

How Task Forces Strengthen Mass Care Preparedness and Response

Disaster Incidents

Exercises

Major Community Events

November 12, 2014

Today's Speakers

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- **Bob Brand, FEMA Region VI, Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)**
- **Ed Haen, Alaska Fire Service**
- **Johnny Hatten, Maryland, Office of Emergency Operations**
- **Peggy Mott, FEMA Headquarters, Mass Care/Emergency Assistance**
- **Jenni Ragland, The Salvation Army, Alaska**
- **Pam Spring, Maryland, Office of Emergency Operations**

Today's Topics

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- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Evolution of Task Forces**
- **Disaster Incident: Galena, Alaska**
- **National Mass Care Exercise: Sheltering Task Force**
- **National Community Event: Star Spangled Spectacular**
- **Summation/ Q & A**

Evolution of Task Forces

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NIMS Definition of a Task Force

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Any combination of resources assembled in support of a specific mission or operational need. All resource elements within a Task Force must have common communications and a designated leader.

Task Forces: Disaster Incident

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Galena, Alaska

Bob Brand, FEMA

Jenni Ragland, The Salvation Army

Ed Haen, Alaska Fire Service

Task Force

Rural Area

Planning and Operational

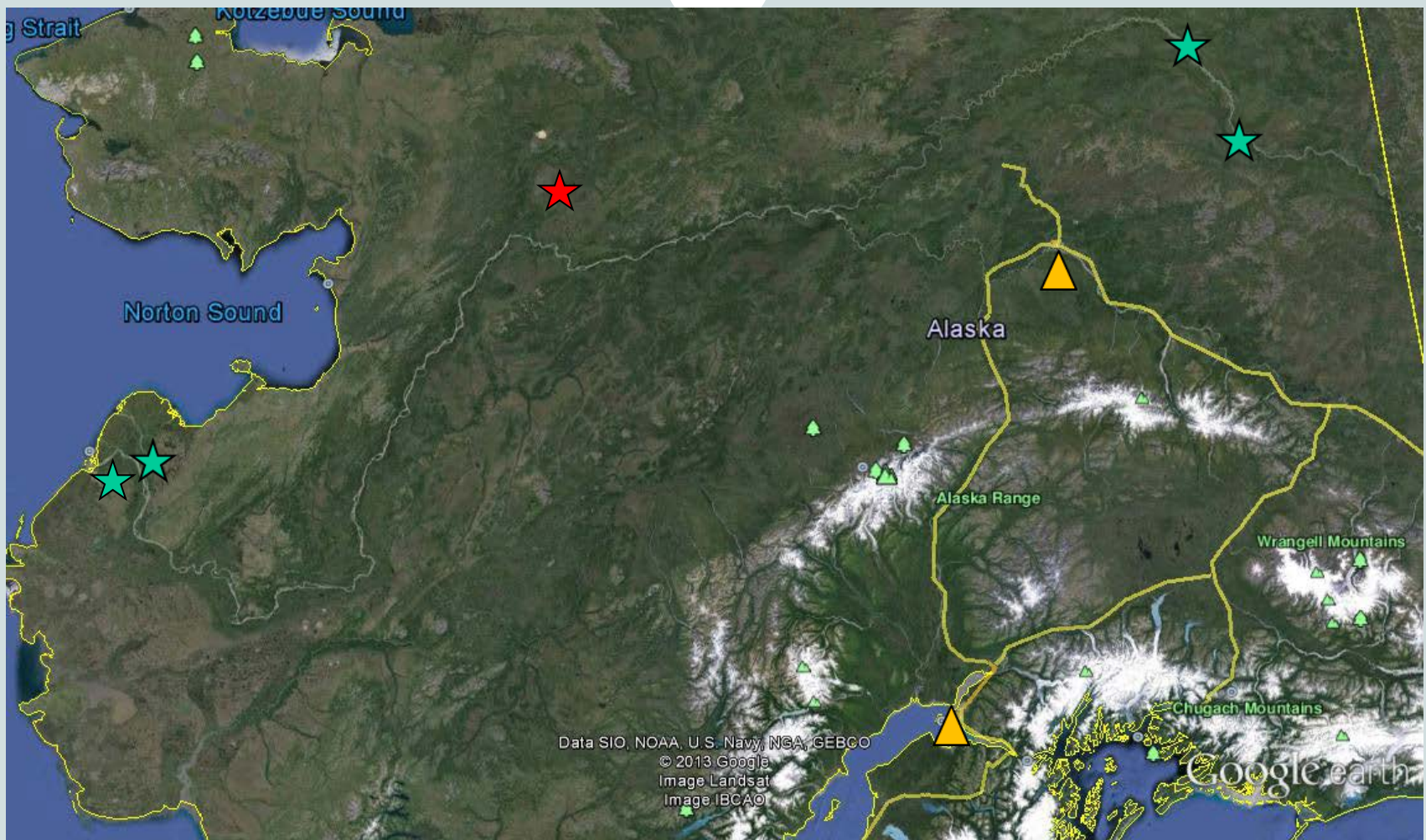
Outcomes

After Action Review

Best Practices

Disaster Incident: Galena, AK

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Galena: Situation

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- Population 500
- Only accessible by air or water
- 270 air miles west of Fairbanks
- 350 air miles north of Anchorage



Old Town Galena

Galena: Operations

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- Created a “unified coordination approach” with all partners
- Task Force functioned as both planning and operations team simultaneously
- Mission partners with The Salvation Army and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/Alaska Fire Service (AFS)
- Mission Assignment to BLM for dining facility/kitchen

Galena: Challenges

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- Ongoing communication and transportation issues
- "Late to the game" from a Log perspective
- Some disconnect with the JFO
- Personnel shortages for a 24/7 operations (related more to sheltering than feeding)
- Mission Assignment Specialist to BLM/Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks would have been helpful

Galena: Meeting the Challenges

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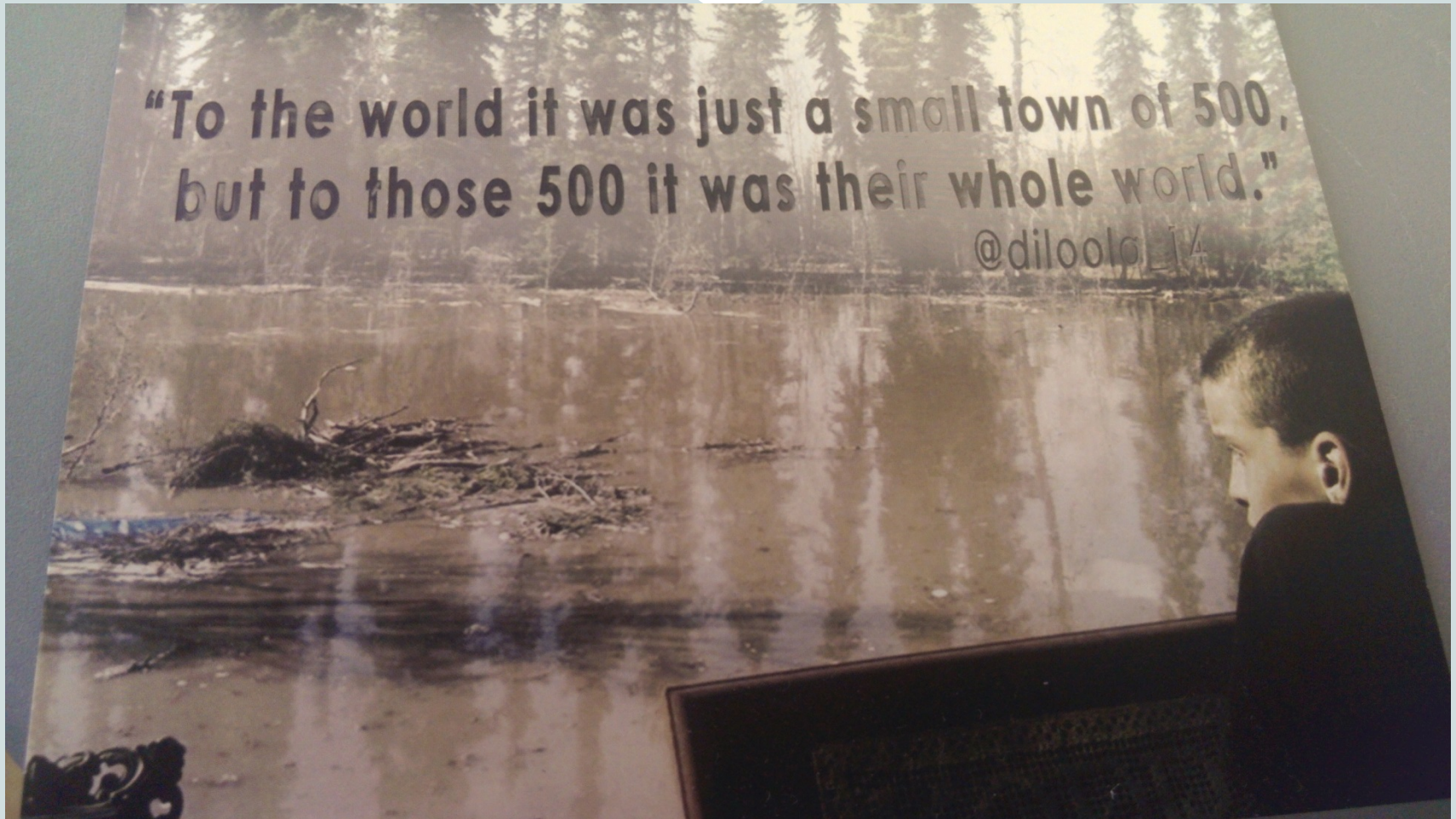
Galena: Positive Outcomes

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- Created successful shelter and feeding operations, using community reports, on short notice/time
- Most issues resolved in our local coordination approach, e.g., daily meetings and calls
- Staff worked together on a 24/7 schedule
- Building on Galena experience, State DHS and EM is moving to formalize task force with partners

Galena: The Impact

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Task Forces: National Mass Care Exercise

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Tallahassee, Florida

Johnny Hatten, MD

EMAC, Shelter Task Force Lead

- Help Educate the Whole Community Partners
- Understand the Specific Mass Care Activity
- Build Relationships

National Mass Care Exercise

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National Mass Care Exercise: Sheltering Task Force

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- Each Task Force needs to function with the same planning assumptions
- Clear definitions are extremely important
 - What is a meal?
 - What does shelter access mean?
- Task Force leaders need to meet on a daily basis

National Mass Care Exercise: Lessons Learned

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- Using and being familiar with the State Sheltering Plan and how the State does business pays dividends
- Prior to accepting the lead role, the Task Force Leader must assess his/her knowledge of the State
- When requesting EMAC staff, provide them with:
 - State's relevant plans
 - Demographic information, and
 - Other pertinent information
- Building relationships is essential, (e.g., with PA, then PA supporting MD)

Task Forces: National Community Event

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Baltimore, MD

Pam Spring, ESF # 6 Coordinator, MD

- Emphasize Preparedness Activities
- Identify Resource Capability and Capacity
- Understand State's Plan

National Community Event: Star Spangled Spectacular 2014

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Star Spangled Spectacular: Feeding Task Force

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Task Force Members

- American Red Cross
- The Salvation Army
- Southern Baptist Convention
- Maryland State Department of Education
- Maryland Correctional Enterprises
- Maryland Food Bank

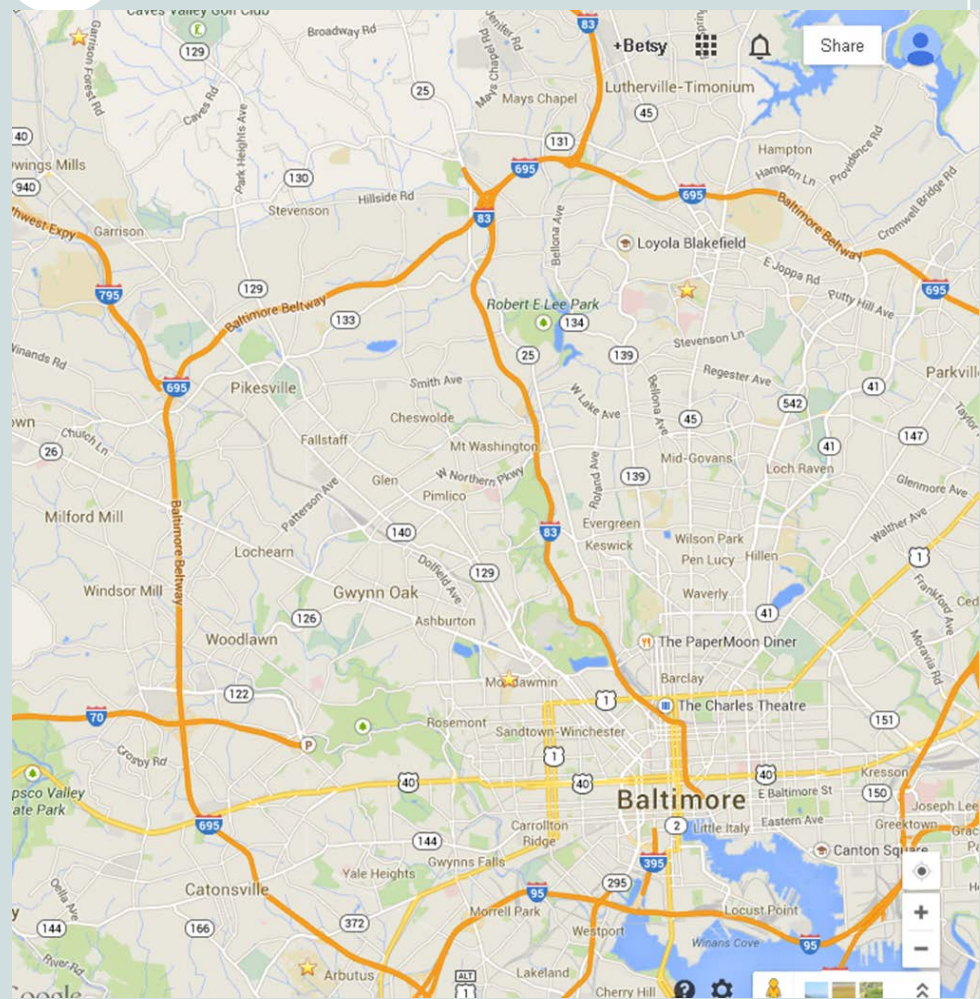
Task Force Meetings

- SSS14 met weekly during planning stages
- Set major goal: Develop a feeding plan for the evacuation sites and State Shelters
- Developed planning assumptions: numbers of evacuees/shelter residents were available, enabling planning for accurate number of meals and snacks

Star Spangled Spectacular: Shelter Planning

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- We will have 5 state shelters on standby.
- Between the four shelters, including staff, we need a plan to feed 3822 **per meal**.
 - Towson – 1280
 - UMBC – 860
 - JCC – 844
 - Coppin – 500
 - Level – 238
- Plus staff at each – about 20 people at each shelter (including security, etc.)
- Include special diet needs

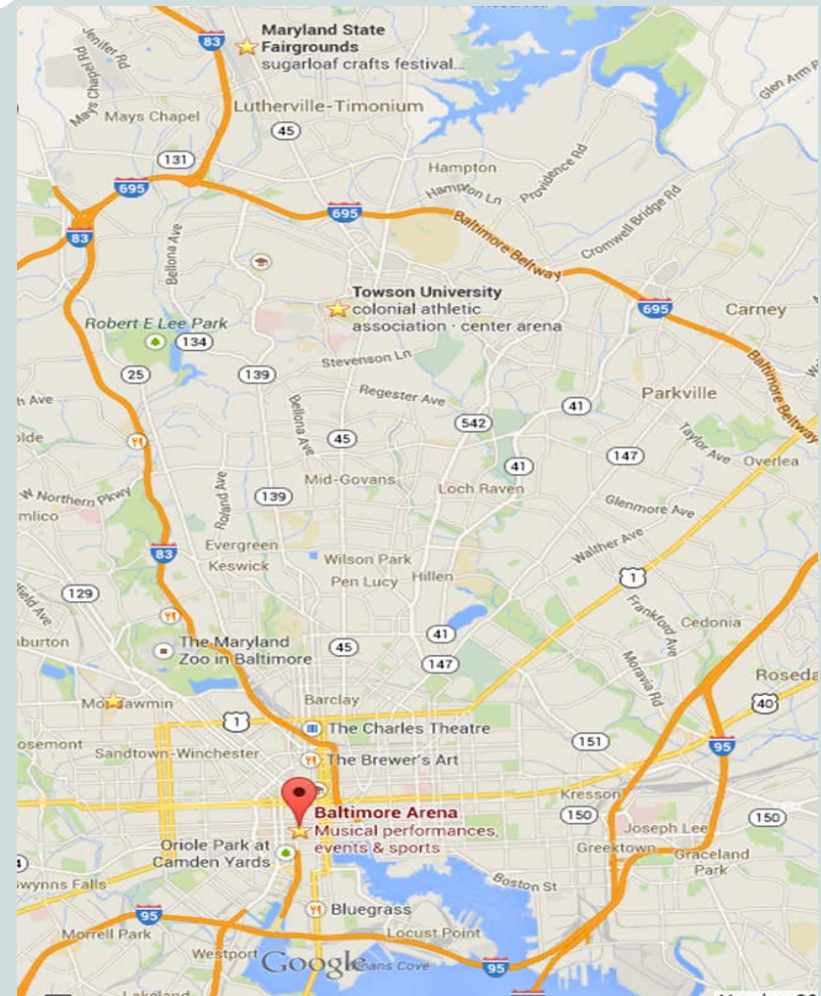


Star Spangled Spectacular: Evacuation Planning

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Evacuation Centers

- Request: Fairgrounds
15,000 water bottles, dropped within an hour of activation or pre-staged
- 15,000 snacks, dropped within an hour of activation or pre-staged
- Baltimore Arena
 - 5,000 bottles of water, pre-staged
 - 5,000 snacks, pre-staged
- Feeding for staff, if activated, 50 staff members at each location, for a total of 100 meals.
- Feeding vehicles: Immediate access in multiple locations



Star Spangled Spectacular: Family Service Center

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- Prepared to deploy a family service center in case of a mass casualty event.
- Supplies will be staged, ready in case it is needed, during response activities.
- Request:
400 bottles of water
400 snacks



Star Spangled Spectacular: Lessons Learned

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- Task Force members should be identified as early as possible
- Task Force should be established well in advance of an incident
- Resources within the State should be identified by the Task Force
- Establish time frames to bring in outside resources
- Members establish clear definitions in the early phases of task force development
- Identify special needs considerations:
 - Elderly (congestive heart failure, low sodium diet)
 - Infants (formula)

Star Spangled Spectacular: Best Practices

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- Incorporating lessons learned from participation in a National Mass Care Exercise
- Department of Planning can be an invaluable resource for demographic information for culturally sensitive considerations
- Building Mutual Aid support with neighboring states is very important

Task Forces: Summary Outcomes

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- Disaster incidents, exercises and community events provide great opportunities to:
 - Gain Experience
 - Understand the complexities of preparedness and response
 - Refine skills
 - Identify best practices
 - Build relationships

The National Mass Care Strategy

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“Ensuring our nation’s ability to provide life-sustaining services immediately following disaster events is a fundamental responsibility of government at all levels, as well as the mission of many nongovernmental and private sector organizations. Additionally, it is an inherent value embedded in the culture of this country to assist each other during times of need.”

-The National Mass Care Strategy (NMCS)

To Stay Updated and Find Out More

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[Lessons Learned](#)

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/>



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