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

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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
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
  - University of Louisiana
  - Southeastern Louisiana University
  - University of Louisiana at Monroe
  - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- Over 80,000 students
Immediately following the tragedy, BOR directs all college and university campuses to implement 4 specific strategies.
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
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
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
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
Virginia Tech Changed Everything

4. Development of an Emergency Notification System (ENS)
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.
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
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
- 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
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
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
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 is a must.
- Diverse composition at the campus level validates a broad range of issues brought to the 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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