State of Michigan

Michigan Municipal Executives
Introductions

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Introductions

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Agenda

• Emergency Management Fundamentals
• Roles and Responsibilities
• The Assistance Process
• Legal Aspects
Objectives

• Define emergency management field and systems
• Examine community leadership roles and responsibilities
• Discuss process of receiving assistance during a disaster
• Review Michigan laws and policies related to disaster preparedness and response
• Review lessons learned from previous local disasters
Emergency Management Fundamentals
Key Terms

Disaster Defined

When community needs exceed resources, it will not be “business as usual”
Key Concepts

Disasters can impact a community by:

- **Destroying** lives and causing injury
- **Displacing** populations
- **Disrupting** services
- **Damaging** homes, businesses, and infrastructure

Ultimately, destroying the sense of “normalcy and community”
Key Concepts

Disasters:

• Start and end at the local level
• Cannot be treated as “business as usual”
• Are information driven
• Force community leaders to think creatively and quickly
Key Concepts

Expectations of Michigan Citizens:

• Essential services should work … all the time
• Citizens’ “needs” will be dealt with quickly
• Government will run … no matter what
• To be told about the crisis event and how it will affect them
• Someone will take charge, immediately, by acting fast to remediate, correct, and recover from the incident
• Society will make citizens “whole” again

“… 74 percent of disaster survivors expect response agencies to answer social media calls for help within an hour.”

- American Red Cross, 2010
Key Concepts

Will people panic when you reveal bad news?
Media Management

• Traditional Media
• Communicating Directly
• Social Media*
• Branding
Key Concepts

- Armed with information, people organize themselves and help others
- Protect health, safety, and the environment by keeping the public informed
- Maintain public confidence in the agency
- Manage expectations
- Build relationships before a crisis
Key Concepts

What are some common Michigan disasters?
State Disaster Declarations

1977-2016: 72 State Disaster Declarations

- 26% Tornado / Severe Storm (19)
- 11% Snow / Ice Storm (8)
- 36% Flood (26)
- 7% Fire - Wild / Structural (5)
- 7% Oil / Hazardous Material Incident (5)
- 4% Infrastructure Failure (3)
- 1% Land Subsidence (1)
- 1% Severe Freeze (2)
- 1% Hurricane Evacuation (1)
- 1% Passenger Transportation Accident (1)
- 1% Insect Infestation (1)
Key Concepts

Two categories of disasters:

1. Natural
   Flood – Tornado – Severe Thunderstorm – Fire

2. Human-made
   Terrorism – Hazardous Materials – Power Outage – Cyber
Portland - 2015 Tornado
Portland – 2019 Flood/Ice Jam
Portland – 2019 Flood/Ice Jam
Portland – 2019 Flood/Ice Jam
Key Terms

“Emergency management is the managerial function charged with creating the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with disasters.”

– FEMA, Emergency Management Institute

• Develop relationships
• Enable responders and the community
• Provide resources and knowledge
• Implements systems and procedures to maximize effectiveness
Key Terms

• Emergency Manager ≠ Emergency Financial Manager
• Emergency management is focused on keeping the public safe before, during, and after disasters. Emergency management at the state level is organized by the Michigan State Police.
  • Emergency management is a local responsibility under Public Act 390 of 1976.
• Emergency “Financial” Managers are focused on returning a community to financial stability during a financial emergency. This individual reports to the Governor.
  • This position is authorized by Public Act 436 of 2012.
Key Terms

• Whole Community – Leverage the resources and recognize the needs of every part of our country

• All-Hazards – Consistent and effective response to any emergency, regardless of cause
How We Manage

The Incident Command System (ICS)

- Part of a larger system called the National Incident Management System
- Provides structure for response to emergencies or planned events of any size
- Created to provide a common approach for managing incidents
How We Manage
The Incident Command System (ICS)

Command will be in charge of the incident.
The emergency manager is your liaison to command.
How We Manage

Emergency Operations Center

A single facility with representatives who:

• Coordinate the response
• Procure and manage resources for responders
• Make decisions
• Manage and disseminate information
• Manage recovery efforts
• Liaison with other agencies and levels of government
How We Manage

Mutual Aid

• Mutual aid may be available from surrounding communities if your resources are overwhelmed.
  • Mutual aid agreements can be executed between jurisdictions to detail the terms of the aid.

• There is a statewide, voluntary mutual aid agreement called the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC).
  • MEMAC allows local jurisdictions to request assistance from other jurisdictions through the state.
Public Official Notes

Emergency Management

• Meet your local emergency management coordinator and get their contact information
• When preparing for an emergency or disaster, remember to include the needs of your entire community
• Prepare for potential incidents through training and exercise
• Coordinate and build partnerships with other agencies who can help your community later
Roles and Responsibilities
Roles and Responsibilities

Collaborative Approach

• All incidents start and end at the local level

• When local resources are overwhelmed, state assistance may be requested
Roles and Responsibilities

Local Government

• Local governments typically have legal jurisdiction
• Local responders typically the first on the scene
• Local governments are most familiar with their communities
Final local responsibility for disaster services lies with the Chief Executive Official:

- County Chairperson
- County Executive or Administrator
- Mayor
- City Manager
- Township Supervisor
- Designee by Charter
Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Official

Day-to-Day Responsibilities:

- Direct development of community emergency plans, policies, and procedures
- Understand disaster protocols and systems
- Participate in training, exercises, and meetings
- Identify potential issues
Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Official

Disaster Responsibilities:

• Ensure the public health, safety, and welfare of your community
• Maintain public confidence and manage expectations
• Participate in emergency operations center efforts by making decisions and authorizing funds and contracts
Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Executive Official

Powers of Chief Executive Official:
• Declare Local State of Emergency
• Issue travel restrictions on local and county roads
• Appropriate and expend funds
• Provide for health and safety
• Direct and coordinate local multi-agency response
• Appoint disaster workers
During disasters, an effective leader will ask about:

- Security and Safety
- Sheltering
- Services (Fire, Police)
- Systems (Water, Electric, Gas)
- Schools
- Populations with Access and Functional Needs
Roles and Responsibilities

Emergency Management Coordinator

- Oversees day-to-day operations in preparedness for a disaster
- During a disaster, acts as conduit between Incident Command and Elected Officials
- Develops strategic vision for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery
Roles and Responsibilities

Local State of Emergency

• Provides notification to other agencies of an incident
• Indicates plans and protocols have been put into action
• Must be renewed by governing body every seven days
• Separate request needed to ask for Governor’s declaration
Roles and Responsibilities

State Assistance

When efforts are beyond the ability of local government, they may turn to the state and request a Governor’s Declaration:

- Request can only be made by Chief Executive Official
- Request submitted through the District Coordinator who is the liaison between the levels of government
- MSP provides recommendation and manages resource requests
- Governor issues declaration
Roles and Responsibilities

Governor

Under a declaration, the Governor may:

- Suspend statutes
- Distribute resources throughout the state
- Commandeer private property
- Direct and compel evacuations
- Control ingress and egress
- Suspend/limit the sale of alcohol, explosives, and combustibles
- Request federal assistance
If local and state resources are exhausted, the Governor may request assistance from the federal government:

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the response
- The President may expend funds, distribute resources between states, etc.
Emergency Management Structure

Governor

State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; and Homeland Security Advisor

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD)

MSP/EMHSD District Coordinators

Local Emergency Management Programs

Local Departments and Agencies

State Departments and Agencies

Local Chief Executives

Public and Private Organizations/Facilities

Local Support Jurisdictions

Private Sector Resources
The Assistance Process
The Assistance Process
Steps

Disaster Occurs
- Local Resources Overwhelmed

Local Declaration
- Chief Executive Official declares State of Emergency

State Declaration
- Governor declares State of Emergency or Disaster

Federal Declaration
- President declares Federal Disaster Declaration

Initial Damage Assessment

Preliminary Damage Assessment
Public Official Notes

The Assistance Process

- Local government **must** exhaust local resources before requesting state assistance
- Declaration process is not always straightforward
- State requests federal assistance through FEMA
- FEMA is the agency of last resort
- Work with your local emergency management coordinator when your community receives a state or federal declaration
Allocation of Resources

RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT FLOODING WHO NEED ASSISTANCE

DIAL 211

LISTEN CLOSELY & FOLLOW PROMPTS

NOREEN LOGEL
RESOURCE COORDINATOR

WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/EMHSD | @MICHEMHS
Legal and Lawsuits
Disclaimers

- Not an opinion of the Michigan State Police.
- Consult relevant counsel for advice on specific questions.
Legal

Michigan Emergency Management Act
Public Act 390 of 1976

• Provides the framework for the state’s emergency management and homeland security system
• Defines responsibilities of local and state governments
• Defines authority of Governor during emergencies and disasters
• Addresses liability
• Addresses requests for state and federal assistance
Legal Lawsuits

Legal action common after disaster:

- After Hurricane Katrina, courts were flooded with lawsuits
- Public Act 390 of 1976, Section 11, and other laws provide protection to individuals and government entities
Public Official Notes

Legal

• Review your legal authorities with your emergency management coordinator and legal counsel

• No disaster goes perfectly - legal action not uncommon

• Do what you feel is best for your community within the scope of the law
Public Official Notes

Summary

• Work closely with your emergency manager now to prepare
• During a disaster:
  1. Remain calm
  2. Work closely with your emergency management coordinator
  3. Keep citizens informed – they will be looking for a leader
  4. Represent your jurisdiction as best you can.
Objectives

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• Review lessons learned from previous disasters
Contact Information

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