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Strengthening Multi Hazard Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery Capabilities: Leveraging Campus Resources for System-Wide Results

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DRU Workshop



Strengthening Multi-Hazard Mitigation,
Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
Capabilities:

Leveraging Campus Resources for System-Wide
Results

University of New Orleans

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About the Presenters...

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History/Overview



Higher Education in Louisiana

- Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR)
- Plans, coordinates, and has budgetary authority over all public colleges and universities
- Four Systems under BOR
 - Louisiana State University System
 - University of Louisiana System
 - Southern University System
 - Louisiana Community and Technical College System

History/Overview



University of Louisiana System

- Consists of Eight Universities (all 4-year schools)

Grambling State University

Louisiana Tech University

McNeese State University

Nicholls State University

Northwestern State University of Louisiana

Southeastern Louisiana University

University of Louisiana at Monroe

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- Over 80,000 students

History/Overview



Virginia Tech Changed Everything

Immediately following the tragedy, BOR directs all college and university campuses to implement 4 specific strategies

History/Overview



Virginia Tech Changed Everything

1. Active Shooter Training for all University Police
 - All institutions trained
 - Louisiana State Police conducted training
 - Included “train the trainer” approach
 - Includes real-scenario drills on campus facilities

History/Overview



Virginia Tech Changed Everything

2. Adoption of the Ready Campus Concept
 - Started as a consortium of Pennsylvania universities
 - Focuses on campus facilities, human capital, service learning
 - Ties the university to the local and state community



Ready Campus (cont.)

2. Adoption of the Ready Campus Concept

<http://www2.selu.edu/orgs/lcc/>

- Includes Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for campus leadership teams
- Directed by the Louisiana Campus Compact
- Every school has a R/C team
- Spans across disciplines
- Started the juices flowing

History/Overview



Virginia Tech Changed Everything

3. Campus Physical Security Assessments
 - Conducted by a 3rd party consultant in cooperation with all campus police/security personnel
 - Included provisions to interoperability for communications.
 - Juices are flowing stronger

History/Overview



Virginia Tech Changed Everything

4. Development of an Emergency Notification System (ENS)

History/Overview



Senate Resolution 8 (2007 Regular Session)

- Develop and implement a comprehensive emergency response and crisis communication plan.
- ULS decides that each campus needs to have an all hazards planning approach.
- ULS hires a 3rd party consultant to assist us with our plans.
- At the kickoff meeting, ULS determines that a committee with representation from all campuses is needed to facilitate networking.

History/Overview



Higher Education's Role in State Emergency Planning

- Higher education serves as an emergency support function
- Facilities are used by the state
 - Points of Distribution (POD)
 - Staging areas
 - Shelters space (residence halls and other)
 - ICS is utilized appropriately in both directions

What is the ULS EPSC?



- Steering committee tasked with specific functions related to system-wide emergency planning, coordination, and mutual aid
- Multi-disciplinary group of campus officials representing all major organizational levels and divisions of their respective institutions that meets approximately once per quarter via video-conference

EPSC Diversity



- **Traditional Planners/Responders**
 - Law enforcement and related emergency services
 - Environmental health and safety
 - Facilities and physical plant operations
- **Quasi-Traditional Planners/Responders**
 - Student health services
 - Dean of students
 - Information technology
- **Non-Traditional Planners/Responders**
 - Public information & governmental affairs
 - Student affairs & enrollment management
 - Academic affairs

EPSC Leadership



- UL System Liaison
 - Director of Information Technology (initial)
 - Director of Internal Audit (current)
- Group always chaired by a campus-level official
 - **Initial chairperson:** director of environmental health and safety at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 - **Second chairperson:** dean of student services at McNeese State University
 - **Current chairperson:** director of university police at Louisiana Tech University

EPSC Leadership



- Strength and effectiveness of committee largely driven by multi-disciplinary membership

- Strength and effectiveness of committee leadership largely driven by:
 - diversity of chairpersons
 - AND**
 - de-centralization of core work away from system office

EPSC Composition



- Focus on multi-disciplinary approach to all-hazards preparedness and planning
- Representation from executive, mid- and professional staff levels within institutions
- Deliberate effort to avoid over-representation of “traditional” planners or emergency responders
- Leadership of group as diverse as membership

Successes to Date



- Implementation of Board of Regents initiatives
- Ongoing implementation of Senate Resolution 8
- Mutual aid and assistance during Hurricanes Gustav (2008) and Ike (2008)
- Consultation and information-sharing regarding best practices for:
 - H1N1 preparations and response (2009-2010)
 - Key public policy issues (conceal/carry on campus)
 - Meningitis
 - Hurricanes and tropical storms

EPSC In Action



Hurricane Gustav

- Makes landfall on Louisiana on September 1, 2008
- All 64 Parishes were declared a **FEMA** Federal Disaster Area
- Voluntary evacuations were initiated in at least 10 coastal Parishes



EPSC In Action



Hurricane Gustav (cont.)

- All 8 ULS institutions enacted their Hurricane Preparedness Plan
- 6 ULS institutions experienced damage to their campuses
- All 8 ULS institutions provided support through the State's ESF function



EPSC In Action



Hurricane Gustav (cont.)

- Role of EPSC before, during, and after the storm
 - Share each university's status of preparation
 - Post a universal request for assistance to all ULS campuses
 - Keep up with the progress of requests

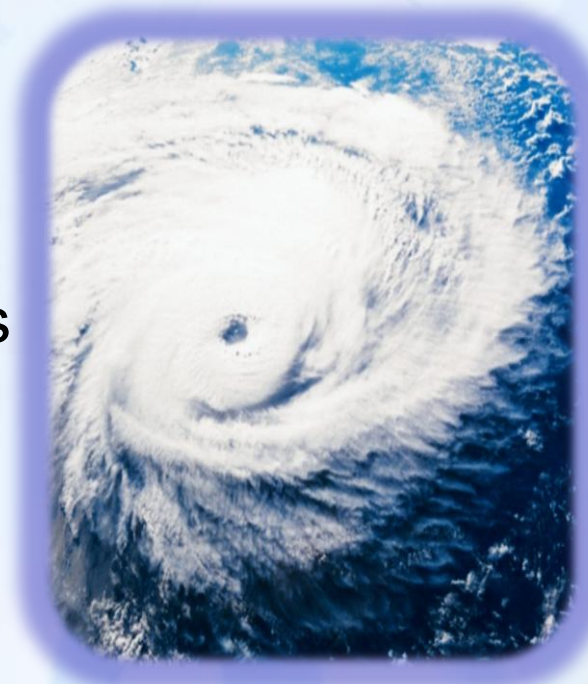


EPSC In Action



Hurricane Gustav (cont.)

- Role of EPSC before, during, and after the storm
 - Backup form of communication (in lieu of telephone)
 - Good for “lower priority” requests (not on fire now)
 - Useful for members that evacuated or were not on campus



Keys to Successful Implementation



- System and campus executive buy-in a must
- Diverse composition at the campus level validates broad range of issues brought to table
- Hands-off approach to coordination by system officials increases buy-in by campus participants

Keys to Successful Implementation

- Best work occurs bottom-up rather than top-down
- Establish a base-line event for evaluating progress (i.e., Hurricane Gustav)





Practical Starting Points

- Identify campus stakeholders who will be effective liaisons
- Identify peers and colleagues among other campuses and at system level who can help advocate for initiation
- Create a general framework as a guidepost

Practical Starting Points



- Consider potential resistances and be prepared to address them with data
- Keep initiatives undertaken manageable
- Avoid excessively frequent meetings or cumbersome reporting requirements

Questions & Answers





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