

## **EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: COORDINATING THE EFFORTS OF DEBRIS REMOVAL AND MANAGEMENT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In today's world a utility cannot plan enough for a potential disaster, especially a hurricane. This presentation provides effective strategies and case studies that will assist a utility manager plan, respond and recover from a disaster, including debris management. The strategies tie in the keys to management success such as leadership, strategic planning and organizational approaches, while providing proven hands-on approaches to developing the strategies and approaches that will work best for your utility. The complex strategies involved in recovering and rebuilding after a disaster cannot be made during the chaos that follows a hurricane. Having post-disaster plans in place before it strikes allows utilities to respond more efficiently, minimizing damage and effectively coordinating and managing the disaster cleanup.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The presentations approach is from the utility manager and public official perspective. The aim is to identify the common pitfalls encountered during planning, responding and recovering from a hurricane. The presentation will provide:

- An Overview of Effective Strategies;
- Case Study Examples;
- Planning Considerations; and
- Federal Funding and Reimbursement Opportunities.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The primary objectives of the presentation are to provide the participants with the necessary information to:

- Develop an understanding of what it really takes to be prepared for any disaster
- Provide a methodology that can be utilized to prepare, respond and recover
- Understand the importance of strategic planning as it relates to critical infrastructure, asset management and disaster debris management
- Develop long-term plans for infrastructure stability and sustainability.

## **DISCUSSION**

The strategies address the key issues that face a utility when preparing, responding and recovering from a hurricane disaster. We look at the challenges from an administrative, engineering/operational, and financial perspective providing examples from past experiences of the challenges, mistakes and lessons learned from previous disaster events drawing from various case studies associated with public works/ESF3 operations following catastrophic disasters.

## **CONCLUSION**

We will introduce participants to various debris management and damage assessment procedures, as well as, introduce the participants to pertinent federal regulations for financial reimbursements and grants and aid.