

# It's a DISASTER...

# County Support

County Support and Coordination  
To Local Units of Government  
Local Senior Officials

January 2016

# Short agenda

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- ❑ Why should **YOU** be concerned?
- ❑ Communicate, Coordinate, & Collaborate
- ❑ Some Practical Examples

# Not IF, but WHEN...



# Context of the problems

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- ❑ Disasters don't respect geo-political boundaries
- ❑ Disasters don't happen often enough for everyone to be practiced in their response
- ❑ Disasters aren't as predictable as we'd like
- ❑ Planning and practicing require time and money
- ❑ The **WHOLE COMMUNITY** must be involved





BRYAN CARMODY





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Disasters BEGIN as LOCAL problems

Disasters END as LOCAL problems





# If your house catches on fire, it's YOUR PROBLEM.

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- ❑ You'll get some help - Fire Department , EMS, Law Enforcement, Building Inspectors, Insurance Adjustors, Investigators, etc.
- ❑ Those same agencies will all go away, and you'll still have a burned-out house, which is YOUR PROBLEM – not theirs.
- ❑ The same thing occurs between different levels of government... Help may come from higher levels, but first and last it's a local problem.

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Disasters BEGIN as LOCAL problems

Disasters END as LOCAL problems







# The “Three C’s”

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## □ Communicate

- *Information is our most important resource*

## □ Coordinate

- *Support separate units working together*

## □ Collaborate

- *Work with others – Government, NGO, Private...*

# Information Sharing

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- ❑ Is there a system or tool in your county?
- ❑ If we don't hear from you, are you OK?
- ❑ We can't act without knowing the need
- ❑ If all else fails, try again!
- ❑ Don't ASSUME!



# Command versus Coordination

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- ❑ Command is directing the tactical response to an incident or event. It is usually done in close proximity to the scene, by people familiar with the specific response tactics.
- ❑ Coordination is supporting the response by ensuring adequate appropriate resources are available. It is usually done from an Emergency Operations Center, and is more strategic in focus.







MEET ME #  
866-716-0239  
2793293#  
LEAD #4120508W

60 mph  
1/2 mile  
1/4 mile



EXIT

# FEMA, State, County, Municipal roles

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- ❑ Planning spans different levels
- ❑ Resources come from different levels
- ❑ Collaboration and Cooperation vary
- ❑ Knowing each other is vital...
  - What you can / can't do
  - What you will / won't do
- ❑ Higher levels generally SUPPORT lower levels, not take over from a COMMAND perspective





# Benefits during a disaster

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Local Officials are...

- ❑ Geographically closest to the incident...
- ❑ Knowledgeable about the community...
- ❑ Impacted most directly...

# Challenges during a disaster

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## Local Officials...

- ❑ Wear many different hats...
- ❑ Control relatively few resources...
- ❑ Have limited disaster training & experience...

# County can HELP your community

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- ❑ Situational Awareness (before and after)
- ❑ Wider net for resources
- ❑ Broader disaster experience
  
- ❑ Support things that YOUR TEAM isn't as good at or isn't prepared for



# Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

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- ❑ Mandated by state rules
- ❑ Details for content / organization / review
- ❑ HOW the municipality organizes for disasters
- ❑ WHO is responsible for WHAT
- ❑ ANNEXES for specific functions & hazards

<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/laws/Pages/regs-title29.aspx>

# EOP Submission & Review

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- ❑ Municipal plans reviewed by County EMA
- ❑ Checked against IEMA requirements
- ❑ Checked for local coordination / integration
- ❑ Copy kept at County EOC
- ❑ EOP is locally approved on behalf of IEMA
- ❑ Review exercises, training, documentation
- ❑ Certification of EM Program by County review



# Example: Flood

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- ❑ Village of Gurnee has experience (1996, 2004)
- ❑ 2007: Countywide flooding (not just Gurnee)
- ❑ Multiple DIRECT requests for Navy help
- ❑ County became single coordination point
- ❑ Got the help to communities where needed



# Example: Public Information

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- ❑ 2008: Countywide flooding
- ❑ Media saturation of region
- ❑ Some communities felt overwhelmed
- ❑ County implemented Joint Information System
- ❑ Multiple coordinated press briefings

# Take NOTHING for Granted

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- ❑ TEST your plans
- ❑ TEST your people
- ❑ TEST your collaborators
- ❑ Don't ASSUME!



# Exercise Program

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- ❑ Building-block sequence
- ❑ Set objectives and evaluate them
- ❑ Written After-Action Review
- ❑ Written Improvement Plan(s)
- ❑ Collaborate with others to reduce costs



# Smaller Exercises are valuable!

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- ❑ EOC Notification and Activation drill
- ❑ Resource Coordination drill
- ❑ Emergency call-down drill
- ❑ Tabletop Coordination exercise
- ❑ EOC functional exercise





# Practice the way you've planned...

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- ❑ Don't skip things during exercises
- ❑ Explain assumptions / boundaries
- ❑ Accept ALL feedback (bad is good... Really!)
- ❑ Exercise with your partners
- ❑ Hold people accountable to fix things!

# Questions?

Thank You!  
*For your Time and Attention*

Barry Burton  
County Administrator



