

Mitigation as Foundations for Surge Capacity and Capability

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Mitigation as Foundations for Surge Capacity and Capability

- VA “4th Mission”: Support to civil authorities and military during contingencies (which creates need for surge capacity);
- Our experiences in recent disasters (e.g. Katrina) which highlight need for long-term mitigation and emergency prep;
- VA efforts to obtain EMAP accreditation and long-term mitigation deficiencies identified in that process;
- Finally, the direction VA is taking regarding long-term deficiencies:
 - Establishing design standards;
 - Identifying and reporting on deficiencies requiring mitigation;
 - Programmatic approach to mitigation (e.g. funding stream); and
 - Tracking mitigation projects.

VA “4th Mission”

- VA Medical Centers may serve as primary receiving centers for casualties in the event the VA/DoD Contingency Plan is activated.
 - Precedes activation of the National Defense Medical System (NDMS);
 - In concert with Armed Services Medical Regulation Office (ASMRO) may assume duties of local military medical facilities if those military personnel are deployed
- May be called upon to treat civilian casualties in event of natural disaster;
- May become place of refuge (families & populace)

VA “4th Mission”

- Support to civil authorities and military during contingencies creates need for surge capacity!



Recent History...

- In order to provide such surge capacity, VA facilities must remain operational



Recent History...

- Infrastructure and facilities engineering resiliency & survivability are key to Continuity of Operations
- VA experiences in recent disasters (e.g. Katrina) highlight need for long-term mitigation and emergency prep;

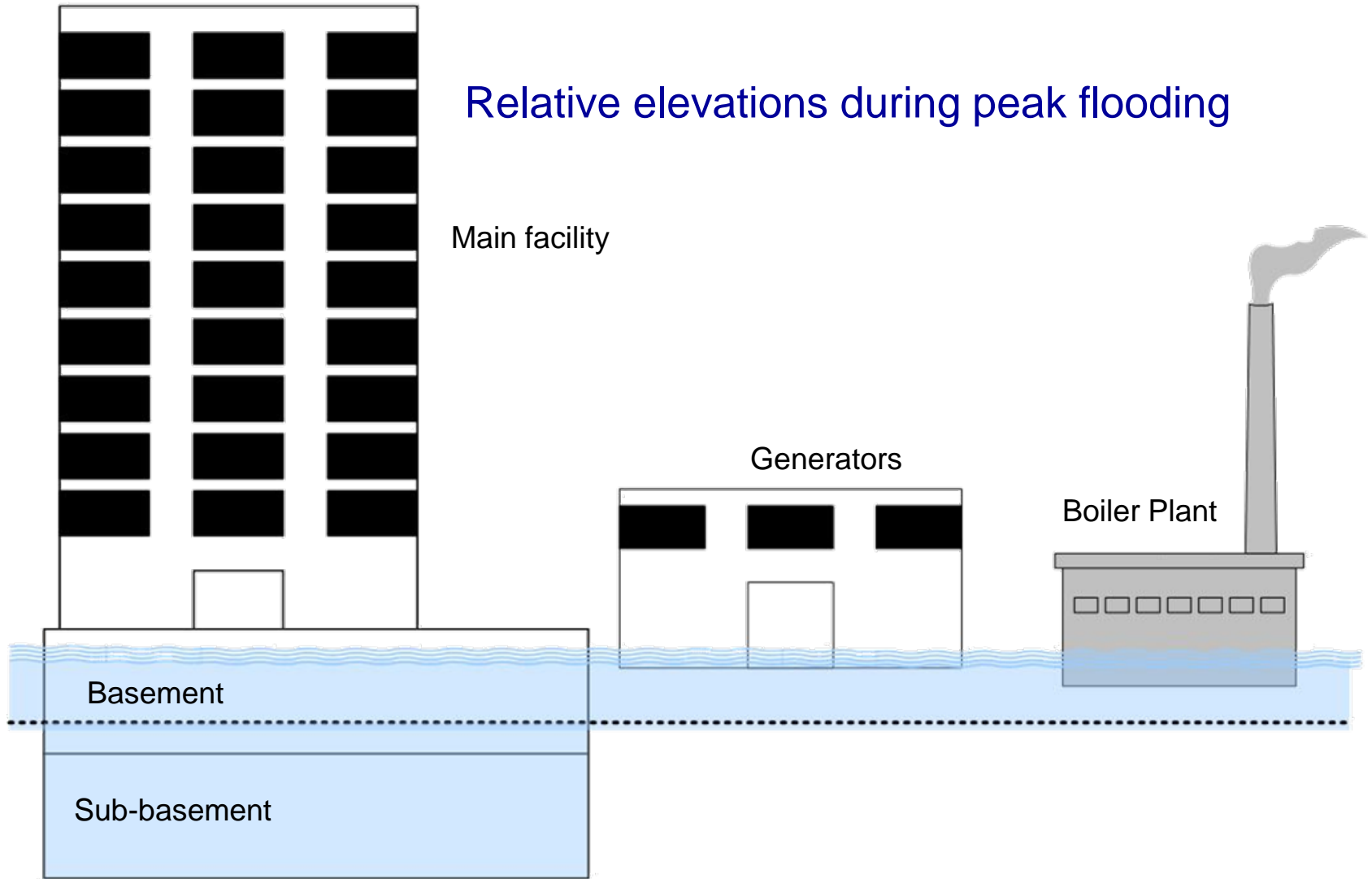
Katrina Impact on VAMC New Orleans

- 18 feet of water in basement and sub-basement
- 21 days without municipal utilities
- Facility mostly unusable for months/years





Katrina Flooding Impact









EMAP

- VA efforts on the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and long-term mitigation deficiencies identified in that process;

Hazard Mitigation

Primary Subject Matter Expert(s): John Stenger, Gary Krupa, Jeff Whitman, Pete Brewster

Standard 4.4.1 - The jurisdiction shall develop and implement a mitigation program to eliminate hazards or mitigate the effects of hazards that cannot be reasonably prevented. The program participates in federal, state/territorial, tribal, and local mitigation programs. The program identifies ongoing mitigation opportunities and tracks repetitive loss. The program implements mitigation projects according to a plan that sets priorities based upon loss reduction. The mitigation process encourages public/private partnerships.

Primary Subject Matter Expert(s): John Stenger, Bob Neary, Gary Krupa, Jeff Whitman

Non-compliant: *Documentation needs to reflect mitigation activities for all hazards identified in the HIRA (see 4.3.1, above).*

Corrective Action: Create a document (Mitigation Plan) that describes the VA/VHA mitigation program for all hazards identified in the HIRA and addresses the standards in this section.

Standard 4.4.3 - The program shall have a process to monitor overall progress of the mitigation strategies, documenting completed initiatives and quantifying the resulting reduction or limitation of hazard impact in the jurisdiction.

Primary Subject Matter Expert(s): John Stenger, Bob Neary, Gary Krupa, Jeff Whitman

Non-compliant: *Documentation needs to reflect mitigation activities for all hazards identified in the HIRA (see 4.3.1, above).*

Corrective Action: In the Mitigation Plan, include a section on how mitigation strategies are implemented and measured.

Standard 4.4.4 - The mitigation plan shall be based on the natural and human-caused hazards identified by the jurisdiction and the risk and consequences of those hazards. The mitigation plan for the jurisdiction shall establish interim and long-term strategies, goals and objectives, programs, and actions to reduce vulnerability to the hazards identified including a cost-benefit analysis. The plan ranks projects based upon the greatest opportunity for loss reduction and documents how specific mitigation actions contribute to overall risk reduction. The plan addresses an education and outreach strategy.

Primary Subject Matter Expert(s): John Stenger, Bob Neary, Gary Krupa, Jeff Whitman

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- Finally, the direction VA is taking regarding long-term deficiencies:
 - Establishing design standards;
 - Identifying and reporting on deficiencies requiring mitigation;
 - Programmatic approach to mitigation (e.g. funding stream); and
 - Tracking mitigation projects.