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Iowa Perspective?-The Louisiana Experience



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MS EH Public Health Workshop
Natchez, Mississippi
4/25/07

IA-EHRT Called into Action!



Teams:



Currently we have three different PHRTs developed or in the process of development. They are:



Epidemiology
Team



Environmental
Health Team



Disaster Medical
Assistance Team

Purpose



The Public Health Response Teams (PHRT) are designed to assist and supplement local resources in the event of a natural/man-made disaster or terrorist incident.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in partnership with governmental, professional and private organizations/agencies have developed these teams to help relieve personal suffering from illness/injury during a disaster or terrorist event.

EHRT BASICS 101



The Environmental Health Response Team (EHRT) provides: “local, state, national” technical assistance, inspection services, hazard assessment and problem solving in areas such as:

- Private/Public Water supplies
- Private Waste Water Treatment
- Vector Control
- Food Safety
- Other common environmental health problems

Deployment 9/3/05-9/18/05

- 6 EHRT Members-EMAC Mission # 0805-33
- Involved with initial planning process, and integration as part of initial EH response in affected parishes
- Iowa first state to send EH Professionals through EMAC to LA.



The How/Logistics

- Lodging
- FOOD
- Transportation
- Medication
- Downtime/Mental Health
- Security/Safety
- Communications
- Equipment
- Friends/Buddy System



EQUIPMENT



EHRT GO-KIT

- Assorted Hand Tools- hammer, wonder bar, pliers, utility knife, etc.
- PPE- Safety Glasses, hard hat, latex gloves, first aide kit, etc...
- String
- Tape- Duct, Mask, Pack, hazard, scotch
- Flashlight
- GPS Unit-Garmin RINO@
- Thermometers
- Disposable Boots/Gloves
- Radio Communications-VHF
- Hip Boots/Waders
- 3M Air Mates
- Digital Camera
- Laptop Computer
- Office Supplies- Pens, pencils, sharpies, tags, rubber bands, post its, clipboards, notepads, scissors, etc..
- Hand Mirror
- VESTS
- Uniforms
- Personal Items and Clothes Change
- Leather man
- Cell Phones

IDENTIFICATION



Accommodations

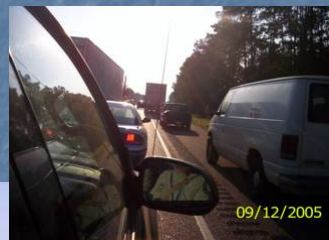
Where were we going to stay?





Transportation

Planes, no Trains, & Automobiles



Work Environment



FOOD



Health



Security/Safety ?????



COMMUNICATIONS



Down Time/Mental Health



Other

- Group leader
- Administrative - organizing EPA notes and public water supply lists
 - computer, cell phones
- Local residents – No one better – Unlimited resources
 - Housing, food, transportation, showers & laundry services

Friends/Buddy System





Sometimes...



FOOD SAFETY

- Aprox. 15,000 LA permitted retail establishments to be assessed or inspected
- Commercial seafood inspections completed to assess and insure food seizure and witness proper food destruction
- Dairy operations assessed for hurricane damage
- IA-EHRT members assessed and inspected aprox. 500-1000 sites within St. Tammany and Washington Parishes.
- IA-EHRT members assessed and inspected over 300 sites in New Orleans within two day period prior to departure, out of 7000 permitted sites in area.
- 1000's of tons of destroyed food witnessed or observed

Consumer Food Safety

- PRIVATE RESIDENCES



Damage Extremely Variable

- Many establishments gone
- Others only lost power
- Some had water supply problems
- Quite a few no damage
- Lot's of flooding
- Others wind damage
- Worker shortages

Assisted Various Agencies

- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
- St Tammany Parish Health Department
- Metairie Parish Health Unit



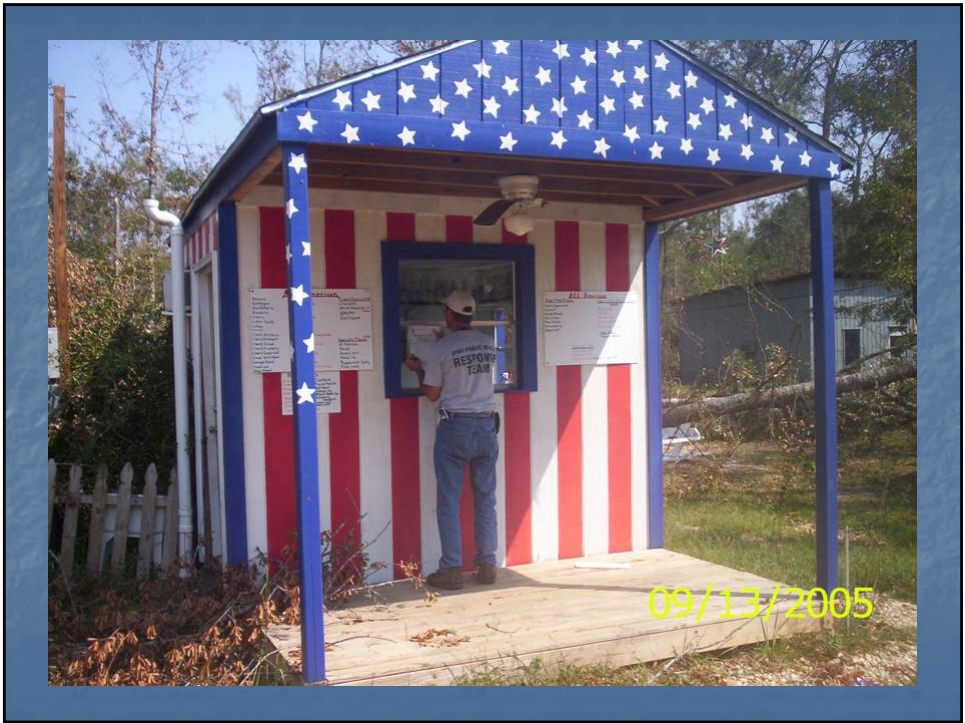
Damage Assessment Surveys

- Loss of power ?
- How long was power out?
- Freezer/ Refrigerator inventory and function?
- Flooding?
- Physical damage to structure?
- Was food discarded and how?
- Any food left to be thrown away?
- Needs reinspection or approved for reopening ?

Types of Facilities Inspected

- Retail Food Establishments
- Seafood/Shellfish Producers and Distributors
- Alligator Producers and Processors
- Meat Processors
- Retail Food Water Supplies







Lot's of Routine Sanitation Issues



Did I Mention Hot and Humid?



Hazards Encountered

- Broken Glass/ Debris
- Mold and More Mold
- Perished Food
- Power Lines Down
- Lots of People in a Hurry
- Loss of Traffic Control Lights/Signs

Public Water Supply

- Coordinated effort with EPA Region 6/LDHH/LRWA/IA-EHRT/Illinois Response Team
- Assessments completed on over 500 PWS in effected areas























SHELTERS

- Inspect Food Services
- Inspect Food Storage
- General Sanitation
- Restroom/Shower Facilities
- Medical Waste
- Solid Waste Disposal
- Vector Control



Lessons Learned!



Lessons Learned

Sometimes your responders are VICTIMS of the disaster

- Plan for the worst case and respond to the emergency as needed
- If you have exercised or trained for a specific emergency or disaster it will probably occur
- Train and exercise with all your response partners

Continued.....

- Plan to be self sufficient for 2 weeks
NOT 72 HOURS
- Plans are not worth the paper they
are written on if you cannot execute
them
- FOLLOW ICS!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Treat people as people not animals
- Account for the animals in your plan



WHY?



Questions?



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