PRE-DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING: AVOIDING THE RUSH TO NORMALCY

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When Does “Rush to Normalcy” Begin?
Highest Levels of Uncertainty and Urgency in the Response Phase

- Response Phase
  - Focused on:
    - Human Safety
Highest Levels of Uncertainty and Urgency in the Recovery Phase

- Recovery Phase
  - Focused on:
    - Households’ and Businesses’ demand to return to “normal”
    - Government’s uncertainty about how to organize the community to accomplish this
A Look at Normalcy

Source: Fundamentals of Emergency Management
Infrastructure

Photo Credit: J. O'Connor (for MCEER)
Government

Photo Credit: NOAA
Peers
Household
Business

BEFORE

AFTER

Beach Blvd. Bay St. Louis, MS

Photo Credit: NOAA
CHALLENGES OF RECOVERY PLANNING
The Rush to Normalcy

“You Have My Word... You’ll Be Back In Your Homes In No Time”
Recovery Misconception #1

#1 The entire recovery effort can be improvised after the emergency response is complete.

**Truth #1:**

An effective disaster recovery requires a significant amount of data collection and planning that will delay the recovery if postponed until after the emergency response is over.
Recovery Misconception #2

#2 The objective of disaster recovery should be to restore the community back to the conditions that existed before the disaster.

Truth #2:

Simply restoring the community to its previous condition will ensure only one thing — to reproduce the community’s existing disaster vulnerability.
Recovery Misconception #3

- Lightning Never Strikes Twice!
Hurricane Camille
Richelieu Apartments
Pass Christian, MS
August 1969
Same Location after Hurricane Katrina (former Pass Christian Shopping Center)
So...What is Recovery Planning?

Restoring
Reshaping
Rebuilding

Physical
Social
Economic
Natural
Environment
## Model Recovery Timeline - EQ

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<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Week</th>
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<td>A. Damage Scenario</td>
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<td>B. Emergency Shelter</td>
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<td>C. Closure and Relocation</td>
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<td>E. Geologic Evaluation</td>
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<td>F. Demolition</td>
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<td>J. Reconstruction Planning</td>
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<td>Rebuilding</td>
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Why Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning?

- Organizes community processes for more timely and efficient post-event action
- Clarifies key recovery roles and responsibilities
- Identifies potential financing
- Minimizes duplicative or conflicting efforts

(Source: Disasters by Design, Dennis S. Mileti)
Why Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning?

- Avoids repetition of other communities’ mistakes
- Achieves greater public safety and community improvement
- Most importantly, it can help communities “think on their feet” and thus be flexible enough to adapt their post-disaster actions to actual conditions

(Source: Disasters by Design, Dennis S. Mileti)
Chula Vista, California
Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

- Area: 51 square miles
- Population: 210,000
- Housing Units: 60,000
- Hazards:
  - EQ
  - Flooding
  - Wildfire
- Racial Makeup:
  - 55.10% White, 49.59% Hispanic/Latino of any race
Recovery Policy: Rehabilitation
Recovery Policy: Public Sector Services
Recovery Policy: Economic Recovery
Recovery Policy: Land Use and Re-Use

Greensburg Before and After the May 4, 2007 tornado
Recovery Policy: Psychological Rehabilitation

“Because disaster-affected communities can't wait...”
Recovery Policy: Vital Records

Protection

Retention
Recovery Policy: Inter-Jurisdictional Relationships

- City
- Special District
- Utilities
- County
- Regional
- State
- Federal
Recovery Task Force (Policy Group)

- Establish/Rescind Temporary Moratoriums
- Policy Recommendations on:
  - Development Regulations
  - Construction Standards
  - Infrastructure Redevelopment
  - Hazard Mitigation Activities
Lessons Learned: Existing Land Use Planning Processes

- General Plan
- Zoning Ordinance
- Historic Preservation Ordinance
- Coastal Development Plans
- Redevelopment Plan
- Regional Transportation Plan
- Mitigation Plan
- Capital Improvement Plans
Lessons Learned: Risk Knowledge

- Aerials
- Impact Maps
- Schematics
- Elevation Drawings
- Blueprints
- Models
- Field Trips
- Descriptive Reports
Lessons Learned: Social Media

Hit by a natural disaster? The first 6 things to do for your community’s relief effort.
Recovery Resources

- The National Disaster Recovery Framework, FEMA
- Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction, APA
- Clear as Mud: Planning for the Rebuilding of New Orleans, APA
Recovery Training Resources

- FEMA EMI E210 “Recovery from Disaster: the Local Government Role”

- National Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC) “Coastal Community Resilience”
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