UNIT 6: RE-ENTRY

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<th>Notes</th>
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<td><strong>Re-Entry</strong></td>
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Based upon the amount of attention devoted to re-entry operations in emergency planning guidance, one might get the impression that it is unimportant.

The lack of guidance may reflect the fact that in some respects re-entry is a component of recovery operations and not relevant to the emergency phase of a disaster or emergency operation.

However without careful control over re-entry, new emergencies may occur when residents wish to return to their homes and owners to their businesses.

This unit will serve as a forum for discussion about the “what-ifs” of re-entry.

This unit will cover the following topics:

- Identifying residents of the evacuated area
- Transportation back into the evacuated area
- Maintaining order during re-entry

A suggested schedule for this unit follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Re-Entry Considerations</th>
<th>30 Min</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re-Entry Issues</td>
<td>30 Min</td>
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**Total Time**

1.0 H

**Objectives**

At the conclusion of this unit, participants will be able to do the following:

- List factors that affect re-entry into the evacuated area.
- Develop a plan for evacuees to return home.
### Visual 6.2

#### Discussion Question

**Authority for Re-Entry**

In your community, who has the authority to allow re-entry into the evacuated area?

The emergency management statutes in your State should address this question.

The decision to activate a Re-Entry Plan must be based on knowledge that the impacted area is safe enough for public safety organizations to begin preparations for re-entry of the population.

#### Discussion Question

What information about the evacuated area must be available to officials before re-entry operations are started?

Notes:
**Notes**

**Visual 6.3**

Legal Issues
- Negligence is the principle type of liability that faces local, tribal and territorial governments when conducting re-entry operations.
- The Re-entry Plan and operation must minimize the danger and properly warn those who may be entering potentially unsafe areas.

**Visual 6.4**

Re-entry Operations
- Emergency managers and other community officials determine what resources are needed and are available to devote to the re-entry operation.

**Visual 6.5**

Re-entry Operations
**Resources Needed**
- Initially, resources may have to be devoted to clearing roadways and detailed damage assessment.
- Cleanup and repairs may have to be made prior to re-entry.
- Adequate numbers of emergency response personnel, vehicles and equipment must be available to respond to accidents.

**Content**

**Legal Issues**

Negligence is the principle type of liability that faces local, tribal and territorial governments when conducting re-entry operations.

Because re-entry is not often mentioned specifically in state, local, tribal or territorial statutes, the general responsibility of government agencies and personnel is to protect from danger persons entering the impacted area.

In other words, the Re-Entry Plan and operation must minimize the danger and properly warn those who may be entering potentially unsafe areas.

**Re-Entry Operations**

After the damage information is collected and the decision is made to activate the Re-Entry Plan, emergency managers and other community officials will determine what resources are needed and available to devote to the re-entry operation.

**Re-entry Operations**

**Resources Needed**

- Initially some resources may have to be devoted to more detailed damage assessment.
- Some cleanup and repairs may have to be made before it is even possible for residents and business owners to get to their property.
- Adequate numbers of emergency response personnel, vehicles and equipment must be available to respond to accidents.
Re-entry Operations

Resources Needed

- Traffic control may require substantial manpower resources if transportation routes are damaged and/or detoured.
- Ongoing security of the evacuated area will require additional law enforcement resources.

Re-entry Operations

Each evacuation will create a different set of re-entry requirements.

A successful Re-Entry Plan must be flexible enough to take into account post-disaster conditions, size and population of the evacuated area, and availability of resources.

Phased Re-entry

- Many communities have adopted a tiered approach to re-entry.
- Tiered approach usually involves 2 or 3 levels or phases of access.
- Three level/phase approach is most common.

In some cases where a community only uses two levels/phases the third phase is considered open access to everyone.
Phased Re-entry

Level 1 (Closed)

This level allows for the re-entry of agencies and groups that play key roles in restoring normal operations after a disaster. They include the following:

- Search and Rescue Agents
- Infrastructure and Utilities Repair Personnel: County and municipal agencies must be permitted immediate access to evaluate essential services such as water, lighting, and communications are restored and infrastructure is intact.
- Official Damage Assessment Teams: may include FEMA, state, local, and tribal officials.
- Other personnel at the discretion of the EOC or municipality.

Level 2 (Limited)

This level allows for the re-entry of other critical groups, residents, and businesses. Entry is based on the determination of the EOC or municipality and public safety personnel. These groups include the following:

- Relief Workers: will be needed to provide food and other supplies for people in impacted areas who did not evacuate.
- Healthcare Agencies: hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and dialysis centers.
- Insurance Agents.
- Residents and business operators. Municipal officials will make the decision and permit residents and business operators to return to impacted areas based on an overall evaluation of the situation. Residents and business operators will be allowed to reenter their communities when the governing jurisdictions, in consultation with the EOC, agree that the following factors are resolved:
  - Access: major routes are intact and passable.
  - Public Health: threats have been minimized.
Notes

- Rescue: all search and rescue operations have been completed.
- Public Safety: threats have been minimized.

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**Level 3 (Open)**

This level allows for re-entry of those wishing to gain access with limited restriction. Within the area affected, certain streets or locations may still be “Closed”. There may be additional law enforcement patrols or other activities to protect life and property.

- Contractors and other repair service providers will be allowed access at this time.
- Friends, extended family, etc.

**Table Group Activity**

**Phased Re-entry**

Using the Three Level Re-entry categories listed in the previous slide, identify the corresponding municipal department/agency that will be involved in a Re-entry Plan.

Be prepared to share and discuss your choices with the class.

**Re-Entry Procedures**

The following are some actions intended to make the re-entry operation safer and more efficient.

- If full-scale re-entry is impossible, schedule additional phases of re-entry so that residents or owners of businesses in particular areas are allowed in at specified times for a fixed number of hours.
- Establish identification procedures such as requiring driver’s license or company identification.
- Decide what will be admitted as back-up, such as utility bills, deeds, property tax documents and car registration.
Re-Entry Procedures

- Issue passes at locations other than checkpoints (such as shelters) to reduce bottlenecks at control points.
- Set up area to verify credentials for people with questionable identification.
- Officials will have to make a decision if curfews are necessary for the Re-entry process.

Re-Entry Procedures

- Set up roadblocks, as necessary, to prevent mass entry of the population into impacted areas and keep rescue routes cleared.
- Have emergency response personnel and equipment in the re-entered area ready and able to respond even when utilities may not be available.

Re-Entry Operations

Responsibilities

- Keep in mind that re-entry operations require coordination with various organizations and agencies.
- A successful Re-Entry Plan depends upon prior assignment of responsibility and coordination.

Re-Entry Responsibilities

- Activate the Re-Entry Plan.
- Communicate with municipalities and the State EOC on all re-entry issues.
- Organize damage assessment teams.
- Coordinate all other agencies.
- Deactivate the Re-Entry Plan.
Re-Entry Responsibilities

- Establish and monitor checkpoints and set up roadblocks in unincorporated areas of the County, as specified by County DEM and County Public Works.
- Provide security.
- Enforce curfews within unincorporated areas, if required.
- Monitor road conditions and report traffic flows and counts.
- Provide mutual aid to municipal law enforcement through County EOC.

Re-Entry Responsibilities

Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies

- Establish and monitor checkpoints and set up roadblocks in their jurisdictions.
- Provide security within their jurisdictions.
- Enforce curfews, if required, in their jurisdictions.
- Conduct aerial surveys of the impacted areas of the County.
- Provide signage for re-entry, if needed.

Re-Entry Responsibilities

- State Police/Highway Patrol
  - Monitor traffic conditions on interstate highways and State highways and report to County EOC.
- County Fire-Rescue Department
  - Conduct search and rescue in impacted areas of unincorporated Palm Beach County.
Public Information Strategy

Once the Re-Entry Plan has been activated, develop and carry out a public information strategy to communicate the details of the re-entry operation to the evacuees.

Clearly describe:

- When will re-entry begin and is it full-scale, phased or temporary re-entry?
- If a phased re-entry, what different groups and when will they be allowed to enter the evacuated area?
- Ensure that the public is informed about the identification required for re-entry.
- Any transportation instructions?

Public Information Strategy

- Ensure that the Public is notified once the re-entry begins.
- Identification requirements
- Safety considerations, such as how to obtain emergency assistance
- Instructions on permissible re-entry area activities (if restrictions are in place)

Public Information Strategy

In addition, provide any other information that will be helpful to evacuees returning home.

- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- Enter your home with caution.
- Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by floodwater.
**Public Information Strategy**

- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage.
- Take pictures of the damage, both to the house and its contents, for insurance claims.

**Discussion Question**

What other ideas do you have for planning and implementing a safe and efficient re-entry operation?

**Re-Entry Issues**

There are many possibilities for unforeseen events to occur in a re-entry operation.

In this session we will try to imagine what problems could arise and develop strategies for dealing with them.
There are many possibilities for unforeseen events to occur in a re-entry operation.

In this session we will try to imagine what problems could arise and develop strategies for dealing with them.

Table Group Activity

Re-Entry Issues

Each table group will be assigned one or more possible re-entry issue to discuss.

Develop a group strategy for solving each problem or addressing the concern.

Be prepared to present the solutions to the class.

Randomly assign each table group one or more issue.

Allow 10-15 minutes for discussion, depending upon the number of issues assigned to each group.

Facilitate group reporting and follow-up group discussion.

Re-Entry Issues

- Serious traffic jam
- Injuries in the evacuated area and no operational hospital in the jurisdiction
- Sightseers
- Looting concerns
- Residents in areas not yet authorized for re-entry

Re-Entry Issues

- Hysterical residents seeing damaged and destroyed homes
- Contaminated water
- Alligators in sewer
- Discovery of bodies in damaged structures
- Snakes in houses
- Pets without owners
### Notes

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<th>Visual 6.27</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions考上</td>
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<td>Table Group Activity考上</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do you know of any other issues or concerns that have affected re-entry operations?考上</td>
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<tr>
<td>How would you solve the problem?考上</td>
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<td>Unit Summary考上</td>
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<td>Re-entry items in evacuation annex考上</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Assess the damages and hazards.考上</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Establish a re-entry schedule.考上</td>
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<td>• Establish control points.考上</td>
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<td>• Control traffic.考上</td>
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<td>• Provide security.考上</td>
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#### Discussion Questions

Do you know of any other issues or concerns that have affected re-entry operations?

How would you solve the problem?

#### Unit Summary

While re-entry is not frequently mentioned in planning guidance, it is a very important part of the disaster operation.

The details of the Re-Entry Plan cannot be developed until the evacuation has been accomplished.

However the evacuation annex to the emergency operations plan can outline the items that must be included.

- Assess the damages and hazards.
- Decide on full-scale or phased re-entry.
- Establish a re-entry schedule.
- Establish a method for identifying authorized vehicles and individuals.
- Establish control points.

#### Unit Summary

- Arrange public transportation, if needed.
- Provide emergency response personnel and equipment in the re-entered area.
- Plan and carry out a public information strategy.
- Control traffic.
- Provide security.