

Disaster Preparedness and Response for Foreign Diplomatic Missions

Disaster Preparedness: Are You Ready?

Government of the District of Columbia
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

December 18, 2012



Vincent C. Gray, Mayor



One City. One Government. One Voice.



Chris Geldart, Director

The Mission of DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

- **Mission** – To support and coordinate homeland security and emergency management efforts, ensuring that the District of Columbia’s all-hazards emergency operations are prepared to protect against, plan for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made hazards.
- **Vision** – Our vision is a safe and secure District of Columbia.
- **Summary of Services** – Operates a 24hr. Emergency Operations Center; Oversees Special Events Planning, Provides Training & Exercises, Conducts Community Outreach and Public Information



District Response Plan (DRP): What Is IT?

- ***The District Response Plan is A One City Plan To*** Communicate Authority and Roles and Responsibilities in order to Mobilize District Government, the Private Sector, Community Volunteers and Federal Government in an emergency or disaster



Emergency Declaration Process

- Mayor issues Executive Order declaring a public emergency
 1. Facilitates access to the emergency procurement process
 2. Directs a coordinated response, mandating agency coordination and support of HSEMA operations
 3. Authorizes HSEMA to pursue emergency Federal Assistance
 4. Extends hours of utility workers
- HSEMA spearheads the preliminary damage assessments
- Mayor issues a request to the President for Federal assistance
- Presidential declaration facilitates access to an array of Federal programs to expedite response and recovery

(Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C.

5121-5206 (Stafford Act)



District's Emergency Support Functions

- 1** **Transportation**
District Department of Transportation
- 2** **Communications**
Office of the Chief Technology Officer
- 3** **Public Works and Engineering**
Department of Public Works
- 4** **Fire Fighting**
Fire and EMS Department
- 5** **Emergency Management**
HSEMA
- 6** **Mass Care**
Department of Human Services
- 7** **Resource Support**
Office of Contracting and Procurement
- 8** **Health and Medical Services**
Department of Health
- 9** **Search and Rescue**
DC Fire and EMS Department
- 10** **Hazardous Materials**
DC Fire and EMS Department
- 11** **Food**
Department of Human Services
- 12** **Energy**
Department of Environment
- 13** **Law Enforcement**
Metropolitan Police Department
- 14** **Long-Term Recovery and Mitigation**
HSEMA
- 15** **External Affairs**
Office of Communications
- 16** **Volunteer and Donations Mgt**
Serve DC



Major Challenges Facing the District

PRIORITY THREATS

- **Terrorist Threats:**
 - Improvised Explosive Devices
 - Aircraft as a Weapon
 - Hostage Taking/Assassination
 - Chemical and/or Biological Agents
 - Cyber Attack
- **Natural Disasters:**
 - Hurricanes
 - Winter storms
 - Thunderstorms
 - Extreme Heat/Cold
 - Earthquakes
 - Tornadoes

PROBABLE HAZARDS

- **Urban Issues:**
 - Transportation Accidents
 - Urban Crime
 - Urban Fires
 - Urban Flooding
 - Utility Failures (e.g., power outages, water main breaks)
- **Other Concerns:**
 - Demonstrations/Civil Disturbances
 - Critical Resource Shortages
 - Viruses and Epidemics



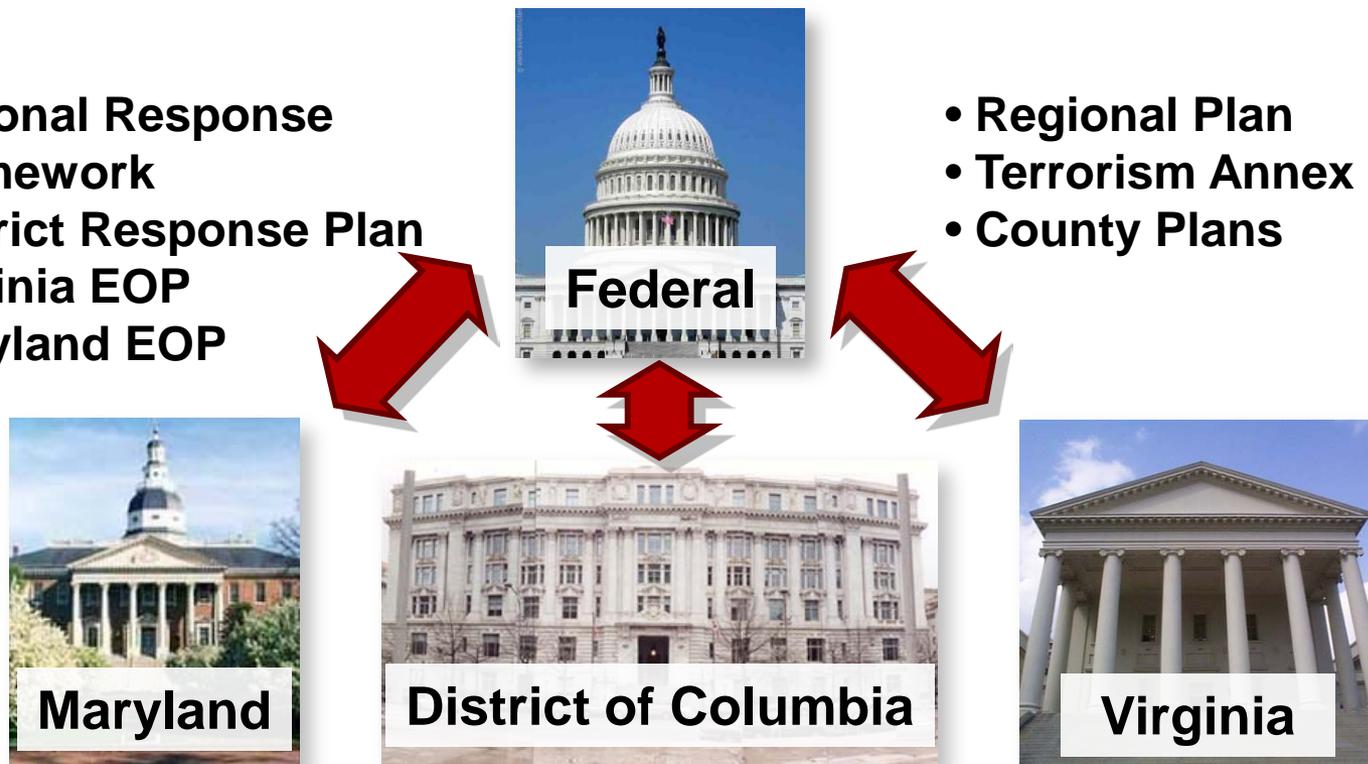
Events that make D.C. a Unique Jurisdiction

- Holiday Activities (Independence Day, Christmas Tree Lighting, Rolling Thunder, etc.)
- International Security Summits
- National World War II Memorial Dedication
- IMF / World Bank Meetings
- Papal Visit
- Heads of State
- Presidential Inauguration
- State Funerals
- Festivals
- Parades
- Sporting Events
- MLK Memorial Dedication
- National Security Special Events
- Demonstrations



Regional and National Coordination

- The unique relationship between the local District Government, the Federal Government located within the District's jurisdiction, and the surrounding National Capitol Region's (NCR) local and state governments, all pose a coordination challenge, especially for evacuation efforts.



FEMA: Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management

- December 2011-Federal Emergency Management Agency published, *A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action*
- Ongoing challenges persist for emergency management “as the scale and severity of disasters are growing and will likely pose systemic threats
- Future trends include population shifts into vulnerable areas such as hurricane-prone coastlines, demographic changes for example a growing senior population, and changes in transportation systems



FEMA: Whole Community (cont.)

- Whole community concept is defined as a means by which residents, emergency management practitioners, organizational and community leaders, and government officials can collectively understand and assess the needs of their respective communities and determine **the best ways to organize and strengthen their assets, capacities, and interests.**



Individual, Family, and Community Preparedness: *The main objectives*



- **Get informed**
- **Make a plan**
- **Make an emergency kit**
- **Be aware**



Know the District of Columbia Hazards

- Thunderstorms
- Winter Storms
- Extreme Heat/Cold
- Urban Fires
- Urban Floods
- Utility Failures
- Hurricanes
- Terrorism
- Radiological and Hazardous Materials
- Tornadoes
- Special Events, Demonstrations and Civil Disruptions
- Transportation Accidents
- Explosions (Manhole Covers)
- Critical Resource Shortages
- Human Viruses and Epidemics
- ***Earthquakes***
- Prison Problems
- Urban Crime



DC's Primary Evacuation Routes

1. 16th St. NW
2. Georgia Ave. (7th St.) NW
3. Rhode Island Ave. NE
4. New York Ave. NE
5. Benning Road NE (via H. St. NE & E. Capitol St. SE)
6. Pennsylvania Ave. SE
7. Branch Ave. SE
8. Pennsylvania Ave. NW/3rd St./Independence Ave. Washington Ave. SW/S. Capitol St./Suitland Pkwy.
9. 9th St. NW
10. 14th St. NW
11. Interstate 395/295
12. Constitution Ave. NW
13. E St. Expressway
14. K St. NW
15. Pennsylvania Ave. NW/M St. NW
16. Macarthur Blvd. NW
17. Canal Rd. NW
18. Wisconsin Ave. NW
19. Connecticut Ave. NW



Determining When To Stay and When To Go?

- This may be the first big decision you'll need to make in an emergency situation. Plan for both possibilities.
- Sheltering-in-place or staying put where you are in an emergency is sometimes the best course of action until you receive official information that conditions are better and that it's safe to move about.
- Building evacuations can occur when there is the threat of fire or building damage caused by weather or infrastructure disruptions.
- Whenever possible, you should follow instructions from emergency personnel in deciding whether to shelter in place or evacuate. If you need to decide on your own, use all available information. *A simple way to decide whether to stay or go is to ask yourself, "Will going outside or traveling expose me to more or less danger?"*
- The Mayor could authorize a city-wide evacuation if it were necessary because of the threat of imminent danger.



Individual and Family Plan

- **Emergency Go-kit checklist**-Check off these items as you prepare:
 - Three-day supply of water---one gallon per person per day
 - Three-day supply of non-perishable foods
 - Battery or hand-crank radio or NOAA radio (include batteries)
 - Flashlight with extra batteries
 - Establish a family communications plan- phone tree, social media
 - Whistle for signaling for help
 - Dust mask to filter contaminated air
 - Plastic sheeting and duct tape for windows and doors if sheltering-in-place is needed
 - Gloves, garbage (trash) bags and ties for personal sanitation
 - Manual can opener
 - Wrench or pliers to shut off utility valves if necessary
 - Maps of the local area and neighboring states
 - Homeowner's insurance and other important documents



Emergency Preparedness at Home

- Operating smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors
- Fire escape ladders and escape routes
- Fire drills with meeting and alternate meeting locations/assembly points
- Emergency go-kits
- Back-up generators
- Prepare an emergency go-kit for your pet(s)-food, identification, and records
- Awareness of child's school emergency plan
- Awareness of community or neighborhood plan
- Know about the Emergency Alert System (EAS)-listen for tests so that you'll know when it's an actual emergency
- Know what neighbors you will be able to help



Emergency Telephone Numbers and Websites in the District of Columbia

Police and Fire	911
City services and non-emergency	311
Report Suspicious Activity	(202) 727-9099
HSEMA (for the hearing impaired)	(202) 727-6161 24hr. (202) 730-0488
DC Animal Control	(202) 576-6664 24hr.
Poison Control Center	(800) 222-1222
Pepco Power Outages	(877) 737-2662
Pepco Life-threatening emergencies	(202) 872-3432
Washington Gas Emergency Line	(703) 750-1400 or 800-752-7520
DC Water	(202) 612-3400

72hours.dc.gov
DC.GOV

www.capitalregionupdates.gov (Regional Website)



Questions, Comments, Feedback?

THANK YOU!!!

