

Disaster Preparedness Icebreaker

Four Regions of our country are affected by catastrophic emergencies—all at the same time and all are equally important. First Responders and FEMA have to decide who to help first as their resources are limited. All Regions have an Evacuation Route (we had to tie this into the conference theme somehow)

So here are the Regions and Evacuation Routes, you will be joining today.

Your Region will be by Zip Code unless otherwise specified

The East Coast Region, Evacuation Route 95

A Class 5 Hurricane has hit Florida and is continuing North along the coast

Zip Codes 00000 to 35000 are involved unless you are located close to Highway 80

Go Stand outside by the Route 95 sign and await further instructions

The Deep South to Great Lakes Region, Evacuation Route Highway 75

Major Floods have occurred in the deep south, causing tens of thousands to be homeless and the entire water supply has been compromised.

Zip Codes 35001 to 59999 are involved unless you are located close to Highway 80

Go Stand outside by the Highway 75 sign and wait further instructions

The Route 66 Region

Southern California has had a major earthquake and after shocks are expected for weeks. Evacuation by Route 66 and other highways heading East is essential

Zip Codes 60000 to 92999 Go Stand by the Route 66 sign

The Pacific and Northwest Region, Highway 5

We thought the Swine Flu was bad, Pike's Place Tossing of the Fish Flu epidemic has become pandemic in the Pacific Northwest forcing evacuation to points south

Zip Codes of 93000 to 99999 and any one not included in any other zip codes,
Go outside to the Highway 5 Sign and wait further instructions

(Wait for everyone to assemble)

(Unveil four way tug a war ropes with Captain FEMA(Person dressed up in Captain America with attached letters of FEM on either side of the A), symbolic of First Responders in the Center; place Everyday Heroes outer ring markers so we will know when one of the Regions wins)

(with bull horn)

Now that we have you assembled, each group must pick seven from their region and fight for your lives via the four way tug a war for First Responders. You other team members will call out strategies on how to best pull on the rope as well as cheer on your Region.

(Once all are on the tug a war ropes)

Captain FEMA and First Responders want to know which disaster to respond to first. On the work go, commence pulling

Ready, Set, Go!

While everyone is returning to your seat, please think about what we learned from this disaster preparedness exercise.

So what did we learn from this exercise? Please raise your hand if you have a suggestion.

(Suggestions from audience)

(Once suggestions are provided)

There must be easier ways to maximize technology to assist our specific efforts with respite families when disaster strikes.

There's the Respite Locator database to help respite families that are displaced find respite services along any evacuation route. It can be found on the ARCH website. www.arch.memberlodge.org

How do we create a regional response system when respite families are affected by health or natural or man made disasters? That's a question that will take a some time by your local state or collaboration with nearby states to answer.

This concludes your Emergency Broadcast Disaster Preparedness Ice Breaker Exercise portion of the conference!

Thank you for your participation.