COMMUNITY NATURAL DISASTER RESPONSE – HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

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DOH Presentation

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HOSPITALS

- 2 hospitals in New Orleans condemned from the damages and did not reopen
- March 29, 2006: Only 456 hospital beds available; pre-Katrina over 2200 were available
  - Patients send to Baton Rouge, a two hour transport
- May 2006: Recommendations passed to evacuate all hospital patients at the Category 3 level and to lock down the facility with security guards
- After Katrina, over 7000 people showed up for vaccinations due to the dirty water and conditions
- Hundreds of thousands medical records destroyed, stored in basements that flooded
- One year later: before Katrina, New Orleans had nine hospitals. Now only a few are open. Katrina was not the only problem. Hurricane Rita caused additional flooding in September.
- 2008: Five hospitals that provide 90 percent of healthcare in the New Orleans region are projecting a loss of $130 million
  - High wages due to shortage of health care workers

TULANE HOSPITAL

- Hurricane Katrina struck on August 29, 2005 with minimal damages
- Later that day, the levees failed and several feet of water entered into the hospital
- Emergency generators kicked in for 36 hours before running out of fuel
- Temperatures in the upper 90s with 100% humidity
- Sewers backed up
- Days later, 2 patients needed hospital heart machines and transport.
  - Loaded into the back of two trucks owned by workers with their own generators running and moved to safety

200 patients and 1500 additional personnel were evacuated 3 and 4 days later via helicopters

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CQEF8cRUis

CHARITY HOSPITAL- 10 YEARS LATER

Charity Hospital: 10 years after Hurricane Katrina - YouTube

Originally opened in 1776

Katrina closed the hospital for good

August 2015, the LSU Health Science Center completed construction of a new hospital at a cost of $1.1 Billion

NURSING HOMES

- About 70 nursing home residents died in 13 nursing homes following Katrina
- March 26, 2006 – Only 50% of nursing homes have reopened – 7 months since Katrina struck
- One nursing home had an evacuation plan and agreement with a bus company to transport. Bus company failed to show up; several patients died
  - 2008: The city and state have a new transportation plan and extra buses to prevent that from happening again; some nursing home facilities have purchased their own busses
- 34 people in one nursing home died who were not evacuated.
  - On Tuesday, the Louisiana attorney general announced the arrests of the owners, who were charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide after surrendering to Medicaid fraud investigators in Baton Rouge. The owners have been released on $50,000 bond each; each of the 34 counts carries up to five years in prison.
  - Later acquitted

NURSING HOME DEATHS

- Inside the Hospitals Hit by Hurricane Katrina - YouTube

SPECIAL NEEDS - CHALLENGES

- Chronic medical conditions with no equipment or meds
- Addicts and alcoholics in withdrawal
  - Closest detox center washed away
- Mental illness and no meds
- Deaf and/or blind patients
- Mobility compromised young adults to the elderly without wheelchairs nor walkers

- Medical conditions
  - Skin infections
  - Norovirus stomach bugs
  - Abscessed teeth
  - COPD
  - Asthma
  - Drug overdose
  - Infections from leaches

LESSONS LEARNED

- Some hospital generators failed to either flooding or the fuel tanks were below ground
- Test generators for a lengthy period; some were guaranteed to run 3 days but failed after 2 hours
- Do not store medical records in the basement.
- Medical issues must be addressed in advance (i.e. tetanus shots, insulin, additional supplies)
- Tracking of patients, special needs, and evacuees needs to be accurate and complete
- Continuity of acute care planning necessary. You can't simply put these patients on a bus
- Keep adequate personal medical records. Pharmacies and hospitals were closed for months

CHECK LIST

- Is there a dedicated emergency manager for the facility? If not, is the person designated possess the education and experience to be effective?
- Is there an emergency evacuation plan?
  - Are your employees familiar with the plan and possible relocation site(s)?
- Is there a generator on site?
  - Has it been fully tested?
  - Is the generator in a protected area from flood waters?
  - Is the fuel storage in a protected area?
- Are vital records, such as medical, located in protected areas such as the second floor?
- Are the patient contact list current?
- Training -
  - 24/7 operation – do you know where the primary door key is?
  - Cross-training of personnel organizational positions
  - Safety training
  - First aid training

CHECK LIST (CONTINUED)

- Testing of the Plan: Have you exercised the plan internally and externally(other govt/private agencies)?
  - External – City, county, state and federal emergency management agencies
- Have you partnered with private businesses (Walmart, Home Depot, local)?
- Have you conducted safety inspections?
  - Earthquake – heavy objects on shelving, pictures secured with earthquake hooks
  - Earthquake – Install computer straps on computers
  - Potential electrical issues
- Adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE on hand)? Masks, gloves, shoes, protective eyewear.
- Adequate food, water and first-aid kits on hand should stores be closed?

Business Continuity Plan extremely important

- IT issues
- Backup plans
- Vital records (duplicates) stored out of the area

- Identification of **supply chain risks** and potential resolutions
  - Material shortages
  - Employee shortages/ housing issues
  - Transportation issues
  - Food shortages
  - Energy shortages
  - Medical supplies and pharmaceutical shortages
  - IT issues
    - Credit card use inoperable
    - No computer access
    - No electricity
  - Relocation possibilities – Continuity of Operations

Questions?

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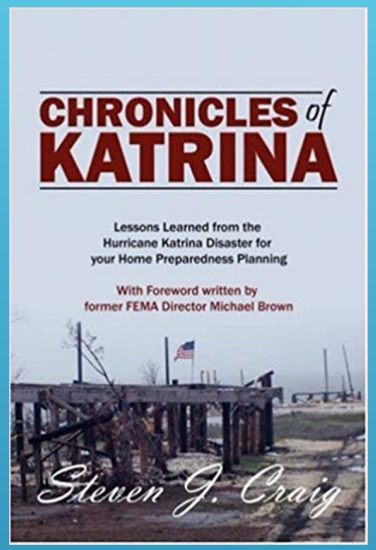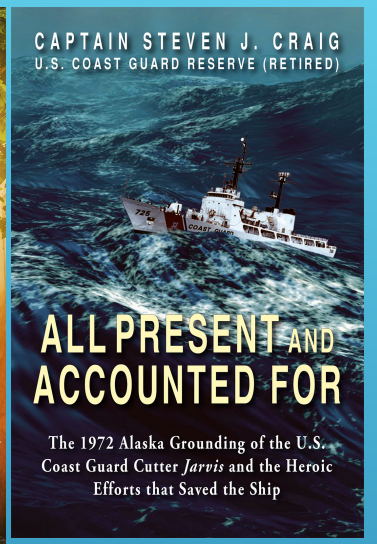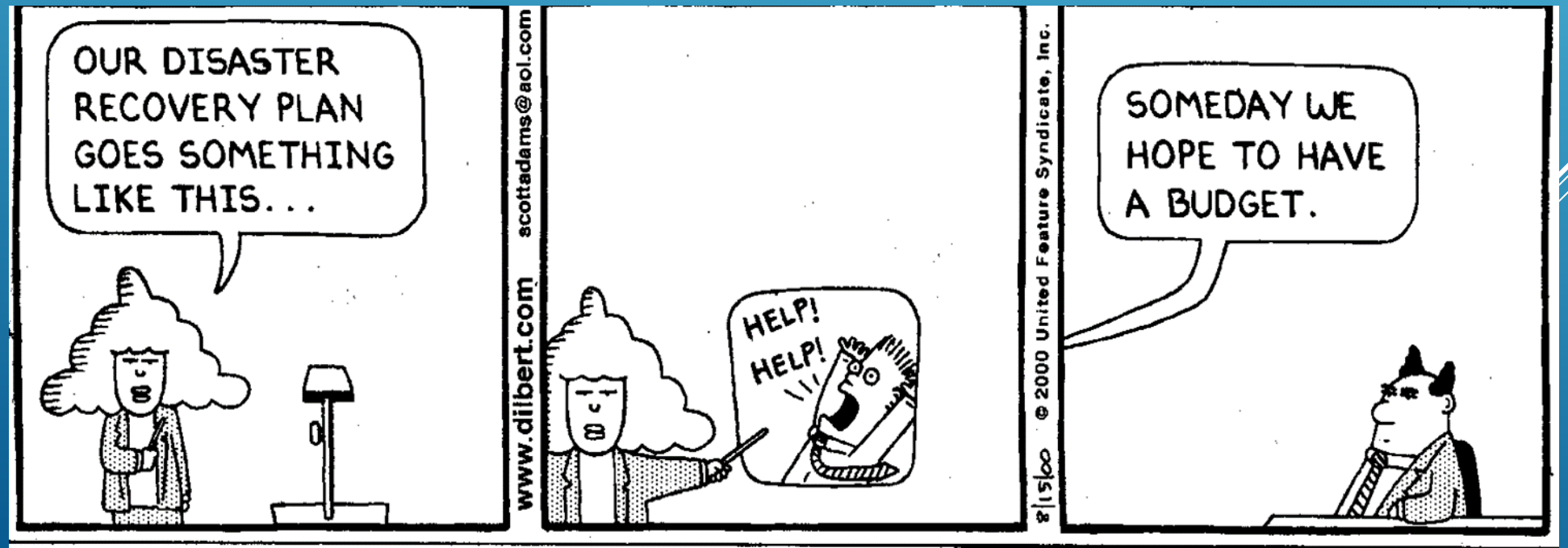
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