

**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.