



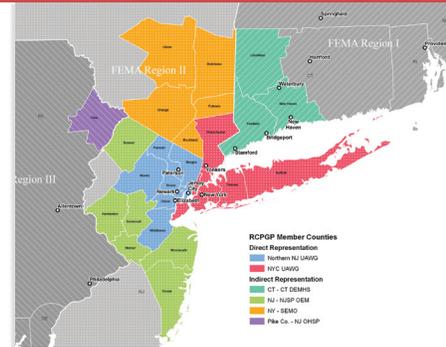
Catastrophic Response

Coordination | Communication | Unity of Effort

Working together makes us stronger

www.regionalcatplanning.org

Catastrophes are different. A catastrophic incident is not merely a large version of a routine emergency and cannot be managed merely with more personnel and equipment. Catastrophes create an enormous demand for effective coordination and communication. This is the responsibility of emergency managers. This newsletter is written by and for emergency managers in support of the catastrophic preparedness mission. That mission is to bring resources from a variety of sources into a common management structure to provide the logistical and information support essential to the successful management of a catastrophic response.



EXEC'S PODIUM

WHY Catastrophic Planning?

BY LYNN GILMORE CANTON, US DHS/FEMA Region II Administrator



Catastrophic planning is one of FEMA's three major priorities this year, as well as a major priority for Region II. While there have been many smaller disasters that primarily fall within the Public Assistance program, thankfully there are few disasters of a magnitude that would affect a large population and multiple jurisdictions.

should know what to expect from each other and should work together seamlessly and flawlessly. We should know the strengths and shortfalls of the entire team, both in the region and beyond, and have planned for a wide range of possibilities.

Our challenge is to always look for the better way, including how we may better respond to disasters. One of our sister DHS components, Science and

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Just because these events are less likely doesn't mean they won't have considerable impact upon the nation if and when they occur. It is our job to be ready.

A catastrophic incident demands we collaborate and integrate our functions more than ever. Before an event, the entire disaster response community

Technology, continues to research possibilities and we continue to reengineer our business practices to be more current and capable. While it is true the possibilities of technological innovation far outpace budgets, there is still the need to improve on what is possible today and forecast what the future may require.

We want to hear from you!

For inquiries on any of the topics covered in this issue, to learn more about the RCPT-NY-NJ-CT-PA, or to become involved in our planning efforts, email: ric@regionalcatplanning.org
Article submissions also encouraged. We look forward to hearing from you!



NYC OEM 1st Deputy Commissioner Calvin Drayton meets with RIC Staff

CATASTROPHIC QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

“..get the right people in the room and give them the information they need to address the problem.”

— Kelly McKinney, Deputy Commissioner NYC OEM

GET INVOLVED

Classes and Training:

For courses being offered in your area, please visit the training and exercise pages of the following websites:

- <http://www.state.nj.us/njoem/>
- <http://www.semo.state.ny.us/>
- <http://www.pema.state.pa.us/>
- <http://www.ct.gov/demhs/>

Conferences:

In January 2011, the All Hazards Consortium will host the 3rd Annual State Border Coordination Workshop.

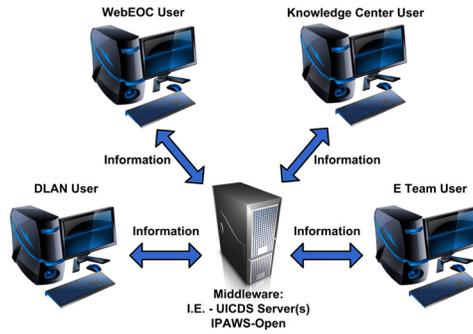
The event will take place at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center in Gettysburg, PA from January 24-25.

For more information, go to: <http://www.ahcusa.org/>

RCPT Planning Team Meetings:

The Planning cell of the RCPT—the Regional Integration Center (RIC)—holds weekly planning meetings in an effort to bring together the public, private, and non-profit sectors for input and feedback on the region’s catastrophic plans being developed on behalf of the RCPT of NY-NJ-CT-PA. Please contact us if you are interested in participating at ric@regionalcatplanning.org.

Got an event for the calendar? Let us know! Send details to: ric@regionalcatplanning.org



Virtual Regional Operations Center: *Planning to talk to each other*

Catastrophes can rapidly span even federal boundaries, compelling leaders to demand instant situational awareness to make critical policy and strategic decisions. Catastrophes also overwhelm emergency managers with the number of concurrent operations and the need for relief personnel, supplies, and equipment. Without situational awareness they too face mission failure.

Situational Awareness is a force multiplier that expedites decision-making and reduces response times. In disaster response today the capability for situational awareness is absent because local, state, and federal jurisdictions use different incident management technologies that are not able to talk to each other. In our region alone we have four main systems (E-Team, Disaster LAN,

WebEOC, and Knowledge Center) that cannot share information in real time.

The RCPT Virtual Regional Operations Center (VROC) planning team, led by Michael Schultz, has convened a group of emergency managers and technology experts to come up with a straightforward proposal to solve this problem. Their three recommendations are: (1) DHS must pick between two systems—IPAWS-OPEN (FEMA system) or UICDS (DHS S&T system)—to connect incident management technologies; (2) the NY-NJ-CT-PA project site must adopt a common data exchange language, specifically, the Oasis standards supported by DHS known as Emergency Data eXchange Language; and (3) the NY-NJ-CT-PA project site must adopt a common VROC dashboard for all systems.

The screenshot shows a complex dashboard with multiple data points and action items. Key sections include:

- ISSUES:** A list of operational issues such as 'Insufficient Decontamination Capacity', 'Missing Persons - Ineffective Process for Tracking of Missing Persons', and 'Debris - Regulatory Hurdles for Debris Management'.
- Key Data:** A central area with summary statistics:

DEAD	INJURED	MISSING
1,324	8,136	32,075
DISPLACED	Sheltered	# Shelters
120,543	43,756	25
Evacuation	Bedts Remaining	
	7,000	
- ACTIONS:** A list of tasks such as 'Authorize Interim Dumping of Debris into River for Critical Ops' and 'Pressure FEMA to Speed up Logistical Support of Critical Needs'.
- OPERATIONS:** A section for ongoing activities like 'Search and Rescue/Debris Removal Continuing' and 'Protect Health & Safety'.
- NEEDS:** A section for resource requirements like 'Unlabeled Directed to Evacuate, Stay in your Homes'.
- Delays:** A section listing transportation delays for various routes and bridges.

By implementing these three recommendations VROC will connect our incident management systems to provide regional situational awareness and critical resource needs in real time.

Training and Exercises

On November 4, 2010 the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, FEMA, and the Region II Defense Coordinating Element hosted the REDZONE tabletop exercise at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ.



The exercise included a total of 115 emergency responders representing 64 agencies and simulated a private sector, local, county,

state, and federal response to the detonation of a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD). The event also served as a forum to educate responders about equipment, operational assets, and regional programs designed to help them with coordination and response to catastrophic incidents.

The REDZONE exercise also underscored the importance of building community in advance of an event to expedite response in the critical moments following a mega disaster where every minute counts. Notes Devin Kerens, REDZONE coordinator, “The exercise allowed agencies to identify some major successes and gaps. But the real success lay in the sidebar conversations and relationship building that took place. It gave the agencies a lot to think about when they start planning for the 2014 Super Bowl.”

STAY TUNED for...

Mass Fatality Management updates in an upcoming issue of *CatResponse*. Don't miss: **the Capabilities Survey**—to better understand each Medical Examiner's and Coroner's level of preparedness for a Mass Fatality response, a Capabilities Based Assessment tool was created. This tool addresses: (1) Agency Information (2) Disaster Planning and Preparedness (3) Disaster Response Capabilities and (4) Subjective View of Preparedness **or the UVIS Software article**—We are excited to announce that the State of New Jersey is in the process of operationalizing the Unified Victim Identification System (UVIS). UVIS is an application which is created and shared at no cost by New York City to manage complex issues related to a missing persons/mass fatality event. Learn more about UVIS and what it can do for you in our next issue.

