

ISAC Council
Hurricane Katrina Conference Call
Wednesday August 31, 2005
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

Attendees

Pete Allor, IT
Tom Duffy, Multi-State
Cristin Flynn-Goodwin, Telecom
Suzanne Gorman, Financial Services
Byron Yancey, Financial Services
Ernie Gormsen, Telecom
George Hender, Financial Services
Dorothy Kellogg, Chemical
Lou Leffler, Electricity
Sam Lombardo, EMR
Mike Martino, Surface Transportation
Rod Nydam, George Mason University
Don Rondeau, Highway
Meghann Rother, George Mason University
John Sabo, IT
Susan Tramposch, Water
Vivienne Williams, Public Transit

FEMA is dispatching communications representatives to impacted areas and will release updates on where staging is going on. A meeting with Secretary Chertoff was held August 31st to establish a communications plan; ISACs should work through state government and ESFs. Recovery is anticipated to take several months.

SECTOR STATUS UPDATES

Communications

Looting and displacement continue to be a significant problem resulting in attempts to involve the National Guard as local law enforcement has been overwhelmed. The withdrawal of Bell South employees from downtown New Orleans due to rising water and security concerns has led to the establishment of a new emergency center on higher ground until waters recede. Appeals to DHS have been made to reiterate the importance of infrastructure in the recovery of the area, of particular concern is the security of staff as their locations some of the few with access to food, water, and electricity. Employees have been instructed to maintain their corporate insignia and/or carry papers with phone

numbers, etc. for identification purposes. Until land lines are restored the only communication available is via cell to cell or satellite phones.

Financial Services

Information has only recently begun to arrive on the impact; additional information should be available by the next call. Note that cash is often the only way to obtain goods in these areas aside from bartering.

Water

Facilities have been unable to assess damages thus far. Resources available nationally for infrastructure restoration are currently being assessed.

Surface Transportation

All carriers have incurred losses. There is no access to New Orleans. Rail tracks to the north and east of the city have been wiped out; all freight traffic has stopped. Any questions concerning access should be addressed directly to the carrier for the most accurate and up to date information. Surface transportation is working with Amtrak to assess the availability of railways for the removal of people.

IT

Information is still being gathered, but the impact is believed to be of a low to medium level. No other outages to be noted than already reported.

EMR

A state of emergency has been declared for New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. Personnel and equipment have been dispatched to impacted areas; Under-Secretary Brown urges emergency services not to respond without being requested or a coordination agreement.

Electricity

The two suppliers for the Gulf Coast area have been severely impacted, however, the grid is stable and it is a matter of restoring service to customers. Bulk electricity in the region is able to meet requirements. Generation stations have not yet been fully evaluated and some data communications are experiencing difficulty. The only nuclear station in southern Louisiana was shut down in preparation for the storm and is now running its safety and security systems on diesel fuel. The possibility of establishing which areas have or will have power restored will be addressed during the next call so that resources may be best dispatched.

Highways

Status updates from vetted sources are being posted at the Highway ISAC website (www.highwayisac.org). Sitreps are currently being developed in cooperation with the trucking community, however, assessments are proving to be difficult without support of other sectors (energy, telecom, etc.).

Chemical

Preliminary reports from facilities on the Gulf Coast have arrived. There appears to be minimal damage, but it will be some time before a full assessment can be made. Facilities went into hurricane response mode prior to when the storm hit, as such there have been no emergency situations reported. The main concern continues to be power; some are concerned about enough fuel for generators to run systems such as those for cooling. Additional concerns include transportation for removal of items and communications.

Multi-State

Reports from Georgia on sporadic power outages have been received. The southern part of Alabama has reported flooding. Power and communications continue to pose problems, especially in Louisiana, which is also experiencing food shortages. A data center is available in Baton Rouge.

Public Transit

Updates from New Orleans Regional Transit are sparse. Buses were supplied to transport people to the Superdome Saturday and Sunday until winds reached tropical storm force. As there are no communications and no power there is some discussion of relocating the “war room” to Baton Rouge. Awaiting updates on the removal of individuals from the Superdome.

Healthcare

No update.

ACTION ITEMS

- Track interdependencies between sectors
- Next call 12pm EST Thursday, September 1st.
- Daily conference calls to be held until Sunday, September 5th. Need for continuation will be assessed after each call.