourism Economic Recovery (PRT)
 - Forestry Economic Recovery (Forestry Commission)
- **11:55 a.m. – Concluding Remarks** from Governor Haley and Director Kim Stenson

NH Talking Points for TTX Opening:

- Here we are, again, preparing for another Hurricane Season, when all we have dealt with for the past few years have been Winter Storms and a Thousand-Year Flood.
- We had a lot of successes last October, many of which we credited to the previous year's back-to-back Winter Storms – including early decision-making in each of our agencies and also the pre-staging of key assets.
- I don't want us to lose that momentum.
- Each of us needs go through this year's table-top exercise using the lens of the October Flood – including our need for shelters and our dependence on FEMA.
- As we turn our focus to hurricanes, I want Director Stenson to give us a brief overview of high level lessons learned from the October Flood to remind us of what we did well and what we can do better for the next event.
- That's the beauty of emergency management – no event is the same, but the principles and philosophy of how we respond are the same: Coordinate early, prepare for the worst, and over communicate with each other and with the public.

NH Talking Points for TTX Closing:

- [As for previous years, NH can choose to fun through a list of notes taken during the exercise to summarize and direct follow-up where needed.]
- Again, I want to thank each of you for your leadership and teamwork during last year's Flood but also throughout the year as well.
- Although it may not be your core day-to-day mission, continue to make emergency preparedness a priority for your agency.
- After all, we know that how we respond to an emergency is only as good as how we've been preparing year-round.
- Update your contact lists, inventory your assets, and make sure you have back-up staffing as folks go on vacation this summer.
- I want to thank EMD for hosting and coordinating our state's preparation.
- I am going to do my part to help get our citizens prepared as well – After this, I'll go across the hall to brief the media, focusing on evacuation tips for residents.
- If your agency needs anything else, please let us know.

Press Event:

Purpose: To bring awareness to upcoming Hurricane Season so that citizens can prepare for a possible coastal evacuation.

Speakers: (speaking time no more than two minutes each)

1. **Governor Haley – Overview**
 - (see talking points below)
2. **Dr. Hope Mizzell, State Climatologist – Weather Forecast**
 - What can we expect for the 2016 Hurricane Season?
3. **EMD Rep. (Dir. Kim Stenson) – Evacuation Timeline**
 - What is the process for ordering an evacuation for a hurricane? By whom? When? How?
4. **County Rep. (Mario Formisano, Dorchester) – “Know Your Zone” – When citizens will evacuate?**
 - How do coastal residents know when and where to evacuate?
5. **DOT Rep. (Sec. Christy Hall or Dick Jenkins) – Evacuation Routes – Where citizens will go?**
 - How routes are determined? How lanes are reversed?

6. **DPS Rep. (Dir. Leroy Smith or CPT Rob Woods) – Evacuation Do's and Don'ts – What citizens can expect?**
 - What to do and not do while evacuating? What to expect during the drive and how long it will be? What roadside assistance is available, if any? What citizens should bring (evacuation kit)?
7. **DSS Rep. (Dir. Susan Alford or Designee) – Sheltering**
 - For citizens who cannot stay at a hotel or with family or friends: Where to find shelters? What to expect at a shelter and how long will it be open? Children, pets, special medical needs?
8. **Guard Rep. (MG Bob Livingston) – State Readiness**
 - How prepared is the state? What support can be given to locals?

NH Talking Points for Press Event – Opening:

- We are 19 days away from the start of Hurricane Season, and as we have done each year, state agencies are preparing.
- We have always thought our greatest vulnerability to natural disasters has been for hurricanes, but we've seen over the last few years that we are susceptible to other disasters, such as Winter Storms and Thousand-Year Floods.
- Those other emergencies have been opportunities that have sharpened our state's preparedness in new ways, and we've learned and improved with each event.
- However, entirely different from a winter storm or flood – where the damaged areas have been localized and dispersed throughout the state – is a hurricane, which threatens our entire coastline and all the way inland.
- The good news is that we'll be able to see it forming, we'll get the forecasts and modeling, and we'll be able to take steps to prepare several days in advance.
- For those who remember Hugo, Floyd, and others, we all know that the major operation for hurricane preparedness is a large-scale evacuation.
- It's been **X years** since South Carolina has had an evacuation, so we are here today to remind South Carolinians what to expect and how to prepare.
- After me, you are going to hear directly from the state officials responsible for creating the evacuation routes, reversing the lanes, and manning traffic control points and shelters.
- It's important for South Carolinians to understand that our state has a detailed, hour-by-hour plan for ordering and executing an evacuation.
- We are doing our part, and we need the public to do theirs.
- Before turning it over, a few things to keep in mind:
 - If you live on the coast, then you live in a zone, and you need to know your zone to know when you will have to evacuate. Each coastal county has different signs marking the zones and the routes, and those stay up year-round, so "Know your Zone" ahead of time.
 - If we evacuate, the major highways will be automatically reversed, so traffic can move inland twice as fast. Traffic will still be slow, but it will be steady.
 - If we order an evacuation, it will not be voluntary – It will be mandatory. There will be one order to evacuate so there is no confusion. If it's dangerous enough to order one person to leave, then it's dangerous enough for everyone to leave.
 - If we evacuate, then be prepared – fill your car up with gas before you get on the road, be prepared for a long drive, stay on the route, and get an evacuation kit together with essentials: bottled water, snacks and food, prescription medicines, extra cellphone batteries, and supplies for your pets.
- With that, here is Director Kim Stenson from EMD to talk about how and when an evacuation will be ordered.

NH Talking Points for Press Event – Closing:

- Mother Nature is good to South Carolina – we have an amazing coastline with beautiful beaches for boating, surfing, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors year-round – but that comes with a responsibility.
- Each and every one of us – in government or in the private sector – has the responsibility to prepare for a hurricane for ourselves, our families, and our property.
- We are 19 days out from Hurricane Season, so you have plenty of time to prepare.
- Take 15 minutes to:

- Go online and find out your zone so you'll know when you're being called to evacuate.
- Identify a friend or family member in the Midlands or Upstate you plan to stay with.
- Pull together an evacuation kit of household items, including important identification or insurance papers that may get destroyed if left behind.
- Go the extra step to:
 - Get supplies together that you'll need to board up windows and prepare to move outdoor furniture inside.
 - Talk to elderly neighbors or loved ones about their plans and their special needs.
 - Ask your employer or tell your employees what to expect if there's an evacuation.
- We'll all be in an evacuation together, so if everyone takes just a few minutes to prepare, then we'll all be better off.
- For more information about anything we mentioned today, you can visit www.scmd.org.

Visuals:

- Podium with plain backdrop surrounded by posters with a table of an example evacuation kit.
- Posters: Evacuation Routes, "Know your Zone", Inundation Maps, Survival Guide, etc.
- Table Display: Sample Evacuation Kit:
 - Bookbag, Dufflebag, or Plastic Container
 - Bottled Water, Non-perishable Snacks/Food
 - Flashlight, Duct Tape, Rope, Work Gloves, Trashbags
 - Extra Cellphone Battery, Battery-Operated Radio
 - First Aid Kit, Prescription Medicines
 - Map of Evacuation Route
 - Important Papers
 - Cash
 - Pet Necessities (food, leash, water bowl)

FYI – LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE OCTOBER FLOOD:

Strengths:

- Early decision making allowed agencies to anticipate needs, setting the stage for success and movement of key and essential assets.
- Elected official and agency/department head involvement facilitated decision making and commitment of resources.
- Pre-staging of anticipated emergency assets reduced the response time.
- Forward deployed liaisons greatly assisted in overall coordination, situational awareness, and information sharing, thereby fostering a more efficient and timely response.
- National Guard capabilities greatly enhanced the ability of the State to address a multitude of issues and respond with efficiency and speed.
- Mutual aid worked well, affording the State the ability to provide coordinated assistance at the county and state level.
- The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) efficiently provided critical additional manpower and equipment capability from other states.
- The performance executed at all levels of government during this event validated the extensive planning, training and exercising conducted in recent years.

Areas for Improvement:

- Shelters were not opened or staffed in a timely manner.

- Privately owned dams in South Carolina lacked sufficient emergency planning. Dam owners were unaware of the responsibilities and liability they have for dam maintenance and repairs.
- South Carolina has a limited mosquito abatement capability.
- Validating information and managing information, while functional, needs to be improved.
- Flood and inundation modeling was not sufficient. Additional river gauges would be helpful to better anticipate flood effects.
- State and local authorities relied too heavily on FEMA for damage assessment.
- Staff augmentation for EOCs at all levels was implemented but needs enhancement.
- Earlier FEMA case management program deployment.