

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Workshop Session II

Time of Session: 1:30-3:00pm

Session Title: Universities as Part of a System

Speakers: William Moorhead and Ginny Schwatzer
All Clear Emergency Management Group

Sarah Estes Cohen and Robert Greenberg
from: G&H International Services Inc.

Room: 205

Head Count: 12

Note Taker: Corey Miller

Notes: **“Cost Saving Advantages of Multi-Agency Exercises”**

Began by brushing over the HSEEP cycle with discussion of types of exercises; then they showed a slide of the various agencies that practice HSEEP.

The advantages of joint exercises were talked about with audience comments: “it helps to bring everyone to the same table” and “it helps with expectation issues.”

Will agreed and told anecdote of the fire dept unaware of specific role that had been outlined for them in a neighboring agency’s plan. They were more than willing to help but just hadn’t been made aware since they had not practiced or even really met to discuss.

This led to discussing importance of Partnerships and making sure that all the different organizations that support your University are included not only in the plans but also in the practice and drills.

Outside vendors –food, arena, events; utility co; and housing were examples noted.

Comment- include homeowners’ assoc. so they don’t worry when drills, sirens are going off in practice.

The take home was that by bringing as many agencies together as possible for drills can help cut costs by pooling grants and funding and offers a more comprehensive real-life simulation.

“Leveraging Technology to Build a Disaster Response ‘System of Systems’”

Illustrated the need for a more comprehensive approach to emergency response on the national level. Currently we have several different response organizations all trying to track and coordinate their efforts internally but often hindering efficiency that could be made if there was a overarching network.

Gave example of US control over Haitian airfield blocking Red Cross from deliveries post-quake.

“The problem with information sharing is that everyone wants it but no one wants to do it.”

Virtual USA is a pilot program to coordinate more comprehensively between emergency response.

A test of its use was given after the gulf oil leak where its implementation aided significantly in helping in-state and inter-state response efforts.

Comments:

What about no internet access areas?

-there are plans to improve this scenario by including radio/phone capabilities but as of now, internet is required for access.

What about tier 2 sensitive materials like hazmat areas on campus?

- one great benefit of the tool is ability to determine who can see and access the info you post and for how long it will be available. So that could be included but maybe only fire department can view.