

Triangle Alliance Conference

DISASTERS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION

October 23, 2009



FEMA

Topic Outline

FEMA's Mission

Programs: Individual Assistance, Public Assistance,
Mitigation, National Preparedness

Environmental and Historic Preservation Cadre

FEMA Historic Preservation Review

Disaster Planning: Historic Resources



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FEMA Mission

Reduce the loss of life and property and protect the Nation from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters, by leading and supporting the Nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation.



Response & Recovery Partnership

Local Government – primary responsibility for protection of citizens and response to event

State Government – when local gov't overwhelmed, they request assistance from the state government (mutual aid, national guard, state EMAs)

When state resources are overwhelmed, then state requests assistance from federal government



Response & Recovery Partnership

Federal Government

FEMA provides assistance for a major disaster only if a disaster declaration is made by the President.

FEMA forms partnership with local, state, and tribal partnerships to facilitate recovery.



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Assistance Programs

Individual Assistance

Public Assistance

Hazard Mitigation

... plus many others

See www.fema.gov for more information.



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Individual Assistance

Post-disaster aid delivery sequence (per Stafford Act) to individuals and families:

- 1) Emergency assistance
- 2) Insurance
- 3) Disaster housing assistance (FEMA): *temporary housing, repair (to sanitary and livable condition, not pre-disaster condition)*
- 4) Small Business Loans



Public Assistance

Post-disaster aid to local, state, and tribal governments and certain eligible private non-profits:

Address immediate threats to life, public health and safety, and to protect improved public and private properties: e.g. *reimburse costs associated with police, fire, and medical response; debris removal*

Provide assistance to repair, restore, or replace eligible permanent public facilities: e.g. *road and bridge repairs, public buildings, utilities, recreational areas*

Encourage mitigation measures



Private Non-Profits

Private non-profits (PNP)

must meet the PNP requirements of the IRS or the State
provide services that would otherwise be performed by a
government agency

Note: usually must demonstrate relationship with local or state
government to qualify



Mitigation

Analyze Risk

Reduce Risk

Insure for Flood Risk

Projects may include: hazard mitigation planning, acquisition and demolition of buildings in flood hazard areas, elevating or flood proofing buildings, drainage projects, improvements to utilities, installation of warning sirens and safe rooms



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FEMA Environmental & Historic Preservation (EHP) Cadre

Provide EHP technical assistance and guidance for all FEMA programs and applicants.

Integrate the protection and enhancement of environmental, historic and cultural resources in all programs and activities

Document program compliance with federal, state, and local environmental and historic preservation laws and regulations



National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106:

requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties

provides the State Historic Preservation Office an opportunity to concur with the Federal determinations and recommend mitigation of adverse effects

provides the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment



FEMA Funding for Historic Resources

If planning to seek federal reimbursement of projects involving historic resources, *prior to initiating permanent work*:

FEMA EHP staff reviews scope of work for projects

They determine eligibility and effect of proposed scope of work on historic resources

SHPO has 30-days to concur with FEMA's determination

Integrate SHPO and FEMA recommendations into SOW or may jeopardize receipt of federal funds for project



Disaster Planning: Historic Resources

Primary line of defense for historic resources
against natural disasters



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Disaster Planning: Historic Resources

Benefits:

Improves ability of historic resources to withstand disasters

Ensures rapid and efficient coordination of personnel and resources needed to protect resources before a disaster or for response after a disaster

Eliminates confusion and delay after disaster hits

Identifies existing resource availability and capability



Disaster Planning: Historic Resources

Benefits:

Provides support for funding requests or grant proposals to supplement resource shortages

Identifies mitigation opportunities for historic resources

Provides method for integration of historic resources into community disaster planning and response



Disaster Planning: Historic Resources

Primary line of defense for historic resources against natural disasters

Cannot emphasize this enough:

If your institution does not already have a disaster plan, strongly recommend to make it a priority in near future



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Disaster Planning: Historic Resources

Disaster plan components (may include):

- Inventory of historic resources

- Personnel contact information and assignments

- Response plans for different types of disasters (fire, flood, hurricane preparedness, hurricane response)

- Resources checklist

- Post-disaster inspection and recording protocol

- Recovery protocols

- Mitigation opportunities





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