Memorial Weekend Flood Response and Recovery

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Then this happened...
1:03 AM CDT

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

BLANCO RIVER at WIMBERLEY, TEXAS
* 39.22 feet as of 12:45am CDT
* All-time record was 33.30 feet on May 28, 1929
* Flood stage is 13 feet
* Catastrophic flood damage is likely occurring now

COUNTIES: Hays
CITIES: Wimberley, Woodcreek
UNTIL: 5:15 AM CT
BLANCO RIVER AT WIMBERLEY

Universal Time (UTC)

Latest observed value: 40.21 ft at 1:01 AM CDT 24-May-2015. Flood Stage is 13 ft

USGS...44.9 ft Crest
175,000 cfs

30 ft Rise / 2 hrs

Stage (ft)
31
Major: 26.0'
27
23
Moderate: 17.0'
19
Minor: 13.0'
15
Action: 10.0'
11
7
Action

Flow (cfs)
78149.0
48168.0
29565.0
17056.0
8027.0
2243.0

Site Time (CDT)
Graph Created (7:18PM May 24, 2015)
Observed
Forecast (issued 2:57PM May 24)

WMBT2(plotting HGIRG) "Gage 0" Datum: 797.23'
Observations courtesy of US Geological Survey
Hays County
Blanco River May 24, 2015
Emergency Response

• 911 Center Processed over 3600 calls for help
• Emergency Operations Center Activated
• Mutual Aid Agreements Activated
• Emergency Shelters Opened
• Hundreds of Residents Evacuated

Established Relationships are Essential!
Emergency Operations

- Disasters affect all areas of County Government
- Trust the System (Govt Code Chapter 418)
- Accurate Damage Assessments are Crucial
- Know what to ask for when offered help
- Transition from Response to Recovery is sooner than you think

Documentation Documentation Documentation!
IMT Response

• Instrumental in planning and documentation
• Facilitated communication between response agencies and locals
• Reinforced the structure and schedule
• Helped to keep me ‘sane’ (Thanks Robert!)
IMT and PIRT

The need for both in a coordinated response is evident!
Post Incident Response Team (PIRT)

• Professionals with Emergency Management experience that can facilitate the Recovery Phase

• Recovery planning and implementation must start during the response phase

• Subject Matter Experts in everything from finance to donations to volunteers are needed to assist the Locals
Volunteer Management

• Establish a Volunteer Resource Center (VRC)
• Have a system to receive requests for volunteer assistance
• Register All Volunteers
  – Track Job Assignments and Hours
  – Liability Waivers
• Volunteer hours count toward your soft match
Donation Management

- The Disaster After the Disaster
- You cannot ‘un-ask’ for donations
- Set parameters and do not wavier
- Remember that receiving and distributing are two very different functions
- Have an established closing date
- Store additional donations to be turned over to long term recovery

Documentation Documentation Documentation!
Long Term Recovery

• Utilize your local organizations
  – Faith Based
  – Non Profit
  – Business
• Have Oversight but NOT Direct Involvement
  – this organization should function independent of County Government
• Expected to be in Long Term Recovery for years

Actually, just call Anna Tangredi!!!
• Collaboration of the EMCs from Blanco County, Hays County, Caldwell County, Guadalupe County, and the City of San Marcos
  • Selected Transitional Board Members
  • Identified the committees and/or functions that needed to be addressed
• Comprised of Faith Based Organizations, Non-Profits, local business, community members
• Established 501c3
Stay Strong. Stay Kind. Stay Texans