

COLLABORATION AND COALITIONS

Jim Sowards, Medical Countermeasures Coordinator
WV Center for Threat Preparedness

Yolanda Sowards, Healthcare System Preparedness
Director
WV Center for Threat Preparedness

Presentation Objectives

- Define coalition
 - Build on the definition
- Explore coalition composition
- Discuss coalition activities
- Examine benefits of coalition building

THE APATHY COALITION



NOT OUR

PROBLEM

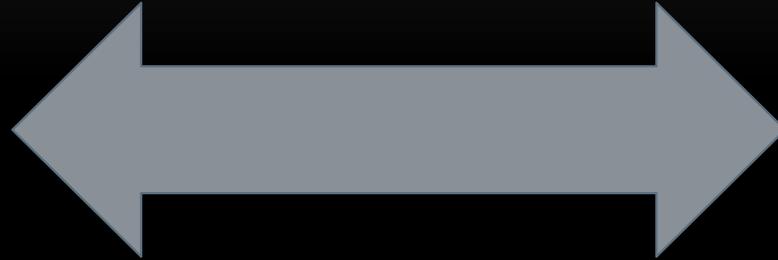
JOIN US. OR DONT. WHATEVER.

Coalition Definition

What is a coalition?

- No consistent definition
- Loosely defined
 - Goals/objectives
 - Type of members

Continuum of Coalition Functions



- Shared information and situational awareness
- Shared and aligned plans and processes
- Joint response – shared resources

Goal for This Coalition Effort

Protect the health, well-being and property of the citizens of West Virginia by responding to and mitigating events through more effective collaboration.

Disasters and the Community

- Disasters begin and end locally
 - The whole community lives with the decisions made
 - Should have a say in how the response occurs
 - Share responsibility
 - Building resiliency
 - Enhancing recovery
 - Developing a local coalition allows for community planning and response

Whole Community?

- In this instance we are referencing the entire jurisdiction
 - All who might be affected
 - A keen understanding of the actual population and its needs will have a profound effect on the success or failure of any response.
 - Access or functional needs
 - Children
 - Pets/service animals
 - Perceptions/fears

Engaging the Whole Community

- Experience and lessons learned indicate that operational planning is best performed by a team.
- One goal of team approach is to build and expand relationships
 - Brings creativity and innovation
 - Building coalitions gives ownership in the process
- Community benefits from active participation of all stakeholders

- Critical to include
 - Civic leaders
 - Public
 - Community based organizations
 - Critical infrastructure

Coalition Size

- Large communities may have more resources than smaller communities.
- Smaller coalitions can plan based on their capabilities and resources.

The size of the coalition is not the issue, the issue is how well it addresses risks and threats.

Suggested Core Team

- Emergency Management
- Law enforcement
- Fire services
- EMS
- Public Health
- Hospitals and Healthcare facilities
- Public works/utility operators
- Education
- Agriculture
- Animal control
- Social Services
- Childcare/child welfare/juvenile facilities
- National Guard
- Private sector
- Civic/social organizations
- Faith-Based organizations
- Others as identified

Regional vs. Local Coalitions

- Much planning and coalition work is done at the regional level
 - Leverages resources and expands the knowledge base
- Local coalitions are crucial because in WV the local emergency manager is charged with overall prevention, protection, response, recovery and mitigation strategies.
 - Ultimately events are mitigated at the local level.

Subject Matter Experts

- Validate assumptions regarding needs, capabilities and reactions.
- Increasingly, emergency management agencies are hiring permanent staff and/or contracting subject matter experts to provide expertise.

Coalition partnerships may negate the need for this.

Coalition Activities

- Assist with planning processes
 - Identify risks and hazards
 - THIRA
 - HRA
 - Determine goals and objectives
 - Use threat assessment and the coalition team
 - Plan development
 - Develop and analyze a course of action
 - Identify resources

- Plan preparation
 - Write the plan
 - Review the plan
 - Approve and disseminate the plan
- Plan implementation and maintenance
 - Exercise and Training
 - Review, revise and maintain
- Rinse and repeat

Putting the Coalition Into Action

An active coalition can lead to a more cohesive response.

Collaborative Discussion Points

- Exercises
 - Notification
 - Hospital
 - Decon, active shooter
 - Dispensing/evacuation
 - Primary Care Centers – New to preparedness world
- Training and Exercise Planning Workshops
 - Planning in partnership will increase the efficiency and effectiveness

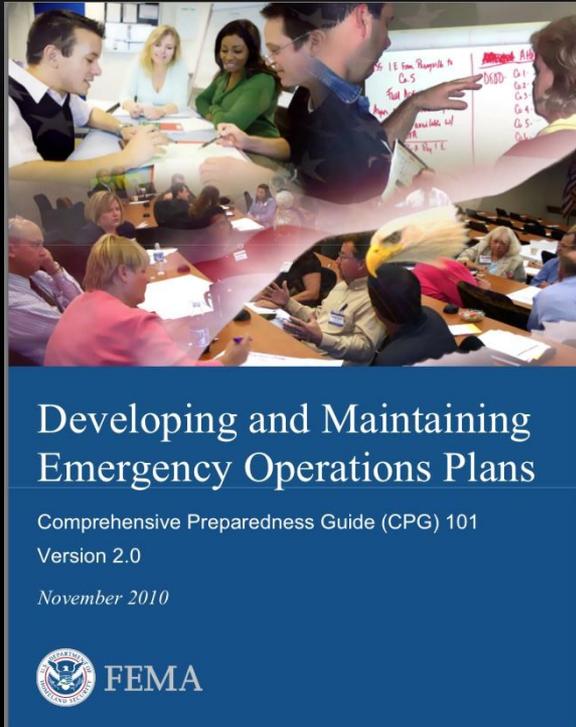
- Volunteer Management
- School scenarios
- Critical Infrastructure Identification and Prophylaxis/vaccination
- Increase in Situational Awareness
- Public Information
 - Nested plans
- Continuity of Operations
- WV Public Health Alert
- WV REDI

Recap

- Defined coalition
 - Built on the definition
- Explored coalition composition
- Discussed coalition activities
- Examined benefits of coalition building

Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans

Comprehensive Preparedness Guide
November 2010



<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25975?id=5697>

QUESTIONS?

Center for Threat Preparedness 304-
558-6900

Jim.sowards@wv.gov

Yolanda.k.sowards@wv.gov