



*United States Department of*  
**Health & Human Services**

**Office of the Secretary**  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary for**  
**Preparedness and Response (ASPR)**

# When the IRCT comes to town..

- Case Study-3 Deployments
  - ❖ Hurricane DEAN-Austin, Texas
  - ❖ TOPOFF 4-Portland, Oregon
  - ❖ California Wildfires-Pasadena
  
- The IRCT Response
  - ❖ The assets
- What Worked
  
- What Didn't Worked
  
- Future Improvements---not revolutionary, but evolutionary

- Hurricane Dean-Austin, Texas
  - The Incident
    - ❖ Hurricane Dean-Category V Hurricane
      - » Post Katrina-federal assets leaning forward
      - » Early reports were the Hurricane could threaten from the Florida Panhandle to Brownsville, Texas
      - » Millions of people potentially impact

# The Response

- HHS Headquarters response?
  - You're in the SOC what are you thinking should be done?
- Regional Response
  - You're a Regional Emergency Coordinator what are you thinking should be done?
- State and Local Response
  - You're a state or local public health or hospital emergency manager, what are you thinking about?

## The Response

- Region X IRCT Responds
  - Rostering and team travel
  - Location site for IRCT
  - IRCT cache
  
- Managing Federal assets

## What Worked...

- IRCT deployed rapidly
- Federal Medical Stations Deployed deployed
- FEMA Ambulance Contract initiated
- LNOs to field, to state EOC and state health multi-agency coordination center

## What Didn't Work...

- Hurricane Dean Response
  - Not enough communications with FMS teams
  - Confusing WEBEOC entry requirements
  - Confusing Mission Assignment, Action Request Form process

## TOPOFF 4- Portland, Oregon

- TOPOFF 4, Portland, Oregon
  - The Incident
    - » Radiological Dispersion Device Detonated in Downtown
    - » Thousands exposed, thousands contaminated
    - » Plume cloud, blowing north over city, airport, hospitals

# The Response

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# The Response

- HHS Headquarters Actions
- Region X Actions
- State and Local Response
- IRCT Response

## What Worked?

- IRCT response to the Oregon State Health Department
- IRCT located across the street from the JFO
- Great communication between state health response managers and IRCT

## What Didn't Work?

- Delayed request for federal assets
- Difficulty obtaining clear situational awareness
- MA, ARF process
- WEBEOC intermittent at RRCC

- California Wildfires, Pasadena, CA
  - The Incident
    - ❖ Southern California-millions affected
      - » Los Angeles County, San Diego County
      - » Evacuation orders by local emergency management

# The Response

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# The Response

- HHS Headquarters Actions
- Region X Actions
- State and Local Response
- IRCT Response

## What Worked?

- Rapid deployment of IRCT
- Great collaboration between ESFs at JFO
- ESF #8 and ESF #6 began working together immediately
- DMATs ability to adapt to changing demands and requests

## What Didn't Work?

- IRCT located in Pasadena JFO, too far from DMATs
- Cache arrived nearly 2 days after IRCT arrival

- IRCT Improvement Proposal
- Guiding Principles
  - Service
  - Continuity
  - Preparedness
  - Anticipation
  - Tiered Response
  - Cooperation
  - Integration
  - Unity of Effort
  - Communication

- Guiding Principles Continued...
  - Performance Improvement
- Operational Framework
  - REC Size Up-Situational Awareness
  - Robust HHS/SOC & Regional Communication
  - Asset Request Decision
  - Coordination

## Evolutionary Changes to IRCT

- Roles and Responsibilities of:
  - Regional Response Team (A concept under consideration)
- Roles and Responsibilities of:
  - Tactical Assessment Group (A concept under consideration)
- Roles and Responsibilities of:
  - IRCT more external field support focused

# Evolutionary Changes to IRCT

- Insert Field and Command Diagram

## Evolutionary Changes to IRCT

- Personnel
- Logistics
- Security Issues
- Performance Improvement
- Next Steps

# Evolutionary Changes to IRCT

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- Thank you



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