

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR CAMP AND BEYOND

Mary Goepfert, External Affairs Officer  
NJ Office of Emergency Management

[lppgoepm@gw.njsp.org](mailto:lppgoepm@gw.njsp.org)

609.963.6818



# TOPICS COVERED

- Emergency Preparedness – “5 w’s”
- Camp Planning Considerations
- Liberty Lake Day Camp Case Study



# Emergency Planning – 5 w's

- Who ? – (in NJ) NJ State Police/OEM, 21 counties, 565 municipalities
- What ? – natural, technological, civil disasters
- When ? – 4 phases of disaster: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
- Where ? – everywhere: state, counties, municipalities, schools, hospitals, businesses, PNP's - and camps
- Why ? – Emergency planning saves lives, protects property, and the environment
- How ? – use standard practices





# Before You Start ...

- Emergency management begins at home  
[www.ready.ngov](http://www.ready.ngov)
- Maintain situational awareness (handout)
- Who need to be at the planning table –  
internal/external ?
- Internal: Crisis Management team
- External: local emergency management authorities –  
[www.ready.nj.gov](http://www.ready.nj.gov)



# Planning Considerations - Camps

- Purpose – all hazards, insure the protection and safe care of campers and staff before, during and immediately following a threatened or actual emergency or disaster.
- Situation and Program Overview – what are hazards specific to the area where your camp is located ?
- Command and Control – On-site Incident Command
- Off season suggestion: Incident Command on-line courses – FEMA: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>





# Planning Considerations - Camps

- Responsibilities of Camp Staff during emergencies
- Notification Systems – internal and external
- Logistics – food, water, fuel
- Needs of children with disabilities must be addressed in emergency plans
- Continuity of Leadership
- Essential Records



# Getting More Specific

- **Alert and Warning** – two-way radios, phone lines, intercom, alert system, NOAA weather radio, digital communications
- Security Alarms
- Generators ???
- Hearing impaired persons
- 9-1-1 – back up if compromised



# Getting More Specific

- **Emergency Services** – local capabilities, plus camp security and medical personnel
- **Expectations management**





# Getting More Specific

- Evacuation – What could trigger it ?
- Fire, explosion, chemical spill, sewage failure, bomb threat, violence, loss of electricity, environment damage, local evacuation order
- How long would it take ? How many ? How many buses, accessible vehicles ?
- Where are campers and staff going ? Are there agreements ?
- Staging area and one alternative



# Getting More Specific

- Staff role continue at evacuation site = no “drop offs”
- Reunification with parents
- Who makes the decision, if there’s an event at camp ?
- **Shelter-in-Place** – how will you be notified of this ?
- Do you have resources to keep campers extended hours, if necessary ?



# Additional Considerations

- Will you serve as a community resource ?
- Media relations
- Lessons Learned – incorporate
- Exercise and test the plan, train staff





# Liberty Lake Case Study

- Mansfield Township NJ
- 2006 – first plan developed
- Table top exercise with camp leadership and county/local emergency management officials



*THANK YOU !*