

DSHS Grand Rounds

Nov. 13

Best Practices in Local Public Health: The West Explosion



Presenters:

Frank Patterson, Emergency Management Coordinator for City of Waco/McLennan County; Kelly Craine, Public Information Officer, Waco-McLennan County Public Health District; Dana Lafayette, LPC, LP-S, LCDC, Heart of Texas MHMR

Logistics

Registration for free continuing education (CE) hours or certificate of attendance through TRAIN at:

<https://tx.train.org>

Streamlined registration
for individuals not requesting CE hours
or a certificate of attendance

1. webinar: <http://extra.dshs.state.tx.us/grandrounds/webinar-noCE.htm>
2. live audience: sign in at the door

For registration questions, please contact Annette Lara,
CE.Service@dshs.state.tx.us

Logistics (cont.)

Slides and recorded webinar available at:

<http://extra.dshs.state.tx.us/grandrounds>

Questions?

There will be a question and answer period at the end of the presentation. Remote sites can send in questions throughout the presentation by using the GoToWebinar chat box or email GrandRounds@dshs.state.tx.us.

For those in the auditorium, please come to the microphone to ask your question.

For technical difficulties, please contact:

GoToWebinar 1-800-263-6317(toll free) or 1-805-617-7000

Disclosure to the Learner

Requirement of Learner

Participants requesting continuing education contact hours or a certificate of attendance must register in TRAIN, attend the entire session, and complete the online evaluation within two weeks of the presentation.

Commercial Support

This educational activity received no commercial support.

Disclosure of Financial Conflict of Interest

The speakers and planning committee have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Non-Endorsement Statement

Accredited status does not imply endorsement by Department of State Health Services - Continuing Education Services, Texas Medical Association, or American Nurses Credentialing Center of any commercial products displayed in conjunction with an activity.



David Lakey, MD
DSHS Commissioner
is pleased to introduce today's
DSHS Grand Rounds speakers

Best Practices in Local Public Health: The West Explosion



Frank Patterson
Emergency Management Coordinator
City of Waco/McLennan County



Dana Lafayette, LPC, LP-S, LCDC,
Heart of Texas MHMR



Kelly Craine
Public Information Officer
Waco-McLennan County Public Health District

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe precipitating factors leading to the West explosion.
2. Analyze the strategic response undertaken by the local public health/emergency management partnership.
3. Examine public health issues, including mental health interventions, related to the explosion.
4. Explore lessons learned from the West explosion.

WEST FERTILIZER EXPLOSION WACO-MCLENNAN COUNTY EMC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



April 17, 2013

Plant split by the City Limits
Located a short distance from school
and neighborhood



Disclaimer: This product is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of insurance. It is not intended to be used as a contract. The actual policy and terms and conditions apply to the specific policy and its terms.

April 17, 2013

- 7:29 PM Fire Reported
- 7:32 PM West Fire Dispatched
- 7:33 PM West Fire en route
- 7:38 PM West Fire arrive on scene
- 7:41 PM request for mutual aid from Hill County departments and other local departments
- 7:51 PM Explosion occurs





Established
Incident
Command I

X





Taken by: Sgt. Swanton, Waco Police Dept. ©

That night we recorded 113 different agencies, many of them self dispatched.

Radio communications were an issue early on.

Most of the agencies did not get used.

COMMUNICATIONS
CHANNEL: VF 81

IC
Frank Patterson

SOPR:
Paul Simmonds

CFC:
TOM MAREK

PSC:
HAROLD
FERGUSON

LSC:
HAROLD
FERGUSON

- MINI - DALE YATES
- FIRE - TOM MAREK
- LE - TYLER HARPOLE
- CR - BILLY HLVANKA
- ACOMAT - CHRIS PECHACEK
- STAGING: TOM HEMRICK

WEST FLAVOR:
TOMMY MUSKA

PIO: Dion Wilson (DPS)
ASSISTANT: ROBBIE BAREHA
LOFR

F/ASC





















Clearance 17

NO
PARKING
AMBULANCE
DRIVE





























Press Briefings





Donations Management







**Established
Incident
Command II**



at&t
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FWT

at&t
EMERGENCY RESPONSE
400 WEST 34TH AVENUE
DALLAS, TX 75219



W Spruce 300 St



HARRIS
FF

Casket - ok
OBC - Wilbur ^{ok}
Cemetery ok - JK ^{ok}
Book -
SERVICE RECORDS - OK

Blanket - ok
Plaque
Flags - 6 US
VIDEO - flash drive - ok
Clergy - ok

Lead car - ok
hearse - ok
FD Vans - ok
Flower vans - ok
MUSIC -

SVC
4/24
WED

Pustajovsky
FF

Casket ok
OBC - ok
Cemetery - ok
Book
Service Records

Blanket - ok
Plaque - ok
Flags - 6
Clergy -

Lead car
hearse
Family -
Flower Vans
MUSIC

4/26
Fri

Upmeyer

Casket - ok
OBC - ok
Cemetery
Book
Service Records

Blanket
Plaque - ok
Flags - 5 US ITX
VIDEO
Clergy
FD Honor Guard Watch -

Lead car
hearse
Family
Flower vans
MUSIC

4/27
SAT

Robert
Snoekhous
FF

Casket - ok
OBC - ok
Cemetery
Book
Service Records

Blanket
Plaque - ok
Flags - 4 1-TX
VIDEO
Clergy

Lead car
hearse
Family
Flower vans
MUSIC

4/29
MON

Doug
Snoekhous
FF

Casket - ok
OBC - ok
Cemetery
Book
Service Records

Blanket
Plaque - ok
Flags - 3 1-TX
VIDEO
Clergy

Lead car
hearse
Family
Flower Van
MUSIC

4/29
MON

FRONT
St Mary's
Catholic
Church



Route to St Mary's church
- location of St Mary's
- location of St Mary's

PID
- Area CAMERA
- Pass Area
- Patrol Unit
- Patrol Unit

Professors
(EF)
- Area of care
- other details
- 5th year etc.
- pre-arrival time

OFFICER posted indicators
- Map
- Posts
- Timetable
- Incident location

St. Mary's Catholic Church

City of West



Divided the city into three zones. This allowed us to get people in their homes in the least impacted areas sooner and allowed us to do a complete assessment of the worst impacted area.



Established Incident Command III





















PED
XING











































- Explosion caused damage to 37 block area
- Farthest piece of debris was found 2.5 miles away
- The crater was 93 feet across and 10 feet deep
- The plant was roughly 15 acres including the silos
- Estimated amount of AN that exploded was 28-34 tons equivalent to 15,000 to 20,000 pounds of TNT
- Additional 20-30 tons was in the building but didn't detonate
- 100 tons in rail car that did not detonate
- The total of 150 tons of AN onsite was less than the 270 tons reported on the Tier II Report

State Agencies:

Texas Department of Public Safety

TDEM

Highway Patrol

Texas Rangers

Victim Services

Criminal Investigations Division

Driver's License

Office of Media and Communications

Aviation Division

Communications Division

Texas Department of Insurance

State Fire Marshal's Office-Investigation

Fraud Unit

Consumer Protection Unit

Texas Parks & Wildlife--Security and Law Enforcement

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality--Air/Water Quality Monitoring

State Agencies, continued

Texas A&M Extension Service
Texas A&M Forest Service
Texas A&M Agrilife Research
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Texas Animal Health Commission
Texas A&M College of Veterinary Science
Texas Department of Transportation
State Attorney Generals Office
Texas Education Agency
Texas Military Forces

Federal Agencies:

Fort Hood Fire Department
FEMA
EPA
NIOSH
ATF
OSHA
GSA
CSB
FBI
NIOSH
USDA

Take Away

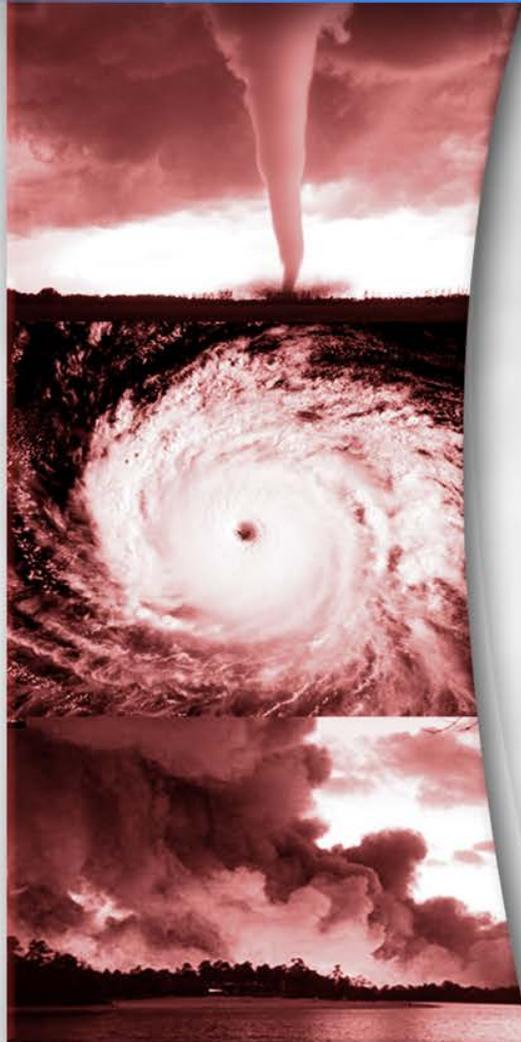
- It is difficult to be the EMC and be an effective I/C
- The Incident needs a social media person
- Technology never works like you plan (communications)
- Stress will take its toll on all involved
- Volunteer, Donations Management etc...
- Each member of Command/General staff needs a scribe

QUESTIONS

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Office of Emergency Management
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254-750-5911

Photos provided by: Waco Tribune Herald Rod Aydelotte, Texas Forest Service, Reuters,
and Waco Police Department

Heart of Texas MHMR Response



- Support individuals and community
- Coordinate mental health providers
- Planning and coordination of re-entry process
- Provide crisis services as needed

Supporting Individuals and Community

- **Established teams in critical locations including**
 - **Joint Assistance Center**
 - **Community Center**
 - **Family Assistance Center**
- **Mobilizing crisis team into community as needed**
- **Providing contact information and brief information on expected reactions**
- **Attending and presenting in town hall meetings**

Coordinating Mental Health Providers

- **Many show up to assist**
- **Understanding each others' roles**
- **Determining who the key supports are (who is local and who will be leaving)**
- **Coordinating to allow people to assist but not overwhelm the community**
- **Assessing the needs and assigning the appropriate service provider**

Planning and Coordination of Re-entry Process

- **Worked closely with Public Health for this process**
- **Established teams of Mental Health professionals and chaplains**
- **Provided support without being intrusive**
- **Provided water which was much needed**
- **Carried Teddy Bears for children**

Reactions We See

- **Resilience/Coming Together**
- **Anxiety**
- **Acute Stress Reactions**
- **Grief**
- **Tearfulness**
- **Numbing**
- **Forgetfulness**
- **Anger/Irritability**
- **Problems Sleeping**

Crisis Services

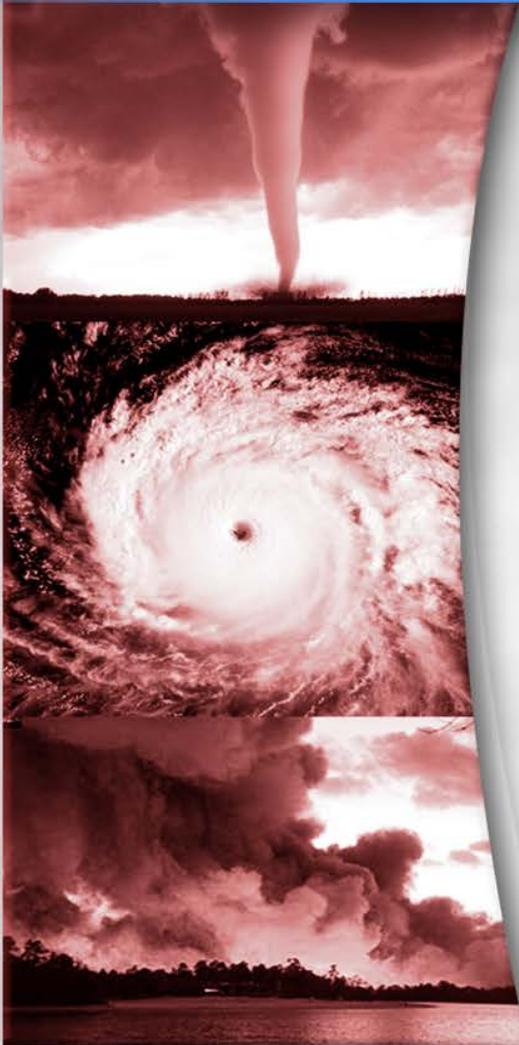
- **Mobile Crisis Outreach Team**
- **Crisis Respite**
- **Triage Services**
- **Psychiatric Hospitalization**
- **Safety Planning**
- **Crisis Hotline**
- **24/7 Availability**

Key Considerations

- **Be flexible**
- **Be available**
- **Develop a strong team**
- **Offer opportunities for team to debrief**
- **Forming important relationships before the disaster – community partners are critical for success in the disaster**
- **Get organized before a disaster**

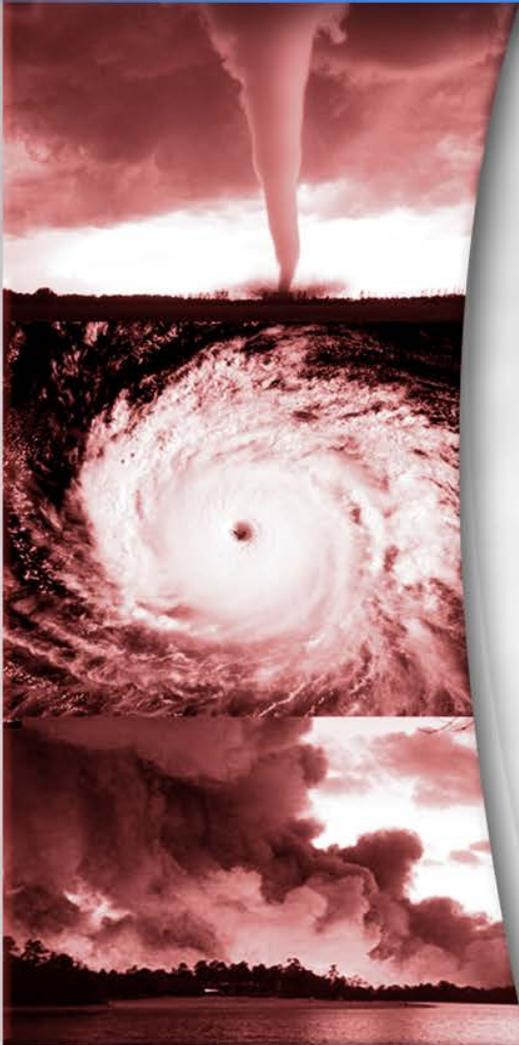
Public Health Responsibilities

- Tetanus Shots
- Sanitarians
- Family Assistance Center
- Re-Entry
- Neighborhood Resource Center



Public Health Key Partnerships

- Waco-McLennan County Office of Emergency Management
- Heart of Texas MHMR
- Health Service Region 7
- Heart of Texas RAC
- Medical Reserve Corp
- Victim Relief Services

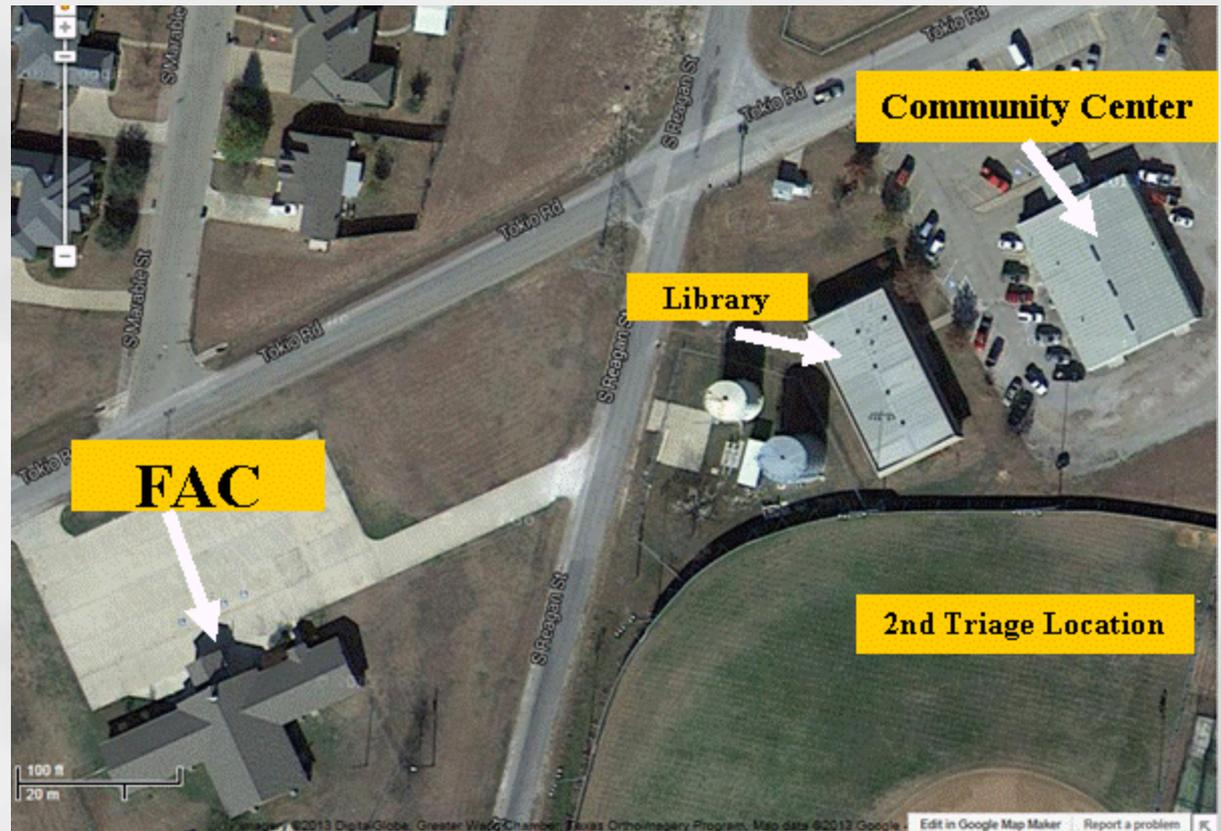


Family Assistance Center

-Located in West Church of Christ

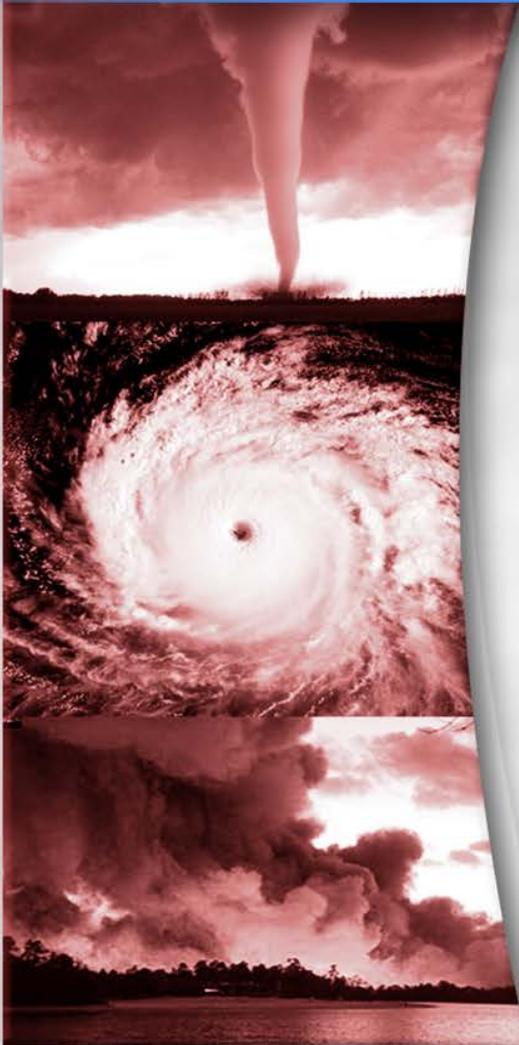
-Approx. 2 Miles from Blast Site

-Approx. 1 Mile from EOC (St. Mary's)



FAC Operations

- **Management/Command Structure**
- **Staffing – Mental Health Staff, Chaplain, Funeral Director, and Ancillary Staff**
- **Hours**

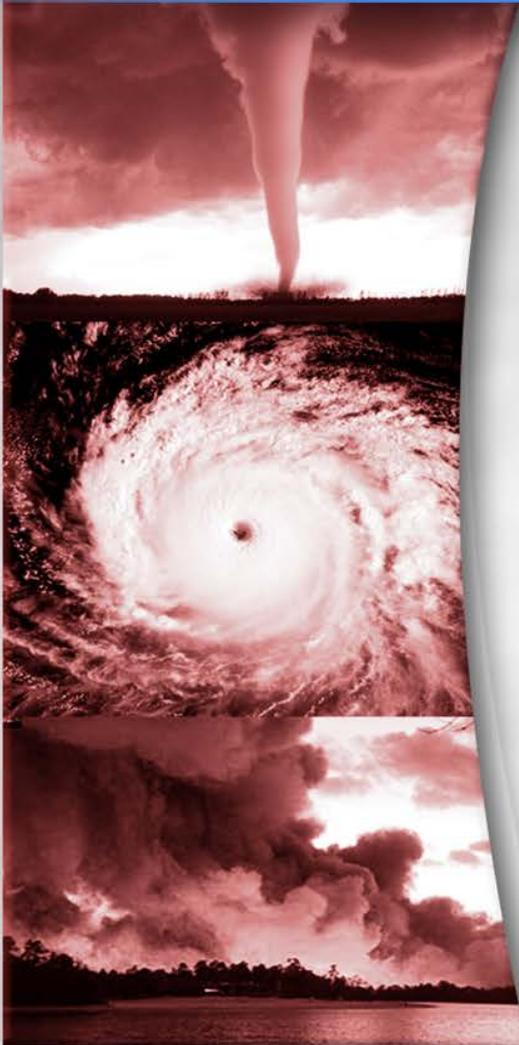


FAC Set-Up



Key Considerations for a FAC

- **Locations – Population/Community Centric**
- **Purpose – Define and Understand it**
- **Security**
- **Key Partners – Justices of the Peace and Funeral Home Directors**
- **Responder Deaths**
- **Public Information**



Fatality Management Resources

- **Public Health Toolkits**

- <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/sccphd/en-us/HealthProviders/BePrepared/Pages/Managing-Mass-Fatalities.aspx>
- <http://www.apctoolkits.com/family-assistance-center/>

- **DSHS Fatality Mgmt Toolkit**

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/commprep/planning/toolkits.aspx>

- **Annex H, App 4 – DSHS ROG**

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/commprep/response/ROG.aspx>

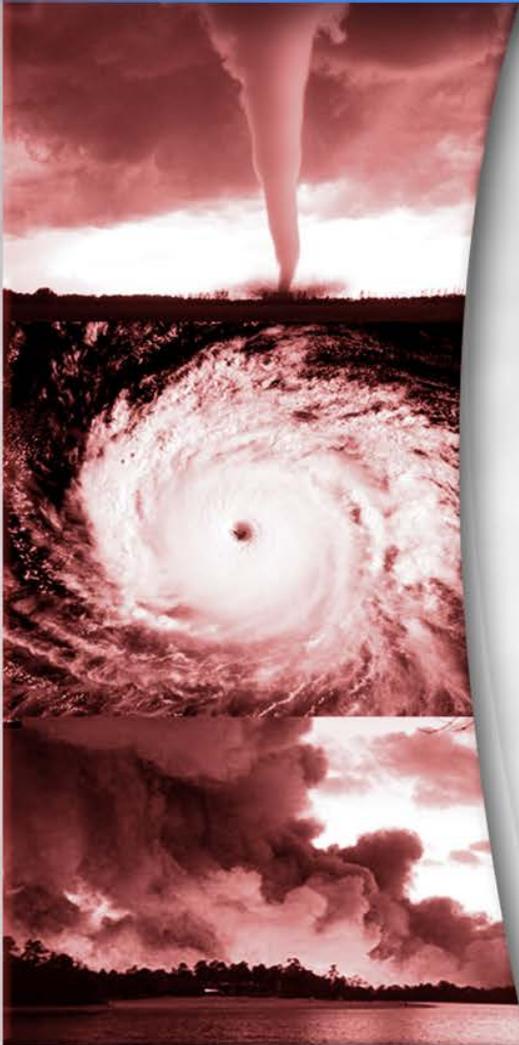
Re-Entry Effort and Neighborhood Resource Center



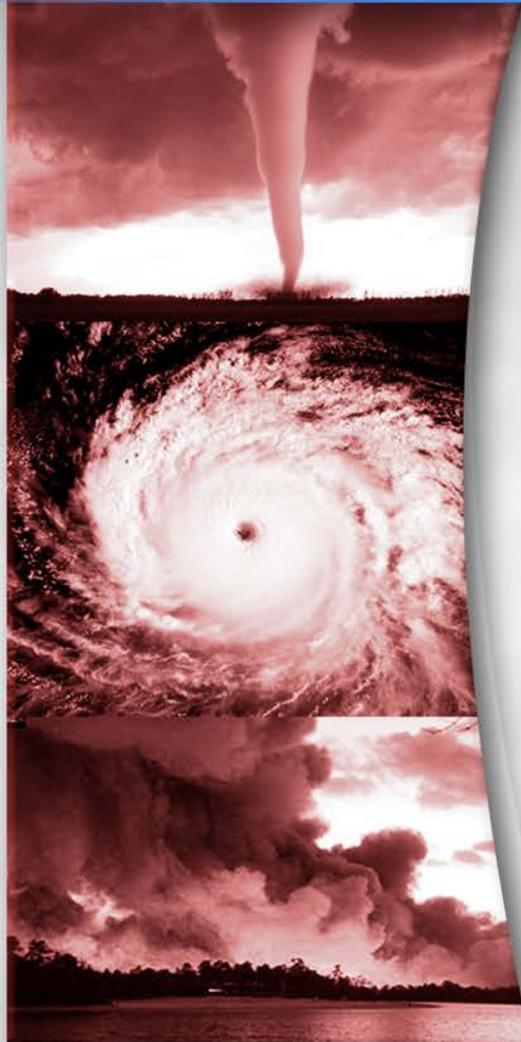
Neighborhood Resource Center

Located in Zone 3 for re-entry purposes only

- First aid**
- Tetanus shots**
- N-95 masks and gloves**
- Ice**



Key Considerations



- **Relationships**
- **Mental Health Authority**
- **Community Volunteers**
- **Location**
- **Contingency, Contingency, Contingency**

Questions and Answers



David Gruber, MBA
Assistant Commissioner
Regional and Local Health Services
Department of State Health Services

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Our Next Grand Rounds Presentation

Nov. 20

**Health Data and
Transforming Our
Approaches to
Improving Population
Health**



Presenter:

Chesley Richards, MD, MPH, Deputy Director for Public Health Scientific Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention