Rough Waters:
Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Hurricanes and Floods

NGA Solutions: Center for Best Practices
Homeland Security and Public Safety
In collaboration with the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
and the American Bar Association

September 26, 2019
Agenda and Speakers

Welcome
Moderator:
Gregory Sunshine, JD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Expert Panel
Darrell Klein, JD, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Max Gakh, JD, MPH, University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Public Health
Lt. Emily Ussery, PhD, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Q&A

Upcoming Webinars
Today’s Moderator
Greg Sunshine, JD
Public Health Analyst
Public Health Law Program
Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Darrell Klein, JD
Deputy Director for Public Health
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Rough Waters: Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Hurricanes and Floods

Darrell Klein, JD
Deputy Director Public Health Licensure
Division of Public Health
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
March 20, 2018 “Before”
March 16, 2019 “After”

North Bend levee repairs continue
Emergency response team of 4 Building inspectors is assigned to assist the City of Bristow, Bellevue, Fremont
Active evacuations: Paradise Lake and Sands Trailer Park in Sarpy County
No updates to US cellular tower in Dannebrog that is possibly not functioning
Home, Edgewood Vista in Platte County
Joint Information Center did establish a separate phone line for mental health assistance
Department of Labor submitted request to change their IDR to allow clients to call in for disaster unemployment insurance claims
All 911 Call Centers are fully operational
Keystone Pipeline techs followed up on report of possible exposed pipeline; no issues
Motorola will provide extra radios if needed
Many inquiries received for carcass disposal, renderers are unable to get to some areas
FEMA:
Working on temporary bridge in Knox County
Estates in Richardson County
Security
Lincoln Water System is intact; water restriction lifted
Behavioral health on stand-by
Inspection teams moving out into the counties (36 of the 69 affected counties have inspection teams)
Residents
Sheltering
SEOC Activation Level: 3 (0700 – 1800)
VOADs providing laundry services, clean up kits, and mobile kitchens
Closures
• County Governments Closed: None
• FEMA Region VII RRCC: 3 (0600-1800)
• Activated since March 9, 2019
Personnel
NEMIA: 37
NENG: 171 on State Active Duty, 221 total
FEMA: 140
SBA: 30

Senior Leadership Brief – Nebraska
March 28, 2019 / 0700 CDT
All information in Black comprehensive as of March 27, 2019 / 1620 CDT
All updates in Blue

President Trump signed the Disaster Declaration on March 21, 2019.

Continued flooding across the state. Flood warnings and advisories in effect in the panhandle as well as along the Missouri in the southeastern part of the state. Water levels on the Missouri River continue to decline and are projected to slowly decrease through next week.

LifeLines: Impacts and Actions

Evacuations (SEOC, 03/27/2019)
• Active evacuations: Paradise Lake and Sands Trailer Park in Sarpy County
Rulo Riverfront and Lewis & Clark Estates in Richardson County
• Portions of Peru (Nemaha County) are open
Dams & Levees of Concern (USACE 03/27/2019)
• USACE Notified they will be increasing the release of Gavins Point Dam to 36,000 cfs on 03/28/2019
• USACE levee breach repairs continue
• North Bend levee repairs continue
Structures
• A State Emergency response team of 4 Building inspectors is assigned to assist the City of Fremont through Friday
Traffic Control Points (TCP) (NSP, 03/21/2019)
• Troopers stationed at Highway 75 south of Nebraska City due to increase in traffic from I-29 closure
Shelters (ARC, 03/23/2019)
• Shelters open: 5 (1-1), pop. 147 – 27, Locations: Bistol, Bellevue, Fremont, Snyder, Albion, Omaha
• Discussing consolidating shelters and examine long term housing options
Feeding (ARC, 03/23/2019)
• Meals: total of 18,885 (~2,933) served to date by ARC
• NPP: Starting to survey each county to identify their specific unmet needs – 45+ organizations ready to assist with the identified needs
World Kitchen, Southern Baptist. Operation BBQ have served an estimated 4,000 meals to date
Water (DHS, 03/25/2019)
• Four water systems currently down (Peru, Boyd, Lynch, Spencer)
• Working with EPA for mobile water testing sites in Veddige, Norfolk
• DEQ advised to ensure the correct water test kits (issued by DHHS) are being used
• Lincoln Water System is intact; water restriction lifted
Resources (ARC, 03/25/2019)
• Statewide: 46,000 items distributed to date (clean up kits and other supplies)
• Volunteer reception center set up in Fremont – Alco 2 warehouses open in Fremont
• [CERT] team to Fremont: assess damage to [structures] & plan rebuilding.
• VOADS providing laundry services, clean up kits, and mobile kitchens

Facilities (NE DHHS, 03/24/2019)
• Lynch Hospital (Bordoy County) is operational with limited capacity; ER, X-ray, CT are open, next closest hospital is in O’Neill
• Nursing homes evacuated: Premier Estates of Pierce (40), Schuyler Care & Rehabilitation Center, Birchwood Manor in North Bend (47), Madison House in Norfolk, and Good Samaritan of Wood River
• Residents of Valentine in Valley (46 on 3/23), Genoa Nursing Home, Edgewood Vista in Norfolk were returned to original locations
Concerns (NE DHHS, 03/24/2019)
• Scotia Rescue, Sansone Street Rescue, and Nebra Volunteer Rescue have been divided with modified service delivery and are being monitored
• Joint Information Center did establish a separate phone line for mental health assistance

Resources (NE DHHS, 03/24/2019)
• Auburnbridge, Friday, 3-29

Health
Food, Water, Sheltering
Safety, Security
Communications
Transportation
Energy
Wastewater
Hazardous Waste
Wireless/Wireline
Lifelines: Impacts and Actions

Grid (SEOC, 03/27/2019)
• Customers in the state that are without power: 0.2%
• OPFD experiencing some issues; they supply power to the Lincoln well field
• Cooper Nuclear terminated Notice of Unusual Events and returned to normal operations on 03/24/2019
Fuel (Source, MMDDYYYY)
• Keystone Pipeline techs followed up on report of possible exposed pipeline; no issues and no exposure of pipeline
• Department of Energy is reaching out to the 23 ethanol plants to check the status of their production and see if they have been impacted.

State Highways (NDOT, 03/23/2019)
• Closed: 258 miles
• Reopened: 1,369 miles
• Inspection teams moving out into the counties (36 of the 69 affected counties have federal aid routes)
Bridges (NDOT, 03/20/2019)
• Damaged: 15
• Working on temporary bridge in Knox County

Wastewater (Source, MMDDYYYY)
• Omaha was able to get foot traffic into Papio Creek facility yesterday, some of the pumps and motors that were expected to be under water were not and raw sewage pumps were submerged, still assessing impacts
• Plattsmouth facility is still significantly under water, will take time before plant can be accessed

Hazardous Materials (Department of Agriculture, 03/20/2019)
• Kansas and Oklahoma are beginning their seasonal grass burn, which could impact Missouri underwates
• 94 animal feeding operations discharged
• Many inquiries received for carcass disposal, renderers are unable to get to some sites and cannot keep up with all of the requests.
• Farming operations are in need of fencing material.

Stable
Stabilizing
Unstable

March 27, 2019
• 240
• 171 on State Active Duty, 221 total
• FEMA: 140
• SBA: 30

{ArcGIS Map Image}
March Flooding

Dams & Levees of Concern (USACE 03/27/2019)

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Shelters open: 5 (-1), pop. 147 (-27). Locations: Bristow, Bellevue, Fremont, Snyder, Albion, Omaha
Discussing consolidating shelters and examine long term housing options

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Statewide: 46,000 items distributed to date (clean up kits and other supplies)
Volunteer reception center set up in Fremont – Also 2 warehouses open in Fremont
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Facilities (NE DHHS, 03/24/2019)
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Nursing homes evacuated: Premier Estates of Pierce (40), Schuyler Care & Rehabilitation Center, Birchwood Manor in North Bend (47), Madison House in Norfolk, and Good Samaritan of Wood River
Residents of Valhaven in Valley (46 on 3/22), Genoa Nursing Home, Edgewood Vista in Norfolk were returned to original locations

Concerns (NE DHHS, 03/24/2019) [EMS]
Scotia Rescue, Santee Sioux Rescue, and Niobrara Volunteer Rescue have been divided with modified service delivery and are being monitored

[JIC] established a separate phone line for mental health assistance

Resources (NE DHHS, 03/24/2019)
Behavioral health on-call through Friday, 3-29
DHHS Long Term Care staff called every Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Facility in the state. Generally great cooperation and coordination, with facilities (some previously closed) accepting evacuees from flood-threatened facilities.
The Exception

Friday March 15, 2019 after 2:00 PM Administrator called DHHS: they were evacuating the last few residents from [facility] by airboats. She was panicked and needed to be reminded to transport medications, blankets and food for the residents. Administrator stated “I don’t think we will need food, we won’t be there that long”

Friday March 15, 2019 at 6:57

Received an email from Owner with list of 14 Residents who were evacuated to facility A.

Saturday March 16, 2019 at 1:58 PM notified that facility A had accepted 15 residents. Remainder of residents are in a ballroom emergency shelter in another town. DHHS received several calls from Administrator wanting to return to [facility] even though the area was still under a flood warning and there was no fresh water or sewage systems available.

Sunday March 17, 2019 at 2:18 PM

Administrator adamant that they would take the residents from the ballroom back to [facility] even though the Nursing Home does not have freshwater or sewage service. After several phone calls the Emergency Management staff in town considered shutting off gas to the NH and told the Administrator it is not safe to return to the NH and he needed to place the residents other than the Snyder ballroom. DHHS helped identify available receiving facilities. Administrator stated intention to evacuate residents from the ballroom to Facility B.

Sunday March 17, 2019 at 2:45 PM

Facilities C and D offered to assist with staff and residents from [facility].
The Exception, continued

[Facility] Administrator told DHHS he had been told [by EM] he needed to emergently transfer the remaining residents from the Snyder ballroom to facility E as there is no fresh water or sewage services at [facility] and the city is shutting off gas to the facility. Administrator asked DHHS to intercede and call Emergency Management to inform them this is beyond their authority. DHHS advised him to listen to his emergency management team and determine what is best for the health, safety and wellbeing of his residents bearing in mind the city/county has responsibility for emergency management and the utilities and assistance with evacuations.

Administrator stated he will evacuate ballroom shelter residents to Facility E and notify DHHS when completed.

**Sunday March 17 at approximately 8:00 PM** 2 employees from [facility] went to facility A and tried to retrieve residents. Refused.

DHHS was informed the owner wants to move 37 residents back to the nursing home against the advice of emergency management officials. Reports show no fresh water or functional sewage system at the facility (nor in the entire town) DHHS contacted NEMA to contact local emergency officials in town to confirm the condition of the facility. NEMA and DHHS sought input from local law enforcement.

DHHS would inspect, but access to town is cut off.

Owner told DHHS that they have a fire suppression system but do not have fresh water and that the gas was never shut off. They have bath-in-a-bag for bathing and disposable wipes for peri care/toileting. They do not have an operating sewage system, they plan to utilize bed side commodes and double bag waste for residents and portable toilets for staff. They do not have fresh drinking water and will use bottled water for drinking and cooking.

Against advice and direction, owner returns residents to facility in darkness and flooded conditions night of March 17. Next day, owner promises to evacuate residents to alternate facilities. Does not. DHHS closes facility and evacuates residents with help to alternate facilities.
The HCCs and LPHDs provided invaluable feedback in public health, hospital, facility, and mass care operations.

The DHHS divisions and units who collaborated with our ESF #8 desk, NEMA and key leaders have recognized continued roles.

Incident Command Structure and training will become a higher priority for key leaders and staff who work outside of Emergency Preparedness and Operations.

 Volunteers who heeded the call were in abundance once activated, with further training and development work being planned in this area for organization capacity and bench strength.

Knowledge Center Training

Training Flooding

Planned: Full Scale Exercise May 6-10 across the state. Actual: Blizzard and Flooding disaster & recovery.
Flooding

- Emergency declarations for 104 cities, 81 counties, 5 Tribes, 13 other government entities. Presidential declaration
- SEOC ESF-8; Special meds for shelters, helicopter transport of blood test, drinking water delivery
- Nursing Home and ALF Evacuations
- Cooperation and Coordination with EM, local authorities and colleague facilities
- Public Water Supplies and Private Well Testing
Flooding, CERT and Populism

- Folks returned to “tagged” housing
- Emergency Management contacted Public Health and letters were sent.
The Town Exception
Max Gakh, JD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Las Vegas School of Public Health
University of Nevada
Use of Gubernatorial Executive Orders & Emergency Declarations to Respond to Hurricanes

Rough Waters: Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery for Hurricanes and Floods Webinar

September 26, 2019

Max Gakh, JD, MPH
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health
Background

• Hurricanes can have detrimental health consequences\textsuperscript{1,2}
• Laws are important for preparedness and response\textsuperscript{3,4}
• Governors can exercise their authority by declaring emergencies and facilitating response\textsuperscript{5}
• How have governors used orders, proclamations, and declarations to respond to hurricanes?
Collect orders

• Policy surveillance

• Search for orders & declarations
  • Westlaw – Netscan Executive Orders database
  • Lexis Advance – Statutes & legislation, Administrative codes & regulations databases

• Screen orders for inclusion

Inclusion criteria

- Executive orders, proclamations or administrative orders
- Issued by governors
- In response to a hurricane (or tropical storm that becomes a hurricane)
- After the 2005 hurricane season and before 12/31/2018
- Contained in searched databases
Code orders & analyze results

List of \textit{a priori} codes \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Coded}} \quad \text{Coded 10\% subsample of orders} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Coded}} \quad \text{Coded all orders}

Modification through Debriefing

\textbf{Analyzed Results}
Number of orders & proclamations

Total coded 468
Use across states

- 65% contained orders
- Geographically dispersed
Use across years

- Most issued in 2018
- Fewest issued in 2007
- Notable upticks
Use across hurricanes

- Sandy: 13.7%
- Harvey: 10.7%
- Florence: 10.0%
- 2+: 71.4% (of 21) involved Gustav or Ike
Most prevalent codes

- Declares emergency or disaster: 151
- Waives or establishes temporary rules for vehicles: 117
- Activates or Continues General State Response: 110
- Gov't personnel to assist in response: 97
- Gov't property to assist in response: 94
- Extends previous EO: 80
- Funds Available for Response: 76
- National Guard: 70
- Order/Declaration Benefits of Another State: 67
- Anti-price gouging: 59
- Waive spending/purchase and contract rules: 59
- Suspends any law that inhibits response: 49
- Interstate Mutual Aid Agreement: 47

- Hurricane Irma
- Declares emergency
- Government personnel
- Government property
- Activates or continues general state response

ORDERED: That a State of Emergency exists in all Georgia counties.

IT IS FURTHER


This Executive Order shall be valid for a period of seven (7) days, beginning on September 10, 2017, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on September 17, 2017.

Other prevalent codes

Evacuation: 40
Modifies deadlines for legal proceedings, benefits, fines, fees, or taxes: 36
Rescinds/Terminates Previous EO: 36
Orders distribution of EO or declaration: 35
Ratify response actions: 31
Seek external funding: 25
Suspends licensure or credentialing laws for healthcare providers: 24
Elections/Voting: 21
Designate non-state personnel as state: 20
Interagency Cooperation or Coordination: 20
Monetary Relief for Private Persons: 20
Debris removal, building demolition, waste disposal: 19
Controlling ingress for emergency area: 17
Suspends laws governing storage, distribution, dispensing or documentation for prescription medication: 17
Enumerates Penalties: 14

- Hurricane Michael
- Suspends licensure or credentialing laws for healthcare providers
- Ratifies response
- Suspends laws governing storage, distribution, dispensing or documentation of prescription of medication

Benefiting another state


1. Due to Hurricane Harvey, which has caused an emergency of national magnitude and which continues to directly affect the Gulf Coast states including Texas and Louisiana, there is hereby declared a disaster emergency in the State of Oklahoma so that state, county, and local governments can adequately respond to the mutual aid requests and needs of the Gulf Coast states.

2. It may be necessary to provide for the rendering of mutual assistance among the State and political subdivisions of the State with respect to carrying out disaster emergency functions during the continuance of the State emergency pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Emergency Management Act of 2003.

3. State agencies, in responding to this disaster emergency, may make necessary emergency acquisitions to fulfill the purposes of this proclamation without regard to limitations or bidding requirements on such acquisitions.

4. The State Emergency Operations Plan has been activated and resources of all State departments and agencies available to meet this emergency are hereby committed to the reasonable extent necessary to protect lives and to prevent, minimize, and repair injury and damage. These efforts shall be coordinated by the Director of the Department of Emergency Management with comparable functions of the federal government and political subdivisions of the State.

Interesting themes*

**Manage resources**
- *Funds available for response*
- *Seek external funding*
- *Waive spending, procurement, contracting rules*
- *Gov’t personnel to assist in response*
- *Gov’t property to assist in response*
- *Rules for vehicles*
- *Interstate mutual aid*
- *Intrastate mutual aid*

**Implement gov’t response**
- *Activates or continues state response*
- *Ratifies response actions*
- *Interagency coordination or cooperation*
- *National Guard*
- *Requires distribution of order*
- *Extends previous order*
- *Rescinds or terminates previous order*

* Non-exhaustive list of non-exclusive themes
More interesting themes*

Healthcare-related
- Suspends licensure or credentialing requirements for healthcare providers
- Suspends healthcare facility limits
- Suspends prescription drug requirements
- Suspends laboratory permitting requirements
- Evacuation or reduction in number of healthcare facility patients
- Suspends student immunization or health assessment requirements

Affect private parties
- Evacuation
- Monetary relief for private persons
- Enumerates penalties
- Modifies deadlines for legal proceedings, benefits, fines, fees or taxes
- Anti-price gouging
- Elections/voting
- Seizure of private property

* Non-exhaustive list of non-exclusive themes
Even more interesting themes*

Suspend, waives or modifies

- Suspends any laws that inhibit response
- Waives spending, procurement, contracting rules
- Modifies deadlines for legal proceedings, benefits, fines, fees or taxes
- Suspends laws governing sales of goods


E. Suspend the effect of any statute, rule, or order that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay any mitigation, response, or recovery action necessary to cope with this emergency.

* Non-exhaustive list of non-exclusive themes

Some limitations

• Not all relevant documents may have been in the databases
• Focused on a specific time-period – trends at other times might be of interest
• Included both “orders” and “authorizations”
• Focused on language of the documents
Conclusions

• State orders issued in response to hurricanes are geographically varied
• They call for different actions, some with more frequency
• They can attempt to access or manage resources, implement response actions, suspend existing requirements, and modify healthcare delivery rules
• Planning to determine how to utilize orders may be an important, jurisdiction-specific preparedness strategy
4. U.S. Const. art. I & amend. X.
Thank you!

• **Questions?**
  • maxim.gakh@unlv.edu
Lt. Emily Ussery, PhD
US Public Health Service
Epidemiologist
Physical Activity and Health Branch
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Promoting Activity-Friendly Communities During Disaster Recovery
Lessons Learned from the US Virgin Islands

Emily N. Ussery, PhD
Outline

• CDC’s Physical Activity and Health Branch

• Activity-friendly communities in the US Virgin Islands
  – Pre-hurricane planning
  – Post-hurricane planning

• Challenges and lessons learned
CDC’s Physical Activity & Health Branch

- Active People, Healthy Nation℠, a national initiative to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027

- Provide support and technical assistance to states and territories to create activity-friendly communities where people live, work, and play

- Inform physical activity guidelines and evidence-based recommendations for improving physical activity

https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/
Community Preventive Services Task Force

Activity-Friendly Routes + Everyday Destinations

Pedestrian or Bicycle Transportation Systems
- Street connectivity
- Sidewalk & trail infrastructure
- Bicycle infrastructure
- Public transit infrastructure and access

Land Use and Environmental Design
- Proximity to destinations
- Mixed land use
- Residential density
- Parks and other recreational facilities

https://www.thecommunityguide.org/findings/physical-activity-built-environment-approaches
Policy Approaches

- Complete Streets
- Pedestrian-oriented zoning
- Safe Routes to School
- Vision Zero
Benefits of Walkable Communities

- Increased physical activity
- Reduced risk of some chronic diseases
- Improved mental health
- Improved safety
- Increased social connectedness
- Reduced air pollution
- Improvements to local economy

- Contribute to community resilience
- Reduce losses from disasters
Activity-Friendly Communities in the USVI: Pre-Hurricane Planning
Background

- Chronic diseases and obesity are significant public health concerns in the USVI
- Almost one-third of adults are physically inactive
Walkability Assessment
May 2016
TIMELINE

Walkability Assessment
May 2016

Walkability Institute
June 2017

DOH to Host Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Walkability on St. John
By Tradewinds Staff - August 7, 2017
1747
Walkability Assessment

Walkability Institute

Hurricanes Irma and Maria

Deployed for hurricane recovery

May 2016

June 2017

Sept 2017

Feb 2018
Activity-Friendly Communities in the USVI: Post-Hurricane Planning
Stafford Act (1988)

• Provides legal authority for federal government to provide assistance to states (and territories) during declared major disasters and emergencies that overwhelm state capacity

• Presidential declaration enables access to assistance and funds

• FEMA coordinates disaster relief resources
FEMA Assistance

- **Individual Assistance**
  - Direct funds to individuals for housing, etc.

- **Public Assistance**
  - Aid for organizations or government agencies to repair eligible public facilities

- **Hazard Mitigation**
  - Grants to governments to implement long-term mitigation measures

- **Mutual Aid Agreement Reimbursement**
  - Allows states to share resources during disasters (e.g. EMAC)
Other Federal Assistance

• Federal Highway Administration’s Emergency Relief (ER) Program
  – Emergency and permanent repairs on federal-aid highways and roads to restore to pre-disaster condition

• HUD’s Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program
  – Flexible grants to help localities recover from disasters, especially in low-income areas

Source: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/
Disaster Recovery Continuum

Source: https://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework
### National Disaster Recovery Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery Support Function (RSF)</th>
<th>Lead Coordinating Agency</th>
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<tbody>
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Source: [https://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework](https://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework)
• Key recovery priorities in the USVI:
  – Electronic systems for health information exchange
  – Children and youth in disasters
  – Healthcare workforce development
  – Health and the built environment
Rationale

• Opportunity to rebuild stronger and healthier

“The recovery period, with its attendant influx of resources and synchronization of planning processes, presents an important opportunity to redesign physical and social environments ... to improve a community’s long-term health status while reducing its vulnerability to future hazards.”

– IOM Committee on Post-Disaster Recovery

• Activity-friendly communities promote resilience
  – Good mental and physical health, and social connectedness reduce vulnerability to disasters

• Potential hazard mitigation benefits

## Activity-Friendly Design and Hazard Mitigation

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<td>Provide pedestrian safety benefits due to lower speeds and fewer conflict points.</td>
<td>Roundabouts at intersections</td>
<td>Continuity of service during electricity outages following a disaster.</td>
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Health and Built Environment Working Group

- Weekly meetings with local partners and federal agencies involved in recovery
- Identify needs and available recovery resources
- Expand on projects and priorities identified before the hurricanes
- Ensure that recovery investments in infrastructure, housing, etc. incorporate healthy community design principles
WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES
Established Guiding Principles

• Developed memo of “guiding principles” for healthy community design in the USVI
  – Endorsed by Commissioners of Health and Public Works
  – Shared with key stakeholders

• Reflected in Governor’s Hurricane Recovery and Resilience Report

Initiative 12
Implement Safe Routes to Schools

Initiative 11
Utilize roundabouts instead of street lights at intersections

Initiative 13
Deploy walkability recommendations
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

• Submitted 5 project proposals with activity-friendly design components

• Spring Gut Valley Park and Conservation Project
  ➢ Acquire 50 acres in high flood risk area on St. Croix, and revitalize into a community park with improved stormwater drainage ➢ *Funded for $2 million*
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (cont)

- Schneider Regional Hospital Project
  - Address and mitigate flood impacts by adding green infrastructure
  - Improve pedestrian connectivity, transit access, and public green space
  - Awarded a Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) from the American Planning Association for design assistance
Complete Streets Policy

• Collaborating with AARP to develop a Complete Streets policy specific to the USVI

• Working with Ohio State University to develop street design guidelines for USVI
Partnership Development

Proposed Christiansted Bypass Bike Lane Route.

Source: https://vitrails.org/portfolio/christiansted-bypass-bike-lanes/
CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED
Challenges

• Funding restrictions require rebuilding to prior condition
• Limited or no dedicated resources
• Many competing needs and interests
• Significant buy-in and support from multiple partners needed
  – Local coalitions
  – Emergency management agencies
  – Local policymakers
  – Federal agencies
• Constrained timeline requires quick decision-making
Lessons Learned

• Pre-disaster planning is necessary for success

• Important to identify and engage appropriate partners

• Multi-sector collaboration is key to navigating the complicated disaster recovery process
  – FEMA
  – HUD
  – EPA
  – USDA (rural communities)
  – American Planning Association
  – Smart Growth America
Thank you!

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Questions?
Emergency Management Assistance Compact:
Legal Considerations in 90 Minutes
• October 17, 2019
• 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

Ebola and Beyond: Legal Preparedness for Outbreaks
• November 21, 2019
• 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

Information Sharing 101:
Protecting Public Health Data
• December 12, 2019
• 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm EST

Register at:
http://www.nga.org/ph-emergency-prep-toolkit/#webinar