




Creating a Collaborative and Adaptable Non-profit/Governmental Team

Seattle ESF-6 Group

Jill Watson
Emergency Management Planner
Seattle Human Services Department

ACF Human Services and Disasters
Virtual Leadership Training
July 28, 2010

Overview

1. Define ESF-6 and who makes up this group
 2. What is the purpose of the group(s)
 3. What motivates people to participate
 4. Creating a sense and expectation of team
 5. Activities of the group(s)
 6. Examples of how the group(s) works
 7. Creating a cycle to strengthen the group
- 

ESF-6 Defined

Emergency Support Function #6 (ESF6)

- ▶ **Seattle:**

Mass Care, Housing and Human Services
(also includes some ESF #11 – animals, food and water; and ESF #14 – Long-Term Community Recovery and Mitigation)

- ▶ **FEMA:**

Mass Care (sheltering, feeding, first aid, bulk distribution of emergency items), Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services

Seattle ESF-6 Group

- ▶ *In theory*, a group of non-profit and governmental agencies that meet monthly regarding ESF-6
- ▶ *In reality*, the core of a team that can be called at any time and subsets of it combined with other community partners to address ESF-6 issues
- ▶ Also a part of the Health & Human Services Branch in the Seattle Emergency Operations Center

Who Is in ESF-6?


- ▶ **Government:** Human Services Department (Aging & Disability Services, Child Care, etc), Parks, Libraries, Animal Shelter, Seattle Center, Office of Housing, Public Schools, Public Health, FEMA, Admin for Children & Families, etc.
- ▶ **Non-Governmental:** Coalition Representatives (Human Services, Food Banks, Homeless), American Red Cross, 2-1-1, United Way, YMCA, Catholic Community Services, Religious Organizations, etc.

Have all the friends you can get!

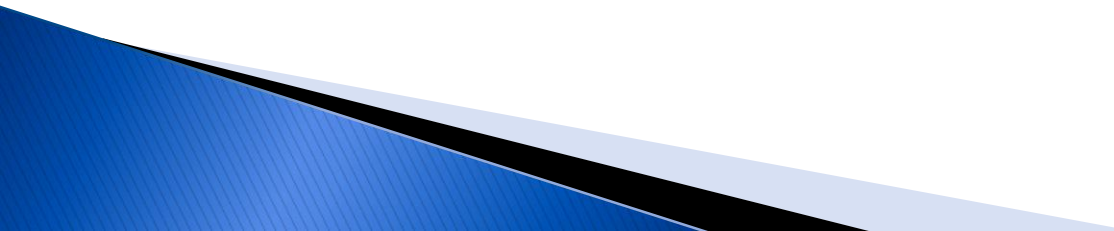
Purpose of the ESF-6 Group

- ▶ Organize and operate public sheltering, food and coordinate human services support during all five phases of emergency management activities:
 1. Prevention
 2. Preparedness
 3. Response
 4. Recovery
 5. Mitigation

Role of ESF-6 Group

- ▶ Coordinate efforts – all 5 phases of emergency management activities
 - ▶ See as partners, a team – parts of a whole
 - ▶ Be able to reach into communities – physical neighborhoods and vulnerable populations
 - ▶ Think out of our boxes – in preparedness and response
- 

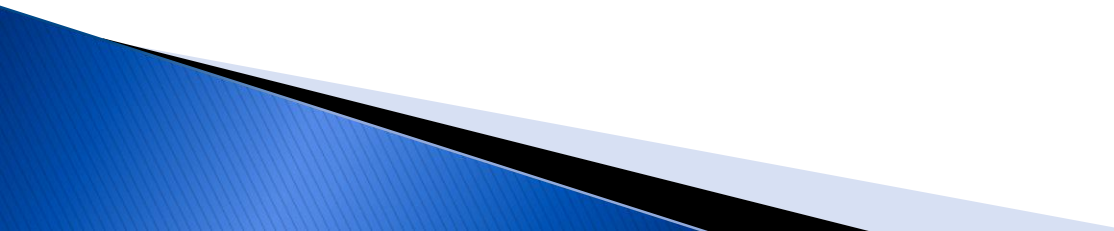
Why Would People Participate?

- ▶ Without funding, what would motivate an under-resourced, understaffed agency to take the time to be a part of this group?
 - ▶ Constantly check—was it worth their time?
- 

What Motivates People to Participate—Be a Part of a Team?

- ▶ Must be worth their time!
 - When meeting value everyone's time – Be prepared, start and end on time
- ▶ Participation can be leveraged in daily work
- ▶ Quick Way to Get Needed Resources
 - Public Health pan flu presentation – able to submit questions ahead of time that were researched and policy developed
- ▶ Place to problem solve – they can ask for assistance and help provide solutions

Being a Part of the Team, cont'd

- ▶ Meet contacts they would otherwise never meet
 - ▶ Positive, interesting, collaborative, even sometimes fun environment
 - ▶ Each person has something to contribute
 - ▶ At each gathering, have something that brings people together—where they see the similarities, not the boundaries.
 - ▶ They see it as strengthening the community – this is human services!
- 

ESF-6 Activities

- ▶ **Meetings (9:00–10:30 2nd Tues at Sea EOC)**
 - Guest speakers: Public Health on H1N1, State on ESF-6 activities, World Vision on Haiti earthquake
 - Trainings: Emergency Communications
 - Brainstorm on issues: large fires (4 in last year)
 - Best practices: Snow storm response
 - Debriefing on events: Red Cross in Galveston
 - Demos: AIDMatrix, WATrac
 - Sharing of information: PIEP Conference
 - Input into other ESF groups: PIO materials and City emergency web site design

ESF-6 Activities, cont'd

- ▶ Email alerts/information on issues
 - *What is of use to government & non-governmental partners?*
 - Over 100 people on distribution list
 - H1N1, Disaster declarations, resources/training
- ▶ After Action Survey/Report – snow event
- ▶ Exercises: Severe weather, earthquake
- ▶ Contact list of ESF-6 partners

ESF-6 Activities, cont'd

- ▶ **Respond to EOC activations**
 - Heat wave
 - H1N1 special meeting during activation
- ▶ **Respond to non-declared emergencies**
 - Henderson fires – over 100 people displaced, 11 languages, Red Cross shelter in Community Center
 - Green Lake Plaza fire – 14 senior/disabled people displaced, multiple pets, Red Cross shelter in Community Center
 - International District fire – 27 low income people displaced, most did not speak English, many would be left homeless without case management

ESF-6 and Emerging Issues

▶ Howard Hanson Dam

- Many ESF-6 partners serve King County in addition to Seattle
- Ability to solicit questions, bring in information and speakers, then work on issue

▶ H1N1

- Collectively identifying vulnerable populations and sharing this information with the group
- Strategizing on how to continue services
- Getting assistance from Public Health to address identified issues

Creating Strategic Sub Groups

- ▶ Ability to take a portion of ESF-6 and combine with other partners

- ▶ Examples
 1. Other *ESF* partners
 - **Henderson Fire:** Red Cross, Office of Housing, Seattle Housing Authority; *add:* Police, Fire, Department of Planning, Public Health, Mayor's Office, City Council

 2. Other *ESF-6* partners
 - **Disaster Case Management project:** Red Cross, Salvation Army, 2-1-1; *add:* Catholic Community Services, Asian Counseling and Referral Services, Jewish Family Services, El Centro, etc.

Creating a Loop for Stronger ESF-6 Response

- ▶ **Prepare:** Creating a team – get to know each other, what we each do, and develop relationships
- ▶ **Respond:** Event happens!
 - ▶ Create daily updates of who's doing what (when not an EOC activation). Process offers coordination, information, clarity of roles and builds trust
- ▶ **Learn:** Hold debriefing meeting with responders – many have never worked together before
- ▶ **Prepare:** Create After Action report/follow up list

Creates a stronger ESF-6 Group for next disaster response!

Expectation of Team

The more the cycle continues, the greater the expectation that we are a team together.

For More Information....

Contact Jill Watson at
Jill.Watson@Seattle.gov or 206-684-7788