Responding to Disasters: A Whole Community Approach





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Why discuss disaster preparedness and response?

- Being prepared vs. good intentions
- Lessons from November 30, 2018
- 147
- What actions still need to be taken



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- Who we are:
 - The Office of Emergency Management has the primary day-to-day area-wide responsibility for natural and human-caused disaster management, community preparedness and mitigation planning programs and activities.



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Keeping the right perspective...helping others

- Neighbors
- Employees
- Disabled or need functional assistance help
- Visitors/tourists



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OEM Goals

- Mitigation: Preventing future emergencies or minimizing their effects
- Preparedness: Preparing the community to be ready for emergencies
- Response: Responding safely and effectively to emergencies
- Recovery: Recovering from the effects of an emergency



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OEM-How we Communicate

- KPB Alerts: Residents who register their cell phone numbers can receive text messages or phone calls with information about current disaster information.
- Social Media: OEM utilizes several platforms to ensure residents stay informed including Facebook, Twitter, and Blog posts.
- Public Information Officer: During a crisis or emergency, our PIO team will disseminate key information to all forms of media so that residents can stay abreast of developments.



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OEM- How we Communicate

- OEM Website: Information about any current disaster, emergency, or crisis will be communicated including any steps residents should take.
- Speakers Bureau: OEM has staff who can speak to your organization with information regarding steps individuals and organizations can take to be prepared for an emergency.
- KPB Incident Management Team: The Borough has an IMT that is implemented as needed during an emergency or crisis to coordinate response efforts with Local, State, and Federal agencies under the Incident Command System.



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OEM- How we operate during a disaster

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- KPB Incident Management Team (IMT)
- Joint Information System (JIS)
- Unified Command



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Past Disaster Events on the Kenai Peninsula

• 2018

- Cook Inlet earthquake
- Fall Flooding- Seward
- 2015
 - Card Street Wildfire
 - Stetson Creek Wildfire
 - Juneau Lake Wildfire
- 2014
 - Funny River Wildfire
- 2013

Kalifornsky Beach Flooding



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2012 Severe Storm, Winds, Flooding, and Landslides

- 2011
 - Severe Storm
- 2009
 - Shanta Creek Fire
 - Mile 17 East End Road Fire
 - Redoubt Volcano Eruptions

Past Disaster events on the Kenai Peninsula

• 2007

- Caribou Hills Fire
- Kenai River Flooding & Ice Jams
- 2006
 - Seward Flooding
 - Seward Severe Winter Storm & Avalanches
 - Seabulk Pride Tanker Grounding

• 2005

- Augustine Volcano Eruptions
- King County Creek Fire
- Fox Creek Fire
- Irish Channel Fire
- 2004
 - Tracy Avenue Fire
 - Glacier Creek Fire



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The Johnstown Flood (1889)

- The deadliest flood in U.S. history, May 31, 1889, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
- Six to nine inches of rain poured into the Conemaugh River basin.
- The South Fork Dam burst.
- Water was rushing into factories, stores, and homes at 20 to 40 miles per hour.
- The final death toll was 2,209.

The Johnstown Flood was a major test for early disaster relief voluntary organizations such as the American Red Cross. This disaster challenged their ability to deal with a large-scale disaster.



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Hurricane and Storm Surges in Galveston, Texas (1900)

- On September 8, 1900, a hurricane and more than 15-foot storm surges began hitting Galveston, Texas.
- The Category 4 hurricane killed 6,000 people.
- 5,000 were injured.
- 10,000 were left homeless.

This represented the first time a voluntary organization developed a structure to deploy assets on a national basis in response to a disaster.



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San Francisco Earthquake (1906)

- A massive earthquake hit the city of San Francisco on April 18, 1906.
- 700 deaths; hundreds injured; 250,000 homeless.
- The U.S. Army, voluntary organizations, and citizens' relief groups worked together in what could be considered the first "Whole Community" relief effort.
- Tent cities for tens of thousands of disaster survivors were established and maintained for many months.
- Volunteers of America ran a special train to take orphaned children to safety. The aim of voluntary organizations was to encourage self-reliance.

Following this disaster, the American Red Cross realized the importance of focusing on the solicitation of monetary donations, rather than in-kind items, which were often times inappropriate for meeting the survivor needs.



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Good Friday Earthquake (1964)

- On March 27, 1964, an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.2, the strongest North American earthquake ever recorded, hit Anchorage, Alaska.
- 131 people were killed—115 in Alaska and 16 in Oregon and California.
- The resulting tsunami, the largest ever to strike North America, destroyed Valdez and was responsible for the majority of deaths.



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Good Friday Earthquake (1964)

• The Federal Government and voluntary organizations rushed in to provide food, shelter, and clothing to disaster survivors. This disaster marked the beginning of more Federal involvement in the costly rehabilitation phase of disaster work. For example, shortly after the disaster, Congress passed legislation making funds available to pay off mortgages still owed by many of the disaster survivors.



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Perspective

	1964	Sept. 28, 2016	Nov. 30, 2018
Magnitude	9.2	7.1	7.1
Depth (miles)	15.5	76	29

A 9.2 earthquake releases 1,412 times more energy than a 7.1 earthquake (USGS calculator)



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Refinements after disasters

- Unforeseen issues during emergencies can change policy or current practices.
- New ideas can suddenly become a "Best practice" to be repeated and shared among the disaster response community.
- History should not repeat itself if the disaster response was not adequate to meet the needs of the community.
- New technologies to be implemented.



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Challenges in your company?

- What are the biggest challenges your company faces in regards to preparedness, response, and recovery?
- Responding to a no-notice event...what is your real time?
- What assumptions are included in your planning?



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Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

- Alternative site
- Backup of servers and key systems
- Employees
- Communications
- Transporting resources, people, and equipment
- Partnerships on the other side of the bridge?



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Prioritizing preparedness

- Priorities
- SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)
- Could a large scale disaster ruin your company?



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Whole Community Planning

 In order to respond appropriately to all hazards on the Kenai Peninsula, we must transform the way we think about, plan for, and respond to local incidents.



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What is "Whole Community"?

- Whole Community is 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.
- Responding together as a community.



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Whole Community Principles

- Understanding and meeting the actual needs of the whole community.
- Engage and empower all parts of the community.
- Strengthen what works well in communities on a daily basis.



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Resources

- What capabilities does your company have that could benefit your community during an emergency?
- Transportation
- Logistical support
- Knowledge
- Other resources



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• Private Sector

- Chambers of commerce
- Businesses
- Professional groups
- Other for-profit organizations



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Nonprofit Sector

- Voluntary organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Foundations
- Professional associations
- Academic institutions



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• Government

- Local
- State
- Tribal
- Territories and Commonwealths
- Federal



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• Public Sector

- Individuals with specific skills (i.e., chefs)
- Unions
- Spontaneous volunteers
- Community members



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Whole Community...What it isn't

- It isn't a takeover of everything people have been doing in response to disasters for many years.
- It is not about taking control of your organization or assuming leadership of your department or your finances.
- Local Governments do not have an endless supply of people and resources.



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Whole Community...what it is

- A plan to bring people, companies, organizations, and resources together to help those in need during a disaster or emergency.
- Goal of Whole Community is to get people:
 - What they need
 - Where they need it
 - When they need it



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Whole Community

- Meeting the needs:
 - Opening a venue that can provide information, assistance, food, and a place to stay if needed.
 - Provide information and resources (Local, State, or Federal assistance).
- Volunteer management- building capacity
- Donation management- monetary or in-kind



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Steps you can take

- Be prepared- company and employees
- Identify ways you can help:
 - People
 - Logistics
 - Resources



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The reason we are here today

- Partnering together to benefit the community
- Collaboration = greater efficiencies
- Share best practices
- Resources reach those in need sooner
- Develop and implement strategies before the next event



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Training

- COOP (Continuity of Operations Planning)
- OEM provided videos via Adobe Connect
- FEMA
 - IS-100
 - IS-700
 - IS-00244.b (Developing and managing volunteers)



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