



The Coastal Resilience Network

“Regional Collaboration in Action”

October 8, 2014
Coastal Resilience Conference
Galveston, TX

American Red Cross

The Network in a Nutshell

- Regional coalition of community stakeholders along the LA and MS Gulf Coast
- Representatives include:
 - Social service providers
 - Humanitarian organizations
 - Faith-based groups
 - Emergency management
 - Environmental groups
 - Government agencies
- Forum to empower agencies to collaborate through pursuing risk-wise strategies that increase the level of resilience in the region.



Current Geographical Footprint

Louisiana:

- Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes

Mississippi:

- Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties



Members

- Approximately 50 members
- Organizations/Businesses represented:
 - United Way
 - MEMA
 - Louisiana Interfaith Conference
 - Red Cross
 - Volunteer Louisiana
 - NOAA Coastal Services Center
 - University of Southern Mississippi
 - MS Dept of Health
 - Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response
 - National Baptist Convention
 - Via Link 211
 - MS Department of Marine Resources
 - Interfaith Partnerships
 - Catholic Charities
 - Local emergency management agencies
 - Episcopal Community Services
 - MS/AL and LA Sea Grant Consortiums
 - VOAD
 - FEMA
 - MS Parent Training and Info Center

Goals

- To Increase:
 - Social Capital (connectedness, sense of community)
 - Community Competence (skills, creativity, knowledge, collective action)
 - Community Capacity (systems, structures and resources)

In essence.... build resilience!

Activities

- Regional Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability Assessment
- Preparedness training – tailored to specific populations
- Ready Rating (organizational readiness)
- Recovery planning



Disaster Recovery Exercise

- 2 day exercise held March 17th and 18th at USM
- 43 participants from a wide range of agencies in MS and LA
- Chemical spill scenario
- Focus on long-term recovery issues
- Results summarized in After Action Report



Recovery Framework

- Meetings every 5-8 weeks
- Expert speakers invited
- Drafting framework with ample input from network members



Contributions to Resilience

- Recovery Framework
 - Setting a new standard and creating a new structure
- Leveraging resources
- Creating new materials
 - Preparedness for targeted populations
- Fostering new connections

Survey Results

- Conducted a survey - initial responses show:
 - 100% agree “I can impact community resilience through this network”
 - 100% agree “I can impact community recovery planning through this network”
 - 50% agree “Network’s activities are improving coordination across the LA /MS Gulf Coast”
 - 63% say that they have made connections as a result of their membership in the network
 - 63% agree “Network members collaborate with each other”
 - 88% agree “Relationships among network members are being strengthened”

Challenges and Successes

Challenges

- Consistency in relationships
- Gaining commitment
- Sustainability

Successes

- Fostering connections and strengthening relationships
- Building a means for collaboration to address issues across the disaster cycle
- Increasing capacity to withstand and bounce back from disasters



Questions?

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