



technical services group

## *Are you prepared?*

*DOE SA SIG*

*April 30, 2008*

*Mike Vorachek*

## *Disaster de jour*



Let's see –  
what is this week's disaster?

- Wildfires in California?
- Earthquake on New Madrid Fault?
- Midwest flooding?
- Campus shootings?
- Hurricane Something?
- Terrorist attacks?

*The events are real, and so are the victims !*



**More Than 200 Hurt as 3  
Twisters Rip Through  
Virginia**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008**

## *The scenarios are all different....*

- No matter what the nature of the event, there is an impact upon the physical and social fabric of our society.
- All events involve personal stories of loss and tragedy
- Has it happened to you?  
A family member?  
A friend?

It's only a matter of time...

## *Let's look at preparedness...*

**First, we under-perceive risk....**

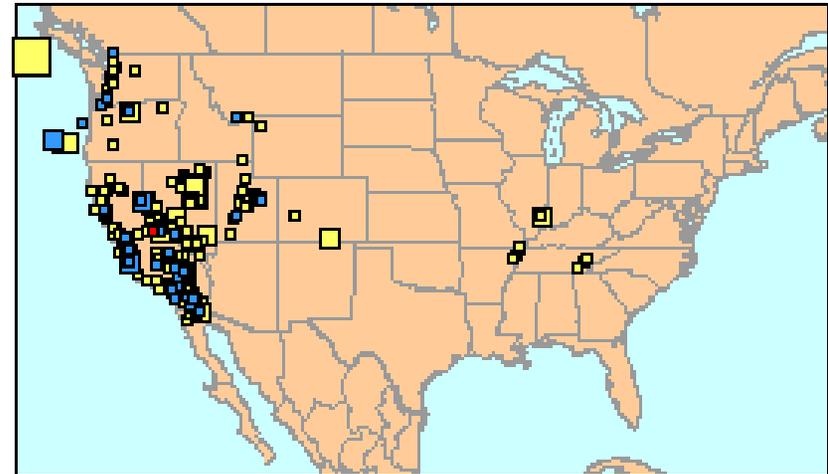
Second, we have a national culture of unpreparedness

- ~ 50% of responders to Time magazine poll had experienced a disaster or public emergency
- 16% said they were “very well prepared” for next one
- 91% live in areas of moderate to high risk

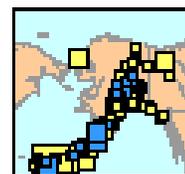
*Time magazine  
August 20, 2006*

## *Our collective view*

- # 1 – It won't happen
- # 2 – If it does happen, it won't happen to me
- # 3 – If it does happen to me, it won't be that bad
- # 4 – If it happens to me and its bad, there's nothing I can do to stop it anyway.



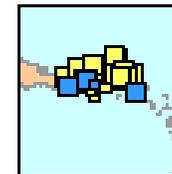
CONTIGUOUS 48 STATES



ALASKA



HAWAII



PUERTO RICO

Eric Holdeman  
Director of Emergency Management  
King County, WA

# Preparedness starts with you

What is your situational awareness of the risks you face?

- at home?
- at work?
- other places I go?

Natural events

Technological events

Malevolent acts



## *What can I do?*

- **Recognize that something might happen**
- **Have some elements of a plan in mind**
  - What am I going to do? What is my family going to do?
  - Where am I going to go if my home/office/hotel is affected?
  - How am I going to get there?
  - Who will I (we) call and who will be trying to call me?
  - How long can (will) I wait for someone to come help me?
- **Be ready to think in terms of scope and magnitude of the event – your responses may have to change**

## *Being ready*

- Think in terms of where you might be and what you might need to do
  - Home – taking care of myself and family for a period of time
  - Office – getting out of the building and moving to a pre-defined location
  - On the road – traveling by air or by car
- What kind of basic items do I have
  - At the house?
  - At my desk?
  - In my car?
  - In my motel?

## *What if I have to act NOW?*

- Act quickly and decisively
  - A good plan now is much more valuable than a better plan later!
  - Is it a “go or stay” decision?
  - How quickly can you execute it?
  - Have you walked through it before it happens?
  - What about your family, co-workers, others?
- Most people act rationally in the face of an event
- Panic is rare – except for Hollywood

## *Be safe out there*



Questions

Comments?

Snide remarks?

*Thanks for  
Your attention!*