PREPARING FOR THE NEXT DISASTER

Steve Mendoza
Langford Community Management Services Inc.
It’s coming, but what do I do?

- Preparedness is:
  - Adjusting the way you think
  - Revising the way you budget
  - Re-evaluating the way you provide power
  - Realigning communications to extend beyond your community
  - Streamlining the possibility of gaining grant funding
  - Change
Public Infrastructure

- Risk assessment of infrastructure sites (public and private)
- Inventory of existing structures, facilities, operations and materials on hand
- The overall budget should be broken down into site specific budgets or itemized site specific replacement costs
Risk Assessment

- Assessments should be prioritized on the sites that may or have shown to be venerable prior to the risk assessment process.

- Structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas should receive a higher risk level than those that are not.

- Based on the community’s history and most common events, determine the type of events that may threaten the community.
While the sites are being assessed, they should be identified by a Site Number and GPS location.

Everything it takes to reconstruct the facilities at each site should be tied to the assigned Site Number.

All the sites locations should be identified on a Master Site Map.
Each structure in the community needs to be assessed to determine the location, existing design requirements, equipment, materials and labor cost needed to replace the entire structure should it be destroyed in a disaster.

A risk assessment should determine the order in which the sites are to be documented.
Presidential or Governor’s Declaration

- Opens the door to funding opportunities
- Must comply with state or federal requirements based on the programs and source of funding
- All damaged sites will have to be identified with GPS latitude and longitude locations
- Must be able to document what you did or what will be needed to repair or replace the damaged structure (labor time sheets, equipment and materials)
I used materials that were on hand and had been stocked for years. Can I charge the “going rate” for the materials I used?

- No. You must have invoices for reimbursement. If you paid $1.00 per ton in 1952 for the materials that were used, you will be reimbursed $1.00 per ton.
I misplaced the invoices. I do not have documentation to back up the material costs. What do I do now?

- Check to see if the material costs were documented/approved in the local minutes. This can be used as back-up documentation. The City or County Auditor may have records of the purchase as well.
So how do I document cost per site?

- Materials come into the City or County Precinct yard by the ton, but most communities count the number of truck loads that were sent to each site.

- Trucks are loaded by the yard (truck capacity or loader bucket size). Calculate totals number of yards for each site by using the number of loads sent to the site and the capacity of the truck or loading bucket.

- Based on the type of material, have your engineer convert the material from yards to tons.
Most federal sourced funds are 75% grant and 25% match.

The CDBG Program is the only program that can use Federal Grant Funds to match Federal Grant Funds.

In-Kind services can be used as match as long as program requirements / limits are met.
What else do we need to do?

- Public Education
- Shelter
- Power
- Food
- Water
- Wastewater
- Communications
- Warning Signs for known hazards
Public Education

- Teach residents what to do BEFORE it happens
- Provide residents lists of needed items to be prepared for disasters
- Offer training classes to teach residents how to be volunteer responders
- Do what it takes to get your community involved
- Identify local hazards to new residents
Shelter

- Is there a need for a community storm shelter?
- Have there been past deaths associated with disaster events?
- Do homes have safe rooms?
- If shelters are available, are they equipped with supplies?
- The bottom line - is your community protected?
Power

- Do the critical infrastructure components have their own source of power?
- Does the community Emergency Operations Center have emergency generators?
- Does the fire department have an emergency generator?
- Are the generators sized correctly?
- Is the fuel source for the generators reliable?
- Batteries anyone?
Have the residents been notified that it’s the time of year to keep canned/dry goods, emergency staples on hand?

Shelters/safe rooms should have emergency food rations in place.

Emergency food SHOULD NOT include Meals-Ready to Eat (MREs) for the general public. MREs require a great deal of water for a body to process at a time when water can be scarce.
Water

- Water facilities need to have power to treat and convey water throughout the distribution system. Generators are the best way to address this issue.

- Shelters/safe rooms should have emergency water rations in place.

- A person can survive weeks without food but only days without water.
- Wastewater facilities need to have power to treat and convey water throughout the collection system. Generators are the best way to address this issue.

- Shelters/safe rooms should have a waste disposal in place that does not rely on the wastewater collection system.
Keep up with current protocols for emergency communications between neighboring communities. It’s hard to ask for assistance from a neighboring community when different radio standards/frequencies are being used by everyone in the area.
Warning Signs

- Signage should be placed to warn the population about known crossings that are prone to flooding/high water.

- Dangerous crossings are part of the Public Education process.
Questions??????
Contact Information

Steve Mendoza
Engineering Specialist
Langford Community Management Services
Grant Development and Administration
13740 Research Blvd., Suite G1
Austin, Texas 78750
(512) 452-0432
Email: Steve@LCMSINC.com