



Director's Notes

END OF MONTH COMMUNICATIONS

May 2011

Disaster 1976

Kentucky was hit with yet another complex disaster, making this the 8th presidentially declared disaster in the last three years. The disaster spanned from historic flooding in the west to the far east. Kentucky was very fortunate to have only one death attributed to this disaster.

The outstanding partnerships built over the last several years between federal, state, local, citizens and senior elected officials resulted in superb response efforts. The Corps of Engineers did a great job controlling the flood dams and levees through the 1927 Flood Control Act which controls recreational lakes in Kentucky. They kept officials and citizens apprised of the ongoing situation, preventing loss of life.

As a result of Disaster 1976, Kentucky received Public Assistance and Individual Assistance to help Kentucky clean up and rebuild from this disaster. Kentucky's Federal Coordinating Officer Steve Ward (FEMA Region III) has been a great partner for us and continues to remain engaged, assisting Kentucky with funding available. KYEM has made great strides to turn around and enhance our reimbursement system. We remain committed to keeping the reimbursement process as quick as possible.

Again, thank you to every individual who helped during this disaster. Every county involved did exactly the right thing by contacting their regional response manager! It made things happen quicker and smoother to begin Kentucky's recovery. For additional information on Disaster 1976, visit www.kyem.ky.gov/aprilsevereweather.htm.

Transparency - CSEPP Exercises

It's a busy season in CSEPP as fellow states hold their annual exercises and we prepare for ours in October. CSEPP training is a continuous process whereby teaching preparedness is a daily routine. And, once a year, our fellow CSEPP partners get to evaluate us as we do them! This is truly a great opportunity to learn new best practices and share ours with CSEPP Partners.

Alabama held their exercise in early March. KYEM CSEPP evaluators included Mark Klaas, Donna Stratton and Shannon Gregory. Colorado's exercise was in May. KYEM CSEPP evaluators included Monica French, Donna Stratton and from Madison County Carl Richards and Tammy Phelps. To learn more about CSEPP, visit www.csepp.ky.gov.

GEMW

Due to the unfortunate circumstances of Disaster 1976, the GEMW will be postponed. This will enable KYEM and the communities of Kentucky to recover. Another workshop will be held sometime in December. Please keep your eyes open for a new Save the Date once it is scheduled.

NLE 2011

The National Level Exercise has come and gone, but we are in the middle of assembling our After Action Report. The Exercise itself was an outstanding success in Kentucky. We had dozens of activities, over 10,000 participants in the call down on Monday and assisted the Region and Nation in implementing new GIS based technologies that we are positive will assist with operations and situational awareness.

KYEM and Cabinet partners worked to learn lessons and best practices to be better prepared, not if, but when an earthquake occurs in Kentucky. These lessons and best practices will become the underpinning for our training plan.

Social Media was one of the emerging capabilities we tested during the exercise. We were fortunate to have Alexa Norak who works with NEMA in Washington, assist us with her expertise on social media during the exercise. Our exercise message tweets were followed nationwide! In addition, we are able to share our preparedness mission through Facebook.

KYEM's pilot project, **WebEOC**, was tested during the NLE. KYEM, KyNG and our partners were able to use our newly designed boards, provide feedback for changes and will help continue to refine the process so we get it right.

Kentucky and CUSEC became the hub for some ground breaking work between ESRI (GIS) and ESI (WebEOC) as we pulled tools together to implement the largest full pilot of the DHS Virtual-USA program. This application widget allowed all 8 states of the CUSEC region to share data and it was all planned and pulled together in Kentucky. Word is that Administrator Fugate and the White House were using the assembled GIS plots to make exercise decisions on Wednesday and Thursday.

We added an additional capability by implanting ESRI tools with the DHS-LDDRS project on our Search and Rescue Task Force team insertion into Calloway County during the exercise. More on that at the next SAR Chief's meeting, but needless to say, we learned a lot about how we need to focus our training.

Our Private Sector Working Group partners played during the exercise, making a complete circle for all entities to be involved during a disaster. We have 50 major corporations as part of our PSWG who are ready and willing to assist citizens and their communities when a disaster strikes.

From the Directors viewpoint - I just want to express my appreciation for all the county and regional staff, the ESF partners and our volunteer partners for all the excellent teamwork in the build up to the exercise and the pay off. I am confident the lessons learned will provide the building blocks for all our future training events.