

# **DISASTER RECOVERY**

Recovery activities involve the restoration of services to the public and returning the affected area(s) to pre-emergency conditions. A disaster may strike quickly, leaving the need for recovery operations in its wake, or it can be a prolonged event requiring recovery activities to begin while the response phase is still in full activation. Severe windstorms, fires or floods are examples of disasters that can be ongoing, presenting recovery challenges during and after an event. A major earthquake is an example of a disaster that strikes and is over quickly leaving severe damage in its wake.

Recovery actions occur in three general phases. The actions in each phase and the timing vary according to the nature and the severity of the disaster. The first phase overlaps with emergency response and consists of immediate actions taken to reduce life-safety hazards and make short-term repairs to critical lifelines. The second phase provides for ongoing social needs before permanent rebuilding is complete. This phase may continue for weeks or perhaps months. The third phase includes planning for and implementing the rebuilding of damaged buildings and other facilities and infrastructure and the resumption of normal social and economic life in the community. It may include a reconsideration of pre-disaster conditions. This third phase continues for several years.

A Recovery Annex with detailed procedures, forms and checklists for use in Standard Operations Guidelines.

## **I. Recovery Phase Objectives by Timeframe**

### **A. Initial Response (1-7 days)**

- Debris removal and clean-up
- Emergency, short-term repair of lifeline utilities
- Emergency, short-term repair of transportation systems and provision of interim transit services
- Building safety inspections
- Coordination of State/Federal damage assessments
- Re-occupancy of buildings

### **B. Mid-Term Planning (7-30 days)**

- Provision of interim housing
- Restoration of lifeline utilities (power, water, sewers)
- Restoration of social and health services

- Restoration of normal City services
- Establishment of new ordinances governing location and nature of rebuilding
- Examination of building standards
- Economic recovery measures, including interim sites for business restoration

**C. Long-Term Reconstruction (Several Years)**

- Rebuilding
- Restoration of transportation systems
- Hazard Mitigation
- Reconstruction of permanent housing
- Reconstruction of commercial facilities
- Development and implementations of long-term economic recovery targeting impacted and critical industries

## **II. Recovery Phase Management Approach**

The first phase, and likely much of the second, occurs while the emergency command organization is in place. Many second and third phase activities fall within the ongoing responsibilities of individual EBRP departments. For example, departments have primary responsibility for planning and implementing the recovery of their own functions and facilities. Other tasks clearly fall within the expertise of specific agencies.

Many long-term recovery tasks require the cooperation of many public and private agencies. They extend beyond the time that Incident Command is employed and require activities beyond the scope of this Emergency Operations Plan. Therefore, the EBR OHSEP will institute a long-term planning and implementation management structure to coordinate these activities to ensure the necessary coordination between EBR OHSEP, State and Federal agencies.

Long-term recovery operations for the EBR OHSEP will be managed by a Recovery Management Task Force. Recognizing that it is important to assess and take steps to reduce the impact of future events, every member of a recovery operations organization should be responsible for documenting and reporting possible mitigation actions. Recovery issues involving other jurisdictions and/or special districts will be coordinated on a scheduled basis and the Recovery Management Task Force will convene meetings. These meetings may include other key staff and individuals, as well as representatives from affected jurisdictions and special districts. These meetings will be held to collectively make policy decisions and to gather and disseminate information regarding completed and ongoing recovery operations. All EBRP departments will need to take responsibility for certain functions throughout the recovery process.

The Recovery Management Task Force is composed of individuals from the following departments, agencies and organizations:

- Mayor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP)
- Mayor’s Office

- Metropolitan Council
- Department of Public Works
- Louisiana Capital Area Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
- Baton Rouge Food Bank
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Community Groups

### III. Roles Of Other Agencies

#### A. Federal Government

The FEMA Regional Director is responsible for hazard recovery and mitigation actions under the terms of the Federal/State Agreement. The Regional Director shall:

- Provide for a Joint Federal/State/Local Hazard Mitigation Team to survey the disaster affected area as soon as possible following a major disaster or emergency declaration by the President and to accomplish hazard mitigation planning in accordance with Federal/State Agreement
- Appoint a Hazard Mitigation Coordinator (HMC) to:
  - Serve on the Federal/State Hazard Mitigation Team
  - Confer with local, State and Federal officials concerning these hazards and hazard mitigation measures.
- Ensure that the ultimate benefits to be gained through effective hazard mitigation programs are not diminished.
- Provide technical advice and assistance
- Encourage State and local governments to adopt safe land use practices and construction standards
- Ensure that FEMA and other Federal efforts are supplemental to local and State efforts
- Encourage initiative by State and local governments
- Take actions required by FEMA Floodplain Management Regulations (as applicable for flood disasters)

Depending on the type of emergency, other Federal agencies may be involved in the recovery operations.

#### B. Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)

A representative of the GOHSEP will be appointed by the Governor to act in the capacity of the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), who will be responsible for State performance of hazard mitigation activities under the Federal/State Agreement. The GAR, in coordination with the FEMA Regional Director, shall:

- Appoint a State Hazard Mitigation Coordinator (SHMC) to serve on the Federal/ State Hazard Mitigation Team
- Arrange for State and local participation in Federal-State survey and hazard mitigation planning in disaster affected areas

MOHSEP departments and key personnel have specific assigned responsibilities as a part of the Recovery Management Task Force. This will be defined more specifically in the MOHSEP Recovery Annex.

## **IV. Damage Assessment**

Under the MOHSEP Emergency Operations Center's Standard Operating Procedures, an Initial Damage Estimate is developed during the emergency response phase to support a request for gubernatorial proclamation and for the state to request a presidential declaration.

This is followed by a detailed assessment of damage during the recovery phase. This detailed assessment provides the basis for determining the type and amount of State and/or Federal financial assistance available for recovery.

Documentation is the key to recovering emergency response and recovery costs. Damage assessment documentation will be critical in establishing the basis for eligibility of disaster assistance programs.

Under the State Natural Disaster Assistance Act (NDAA), documentation is required for damage sustained to public buildings, levees, flood control works, irrigation works, county roads, city/town streets, bridges and other public works.

### **A. Federal Documentation Requirements**

Under Federal disaster assistance programs, documentation must be obtained regarding damage sustained to:

- Roads
- Water control facilities
- Public buildings and related equipment
- Public utilities
- Facilities under construction
- Recreational and park facilities
- Educational institutions
- Certain private non-profit facilities

The documented information should include the location and extent of damage and estimates of costs for debris removal, emergency work and repairing or replacing damaged facilities to pre-disaster condition.

The cost of compliance with building codes for new construction, repair and restoration will also be documented. The cost of improving facilities may be included under Federal mitigation programs.

Documentation will be the key to recovering expenditures related to emergency response and recovery operations. Documentation must begin at the field response level and

continue throughout the operation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the disaster unfolds.

B. Damage Assessment Team

## **V. Mitigation**

Coordination of Mitigation efforts is the responsibility of MOHSEP. Mitigation opportunities should be actively considered throughout emergency operations based on priorities set in the EBR Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan. Decisions made during response and recovery operations can either enhance or hinder subsequent mitigation activities. The urgency to rebuild as soon as possible must be weighted against the longer-term goal of reducing future risk and lessening possible impacts should another emergency occur. Specific mitigation opportunities will be implemented based on funding availability.

Additionally, mitigation projects shall be incorporated into long range planning goals as identified in any of the following community based initiatives to include but not limited to:

- A. East Baton Rouge Parish Horizon Plan
- B. Department of Public Works Building Code Development
- C. Amite River Basin Floodplain Management
- D. Planning Commission
- E. Economic Development
- F. Smart Growth Plan
- G. East Baton Rouge Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan