

PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012 • 8 – 10 am

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Doug Hoell (NC). Mr. Hoell was sitting in for Chair Al Berndt (NE) who was not able to attend the conference.

The first speaker was Doc Lumpkins, executive director for the PPD-8 Program Executive Office. Mr. Lumpkins was filling in for Tim Manning, the FEMA deputy administrator for Protection and National Preparedness who was called into another meeting.

Mr. Lumpkins provided a brief overview of Presidential Policy Directive 8, which was created in March 2011. It includes the National Preparedness Goal, which was introduced in Sept. 2011. Mr. Lumpkins said that the goal will undergo a review and that FEMA will announce that review process as soon there are specifics. The five frameworks, which are part of PPD-8, are also out for review until April 2. The frameworks outline roles, responsibilities and key actions in the areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. Operational plans for the frameworks are due to the president by September 25, 2012.

Next on the agenda was Katie Fox, executive director of the FEMA Preparedness Task Force and responsible for the National Preparedness Report, which is due March 30. The report will have approximately 70 findings, including what's working well and what isn't.

Questions for Mr. Lumpkins and Ms. Fox included the following:

- How other federal agencies are being included in the national preparedness efforts – other agencies have been involved in the risk assessment discussions.
- How slow developing threats such as drought will be addressed in PPD-8 – focus in all of the frameworks will be on capabilities so that a wide variety of threats can be managed.
- State notice on National Preparedness Report – Ms. Fox explained that the state results are an aggregate and not state specific. States still want notice on its release.
- Regarding the State Preparedness Reports, the methodology will stay the same as last year's format.

Dr. Keith Holtermann, director of the FEMA's National Exercise Division, was the next presenter. The exercise program is currently being revised and he listed the main goals of the revision:

- Conducting exercises that are important to the current administration i.e. cyber
- Making certain that the exercise program is more collaborative and inclusive (two-year cycle for national exercises; coordinating between president, governor, etc)
- Having exercises that are flexible, agile, measurable
- Developing a better HSEEP doctrine and toolkit
- Incorporating EMAC into national level exercises

One state emphasized that FEMA must allow states and local governments enough time to properly prepare for exercises. Another state said that many local governments find the federal

exercise requirements onerous and suggested a less demanding option. Dr. Holtermann said that the revised HSEEP toolkit will include a library of exercises and should address this concern.

After this discussion, Andy Mitchell, director of the Technological Hazards Division for FEMA and Rob Lewis, director of the Division of Preparedness & Response, within the NRC's Office of Nuclear Security & Incident Response, spoke to the committee.

Mr. Mitchell's main points:

- The REPP Manual was updated after some 30 years of dormancy; adjudicated 2,300 comments from all stakeholders as part of update
- FEMA held five regional implementation forums to discuss changes and answer questions; developed a list of 187 FAQs and identified six areas that needed more guidance: 1) reception and congregate care centers (functional needs), 2) monitoring and decontamination of service animals, 3) Alert Notification Systems including new technologies and integration of social network systems, 4) hostile action based exercises, 5) core capabilities/crosswalk to target capabilities, and 6) alternative approaches/best practices. A complete list of FAQs: http://www.fema.gov/about/divisions/thd_repp.shtm#4
- Overall goal of revision was to align REPP manual to PPD-8; also added a new hostile based
- Also wanted to reduce the pre-conditioned responses in exercises
- Companion document to REPP Manual is Supplement 4
<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/divisions/thd/FEMA-REP-1%20Rev-1%20Supp-4%20Oct%202011.pdf>
- Revision of NUREG 0654 is next major activity; will probably take 2-4 years

Mr. Lewis' main points:

- NRC issued the new emergency preparedness rule in November 2011, first time in 25 years; includes the hostile based exercise, no release exercise and updated evacuation times based on latest census
- NUREG 0654 Update – interim staff guidance document in place now; first step of update will be regional workshops; will probably develop an internally written white paper to lead discussion on what needs to be updated
- NRC issued the first operating license for Vogtle nuclear power plant facility along SC/GA state line; construction is underway; several other operating license reviews are in the pipeline
- Last year's incident at Fukushima plant in Japan has absorbed a lot of time/energy from NRC; on March 12 NRC issued three orders based on a three-tiered prioritization of recommendations that was adopted last year: Tier 1 recommendations – actions that should be implemented without unnecessary delay; Tier 2 recommendations – actions that need further technical assessment or critical skill sets to implement; Tier 3 – longer-term actions that depend on the completion of a shorter-term action or need additional study to support a regulatory action. March 12th orders were Tier 1 and included 1) requiring boiling water reactors with Mark I and Mark II containments to have a reliable hardened vent in the event of loss of active containment heat removal capability or prolonged loss of power; 2)

requiring the development of strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event; and 3) requiring installation of enhanced SFP instrumentation. More rules will likely come as a result of Fukushima.

- Incident involving Bed, Bath and Beyond retailer – a radioactively contaminated shipment of metal tissue box containers entered the country. The tainted material was the result of melted down scrap metal, which was recycled and produced in India; represents trend – more manufacturers are recycling materials; Bed, Bath and Beyond removed the tainted items and the manufacturer was notified.

Next on the agenda was Yasamie August, public information manager for Alabama Emergency Management and the lead for the NEMA Public Information Subcommittee. She reported on the following:

- Members of the subcommittee met during the conference with the new FEMA Director of External Affairs Jessica Smith – topics discussed included these:
 - Annual PIO workshop, which FEMA has sponsored for the last three years – because of budgetary issues, the workshop will not be held this year and FEMA is planning to hold it every two years; the group reviewed other possibilities such as a VTC for maintaining valuable in-person state-to-state and state-to-FEMA contact
 - Emergency Alert System – what's next after the test that occurred November 9, 2011
 - Continued dialogue with Darryl Madden with FEMA Ready Campaign – this initiative will give states an opportunity to help craft preparedness messages that are beneficial to the people in their state.
 - AIR – new FEMA community relations program to help with better situational awareness after an event
 - FEMA External Affairs will look into scheduling a sit-down meeting with director, Ms. August, new FEMA public affairs director and press secretary.
 - Better coordination/communication between FEMA regions and states when FEMA is conducting a state visit
- Other Items – Emergency Support Function 15 EOP – the Department of Homeland Security office of Public Affairs is in the process of rewriting the ESF15 EOP and the subcommittee was invited to be a part of this process. The inclusion gives the states visibility of the document that DHS and FEMA public affairs staff members will use as their guidelines in states during disaster time.
- Social Media Series at EMI – several members of subcommittee worked extensively with EMI to develop the series; first course will be IS-042 Social Media in Emergency Management and the series should be announced soon.
- Nuclear Power Plant Messaging – ongoing project for the subcommittee; working group provided language and comments; DHS issued a revised document in January, with final version expected in two months
- PIO Courses at EMI – formal announcement for Master PIO course coming soon, with first class to be held late summer. Potential students will need to submit an essay as part of their

application. The other PIO courses currently available will undergo a slight revision to ensure the language and curriculum is current. The new PIO Awareness course is now available online. Thanks to Maryland PIO Ed McDonough for representing the subcommittee during several ESF 15 training initiatives.

- Mentoring Guide – guide was revised this year including filling some vacant mentor positions. Thanks to New Jersey Director Jerome Hatfield for allowing Mary Goepfert from his staff to serve as the new Region II mentor.

Last discussion item was how the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is working with the Nebraska University Public Policy Center and the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) to revise its strategic plan and capture institutional knowledge as more experienced staff members retire from the agency. Dr. Denise Bulling, senior research director at the center, explained that the agency was being faced with regionalization of the state's 93 counties; budget cuts and growing demands on the staff that didn't allow for strategic thinking. The center has come in as an unbiased and neutral process expert, looking at how the agency is functioning internally and externally and using the EMAP standards not as accreditation tool, but as best practices. The center is also evaluating plans on paper vs. what how experienced staff operate in real scenarios and with the help of the EMAP standards, is transferring the knowledge base as part of an overall agency succession plan.

Jerome Hatfield, chair of the EMAP Commission, said that Nebraska could be viewed as its own best practice in how it's using EMAP in this process. He said that EMAP accreditation is valuable, but the process is more valuable.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 am.