Standardized Emergency Management Guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) National Hurricane Program (NHP), created in 1985 and revamped by the 2006 Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, helps protect communities and residents from hurricane hazards by providing evacuation preparedness technical assistance to state, local, and tribal governments. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and FEMA are co-sponsoring an effort to modernize technology components of the NHP. One product of the NHP Technology Modernization Program is a document that provides standardized hurricane planning and response guidance to regional, state and local emergency managers (EMs).

Use of best practices and lessons learned

This NHP Preparedness and Response Guidance Document contains a compilation of the best practices and lessons learned for hurricane preparedness and response. It will leverage existing experience and knowledge in the community to provide a decision-making framework for regional, State and local emergency planners across the program to help develop localized hurricane response plans, hurricane evacuation studies and post-storm assessments.

An outline of the document is as follows:
- Overview of NHP and Technology Modernization Effort
- NHP roles and responsibilities, including the planners, decision-makers and stakeholders for hurricane planning and response
- The NHP Operational Model, which also serves as a decision making framework for EMs
- Guidance for hurricane evacuation studies
- Guidance for real-time hurricane response
- Guidance for post-storm assessments
- Guidance for training

The document is being developed and vetted with experienced EMs and hurricane subject matter experts that comprise the NHP Technology Modernization Working Group, which is described below.

Multi-Organizational Collaboration

Established in August 2014, the NHP Technology Modernization Working Group consists of a representative set of subject matter experts from DHS S&T, FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Hurricane Center and State, local and tribal emergency managers. The primary purpose of the Working Group is to provide content for, and validate the NHP Guidance Document through group facilitation and discussion. It also serves as a venue for the emergency management community to provide feedback and guidance on pilot technologies and proposed technical solutions to federal program leadership throughout the duration of the technology modernization effort.

To learn more about National Hurricane Program Technology Modernization, contact Darren Wilson, Program Manager.