Tornado Recovery

Lessons Learned

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DRIE (C) Winter Lunch Session
Norwood Hotel, February 22, 2008
Outline

• Background
• Recovery overview
• Lessons Identified
  – Community Resiliency
  – Psycho-social
  – Disaster Financial Assistance
• Conclusion
Background

• On June 22, Canada’s 1st F5 Tornado strikes Elie destroying four homes and damaging dozens of other homes
Elie
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EMO/DRIE Central Lunch
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• During the night of June 23/24 three tornado cut a swath across western Manitoba from Pipestone to Glenora destroying one house and damaging over 120 farms
Western Manitoba

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Western Manitoba
Background

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• During the night of June 23/24 three tornado cut a swath across western Manitoba from Pipestone to Glenora destroying one house and damaging over 120 farms

• During the night of June 23/24 a severe wind storm with reported funnel clouds hammered the Whiteshell, downing over 500,000 m\textsuperscript{3} of timber and knocking out power to a wide region.
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Recovery Overview

• Victim’s needs
  – Emergency housing
  – Income continuation
  – Reconstruction
  – Emotional support

• Recovery Agencies
  – Local Authority
  – NGOs
  – Provincial Government
    • Family Services
    • EMO
    • RHA
  – Insurance providers
Recovery Overview Continued

• Recovery resources
  – Mental Health Trauma teams
  – Family Services temporary shelter
  – DFA
  – Insurance advances and temporary shelter
  – Local volunteers
  – Donations (fund raising)
  – NGO (volunteers, donations of materials and money)
RECOVERY NEEDS

- Emotional
- Financial Hardship
- Employment Loss
- Business
- Building Repairs
- Shelter/Housing

Insurance

Disaster Financial Assistance

Mennonite Disaster Service

Temporary Housing

Family Services

Trauma Team

Salvation Army

Local Authority

Canadian Red Cross

Donations
Lessons Identified - General

- Provincially our local authorities are well prepared to respond.
- We need a more all hazard approach as we tend to be flood and wild fire focused.
- Public education
  - There is a very fine line between making a youtube video and starring on youtube!
Specific Lessons - Health Services

• Psychological sense of normalcy
  – Re-entry in a tornado zone much different than flood

• Determine and prioritize all who were affected
  – The need to balance medical advise against the needs of victims to be engaged

• Emotional and physical needs of community
  – Public meetings
  – Community engagement of psycho-social agencies

• Ongoing assessment of community needs
  – Long term psycho-social impacts
Specific Lessons - DFA

• Most large scale DFA has been flood focused
  – Need to build data base of other hazards
• Some financial recovery must be centrally led due to synergy issues
  – Wooded pasture
• Insurance while widely subscribed for homes is not always taken for business/farm
  – Fence lines
  – Farming structures
Specific Lessons - People

• Neighbor helping neighbor
• Generosity and kindness
• Volunteers will come from all over
  – Local authority plays a role in community volunteer efforts (safety)
• NGO’s
  – Continue to be a valuable resource for victims
• Local authority’s role with donation distribution
Specific Lesson – Local Authority

• Local authority plans are well prepared and deal with response
  – Recovery tends to be overlooked
    • Community Recovery Working Groups
    • Public Meetings

• Media
• Redundancy
• Awareness in rural areas
Conclusion

Lee Spencer – Director of Recovery