Development of Community Organizations Active in Disaster Using the State of MO COAD Guidance Manual – 2nd Ed.

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COAD Guidance Manual Project

• Background to the project:
  – Funded through NIFA grant
  – Primary goals:
    ❖ Disseminate MO COAD Guidance Manual to state/local VOAD members and extension personnel
    ❖ Use disaster exercise to test efficacy & veracity of manual and its uses
  – Included University of Missouri, University of Illinois, Purdue University State Extension Programs
What’s A COAD & Why Do We Need One?

• A Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) is an umbrella organization that exists to bring together stakeholders interested in coordinating emergency human services at the local level.

• Is a collaborative working group of equal partners united by common goals to better serve communities during all phases of emergency management.
What’s A COAD & Why Do We Need One?

• Plays critical role in building better prepared and more resilient communities

• Has a much broader mission - to strengthen area-wide disaster coordination by sharing programs, policies, information, joint planning and training
Who Are the Stakeholders?

- Include, but not limited to:
  - Local emergency management/governmental agencies
  - Community organizations – ARC, Sal Army, United Way, Catholic Charities, etc.
  - Land grant extension programs
  - Faith-based organizations
  - Businesses
  - Others ???
How Can We Use The Manual in Development of COADs?

• Extension is uniquely positioned to assist communities develop COADs
  – Extension has a state-wide mission
  – Our diverse programming brings a multitude of diverse & unique organizations to the table to address disaster related activities

• COAD Guidance Manual was developed to assist communities develop an organization and a plan
Challenges in Illinois

• Few counties have a COAD in place
• Large differences in resources across state
• Many EMA directors are volunteers
• Other EMA directors are part-time
• Guidance thus VERY important
Expanding COADS in Illinois

- COADS more likely in communities with a history of disasters, especially floods
- Growing interest following November 17 tornado outbreak
  - Organizations came together and functioned as COADS on ad hoc basis
Resource issues

• Largest resource question is TIME
• Some EMA directors reluctant
• Build trust between EMA and COADS
• Define relationships with other responders
• Insurance, worker’s comp questions
Dynamics in diverse state

• Large metro areas
  – “We’ve got it under control”
  – COADS don’t fit command structure

• Medium metros
  – May have easiest time
  – Critical mass of possible members

• Small population areas
  – Difficult to get traction
Indiana
COAD Development

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Issues in Indiana

• Rebuild relationship with state IDHS
• Had to deal with COAD vs VOAD and national VOAD priorities
• Since 2008 we’ve been fully in response and recovery
• COAD development not a priority
Solutions in Indiana

- State VOAD voted in 2009 to start COADs
- Purdue became the catalyst/ partnered with Catholic Charities and American Red Cross
- We stole (with permission) from MO Manual
- We continue to use UM/MO COAD development
Community Organizations Active in Disaster

Every county in Indiana has faced a federally-declared disaster in recent history. Floods, tornadoes, and ice storms usually top the list, but now it’s drought. If you want to help your community face tough disaster issues, a Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD) may help. This page has helpful information on starting a COAD.

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Resources
For the latest on the development of Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), please visit the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (INVOAD) website.

Presentation given to the Midwest Contingency Planners March 11, 2014 meeting: (Download PDF: 4.3 MB, Download PPT: 9.8 MB)

Download a presentation on “Disasters Affecting Indiana: Building COADs for Your Community” (PDF: 3.5 MB)
“COAD” History in Missouri

- Severe storms and tornadoes in spring 2003.
- Compilation of COAD/LTRC info across state. (2009 to present).
- COAD and LTRC terminology used interchangeably from the beginning.
Confusion of Terminology

- ........stated that it seems the Long-term Recovery Committee (LTRC) and the Community Organizations Active in a Disaster (COAD) are overlapping.
- .... explained that as a part of the organization chart, a LTRC is to be a committee of a COAD. (July-2012).
Reality in Rural Areas Differs

- Population base.
- Number of organizations.
- Location of “core” organizations (Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, etc.).
- Most EMDs are volunteer or part-time.
- Level of damage and getting declaration.
Reality in Rural Areas

- Frequency of disasters & COAD development.
- There is Overlap (LTRC & COAD).
- Local committees “Fit” for their area.
- We don’t re-invent the wheel.
- We “Get ‘r Done“.
All Disasters are local.

Local Communities create their solutions.

We can learn from others’ experiences.

Resources may be needed.
We wish to thank

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