

*Silver Lake Fuse Plug Failure  
Marquette County, Michigan  
May 14, 2003*

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# The Four Elements of Emergency Management

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- Planning
- Response
- Recovery
- Mitigation

# What Is Emergency Management Responsible For?

- PLANNING

What does that mean?

- Develop emergency action plans (EAP's)
- Train
- Exercise

# What Is Emergency Management Responsible For?

- RESPONSE

What does that mean?

- Activate the EOC.
- Ensure that plans are implemented.
- Contact appropriate local/state/federal authorities.
- Obtain resources (personnel, equipment, medication, etc.) requested by incident commander or unified command staff.
- Ensure public information is properly disseminated through PIO.

# What Is Emergency Management Responsible For?

- RECOVERY

What does that mean?

- Damage assessment .
- Coordination with local/state/federal agencies.
- Keep public informed on shelters, public assistance, low interest loans, etc.
- Obtain recovery funds from state, FEMA, SBA, etc.

# What Is Emergency Management Responsible For?

- MITIGATION

What does that mean?

- Determine what went wrong and what can be done to prevent from happening again.
- Involves money, engineering, “hardening” structures, etc.

# How to Plan for an Emergency

- *Coordinate, Update, Test*
  - Find out what information Emergency Management Coordinator needs before and during an emergency.
  - Make sure your technical details clear to them, especially how to read inundation maps.
  - Get to know each other.
  - Make sure all contact information current.

# How to Plan for an Emergency

- Meet often (*face-to-face*)
  - Make sure Emergency Management Coordinator knows what to expect from a dam emergency.
  - Make sure you know what to expect of Emergency Management Coordinator.

# How to plan for Emergency

- Do not let the EAP gather dust!
  - Update data on a regular (annually) basis (*names, telephone number, etc.*).
  - *Make sure everyone has a current EAP. (UPPCO sends our updated EAP's annually)*
  - *Make sure everyone knows what their role is.*
  - *Accurate inundation maps are crucial.*
  - *Issue updates in a timely fashion.*

# How To Plan For An Emergency

- When testing your EAP...
  - Evaluate internal actions and external responses.
  - Ask the Emergency Managers how the exercise can help them. (*get their buy-in*).
  - Schedule activities to accommodate the participants.
  - Exercise should be realistic.
  - Functional exercise every 3 to 5 years.
  - Goal is to “Learn so you Improve”.
- By testing “exercising” the plan, you...
  - Will know what your role is ahead of time.
  - Get to know the people who will be involved. (*police, fire, EMS*)
  - Identify deficiencies in the plan and correct them.

# Emergency Operations Center

Site where...

- Decision makers gather to assess the severity of the situation and implement the EOP as appropriate.
- Activate response and recovery operations.
- It is the “hub” for getting necessary resources to emergency responders.
- It is NOT the public information center.

# Dead River Flood Event

- May 14, 2003
  - Central Dispatch notified at 16:30 hrs. that water was rising near Silver Lake area.
  - UPPCO contacted at 16:33 hrs.
  - At 16:46 hrs. UPPCO contacted Central Dispatch and advised to activate Silver Lake EAP.
  - At 17:13 hrs. Central Dispatch initiates callout procedures.
  - EOC activated at 2310 hrs. when reports from UPPCO were confirmed that flooding would occur with fuse plug washed out at Silver Lake.
  - EOC personnel contacted to report to EOC.

# Dead River Flood Event

- May 15, 2003
  - 0130 hrs. County Board Chair declares local state of emergency.
  - 0220 hrs. evacuations begin.
  - 0900 hrs. highest water level at Hoist Dam (1348.94) Crest is 1344.50.
  - 1400 hrs. highest water level at McClure (1201.53). Crest is 1196.40. Powell township reports all electrical power and phone service out.
  - 1525 hrs. 4 feet of water in WE Energies Plant.
  - 1830 hrs. Governor declares State of Emergency.

# Flood Impacts

- People were evacuated and sheltered.
- Road and Bridges were destroyed or washed out.
- Dead River Damage included fisheries, soils, trees and changed the water system in ways not yet fully understood.
- Utility facilities damaged or destroyed.
- Primary and secondary/vacation homes damaged.
- Businesses were damaged.
- Community Economic Impact was over \$84 million due to shut down of local mines, loss of WE Energies power plant, and conservation of electric power throughout the region.

# Lessons Learned

- The UPPCO EAP was vital. We knew who to evacuate and when.
- Coordination was the key!
- Functional exercise in 1998 was beneficial. Emergency personnel were ready when the event occurred.
- Real time web site info and FAQ's helped the public.
- No turf issues which made things run smoothly.
- MPSCS 800 MHz radios were only means of communications to Powell Township when power, phones, and fiber optic communications were down.
- Having the right people in the EOC from both public and private sector. (NWS, UPPCO, BLP)

# Lessons Learned

- Too many people were in the EOC that didn't need to be.
- Cell phones didn't work in EOC. Antenna will be installed.
- Have incoming calls screened and transferred into the EOC.
- Do not use EOC for daily briefings. Find separate meeting room away from EOC.
- Set up shift schedule in the EOC from the onset of the event.
- Good rapport with state EMD officials significantly enhanced our effectiveness in dealing with state/federal agencies.
- Town hall meeting with the public in the affected areas allowed residents to ask questions and receive direct information from the experts, which dispelled many rumors.
- Realized for first time how fragile the electrical power grid is.

# In Conclusion

- The existing EAP Program provided the means to effectively pre-plan for the emergency.
- The emergency response was significantly improved because of the 1998 Hoist Functional Exercise.
- The dam owner and Emergency Management Coordinator were very proactive in communicating prior needs and plans.
- Turf wars do not work in EOC or during an event. Work it out prior to the event!

# Questions?

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