Unit 7: Evacuation Decision Considerations

Who Is Most Vulnerable?

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- What are some examples in your community of vulnerable populations?

Visual 7-11

Who Needs To Leave or Stay?

Who Needs to Leave or Stay?

- Basic Questions
  - Do they live in a storm surge area?
  - What structures will withstand the winds?
  - What areas are most susceptible to inland flooding?
  - Community isolation
  - Who should leave first?

Visual 7-12

Notes:
**In-County vs. Out-of-County Evacuations**

- How vulnerable is the area?
- What resources are available immediately, short term, and long term?
- What are the host out-of-county considerations?

**Risk Profile**

- Hurricane Risk Profiling is designed to ensure that decision-makers are asking the right questions about the approaching storm to assist them with making an effective/efficient evacuation call.
Risk-Profiling Questions

- What is the storm strike probability and direction?
- What are the storm intensity factors?
- What are the current county demographics and storm impact predictors?

Notes:

Storm Probabilities and Direction

- Are strike and wind probabilities increasing for your jurisdiction?
- What are your relative wind and strike probabilities?
- Major cities may be forced to evacuate before watches and warnings are issued
- What is the local government’s status within the 72-hour average forecast error cone?
### Storm Intensity Factors

- What is the current intensity of the storm?
- How is the storm intensity forecast predicted to change before landfall?
- How has the storm intensified over the last three advisories?
- What is the storm’s peak intensity forecast predicted to be within 5 mph of the next Saffir-Simpson category level?

**Visual 7-17**

### Local Government Demographic and Storm Location Factors

- How many hours until the tropical cyclone force winds hit?
- What is the forward speed of the storm, and has it slowed or increased?
- What is the potential storm surge level?
- What is the local government's clearance time (one-way options)?
- What is the tourist population?

**Visual 7-18**

Notes:
## Evacuation Timing Considerations

- Time of day
- Weather
- Traffic control
- Signage
- Traffic signals or manual decision
- Multiple storm fatigue
- Office and school closings
- Shelter availability
- Rail crossing on shelter routes

**Visual 7-19**

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## Regional Considerations

- Evacuation decisions by one jurisdiction can and do affect others
- Inter-county and inter-state coordination is necessary
- Inland officials must be given adequate notice to absorb the impact of other jurisdictions’ decisions
- State agencies should provide leadership

**Visual 7-20**

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Regional Communications

- How effectively can you communicate with other EOCs?
- How do public safety officials communicate?
- How effective are your communications with the in-county and out-of-county shelters?

Shelter Considerations

- Facility vulnerability
- Family and friends
- Motels and hotels
- Public shelters (American Red Cross and others)
- Facility capabilities and POCs
- Train staff
- Good Samaritan shelters
- Refuge of Last Resort
- Liability
- Sheltering of pets and animals
Activity 7:1—Guided Discussion—Current Issues

- Current issues facing your jurisdictions in hurricane readiness planning and preparation

Lessons Learned

- How many of the evacuees seek public shelters in your area?
- What measures are taken to ensure that those who stay behind understand the risks?
- How effective are the inter- and intra-county shelter communications?

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