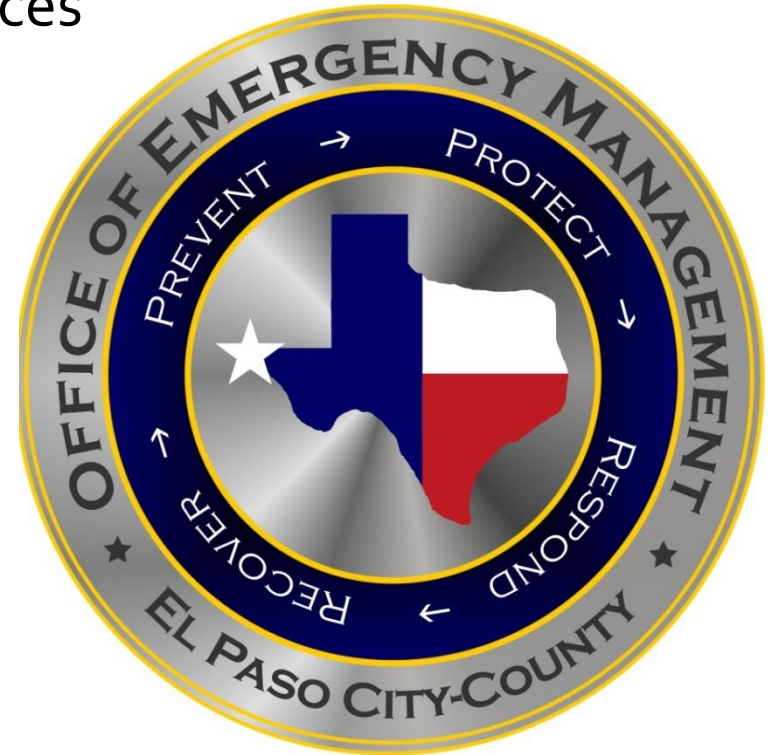
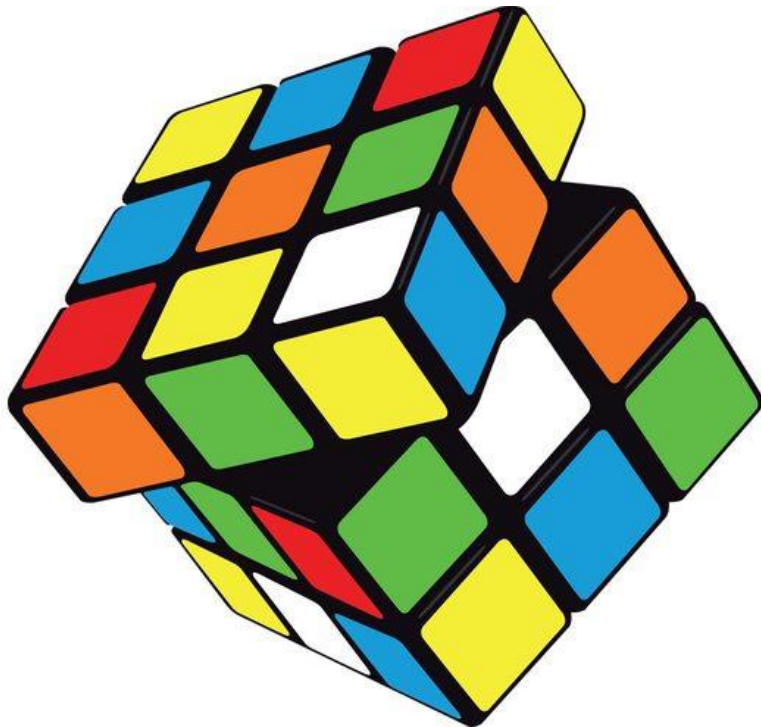


Role of Locally Elected Officials Before, During & After Disasters

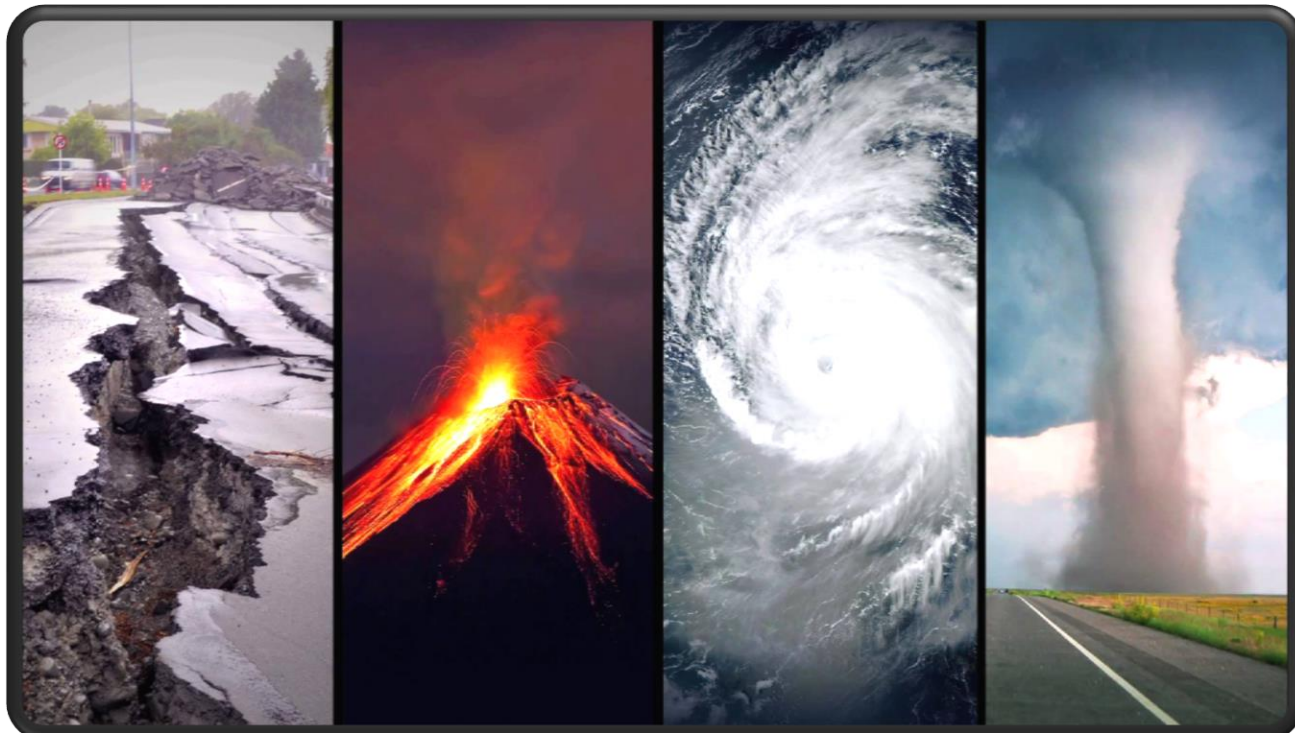
Recommendations & Best Practices



Deputy Chief Jorge A. Rodriguez
Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)
El Paso City/County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

What is a Disaster?

“The occurrence or imminent threat of **widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property** resulting from any natural or man-made cause requiring emergency action.”



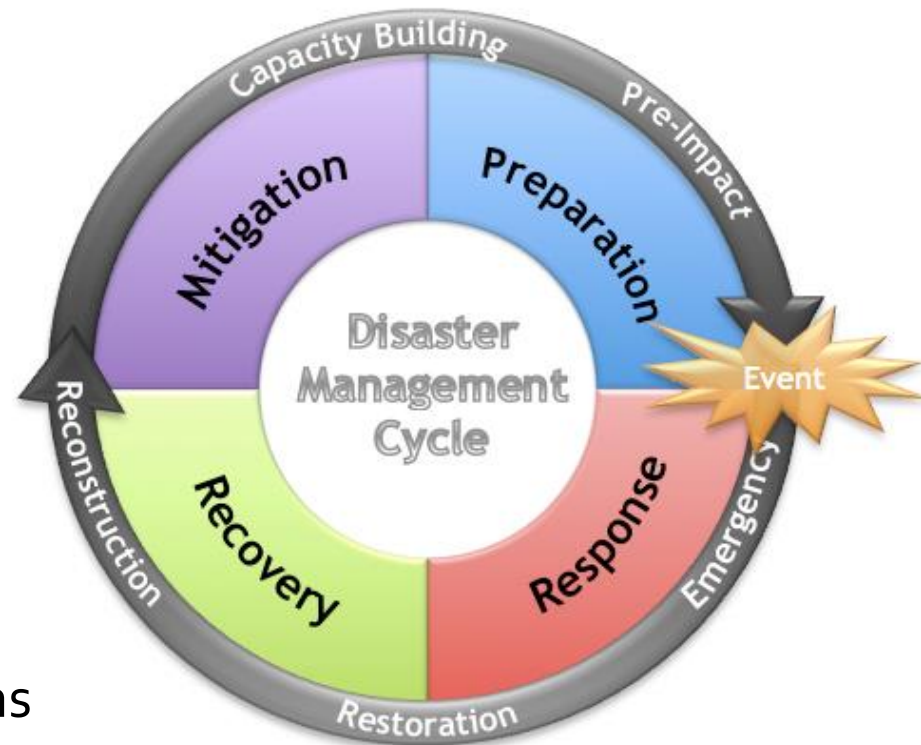
What is Emergency Management?

- Consists of systems, resources, & activities designed to assist a community in preventing, preparing for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating the effects of all hazards.



Emergency Management Cycle

- Mitigation
 - Efforts that serve to reduce the occurrence of incidents or their impact.
- Preparedness
 - Development of plans to save lives and minimize disaster damage
- Response
 - Emergency assistance to individuals
- Recovery
 - Restore vital life-support systems to minimum operating standards and long-term activities (return to normalcy)



Local Officials & Disasters

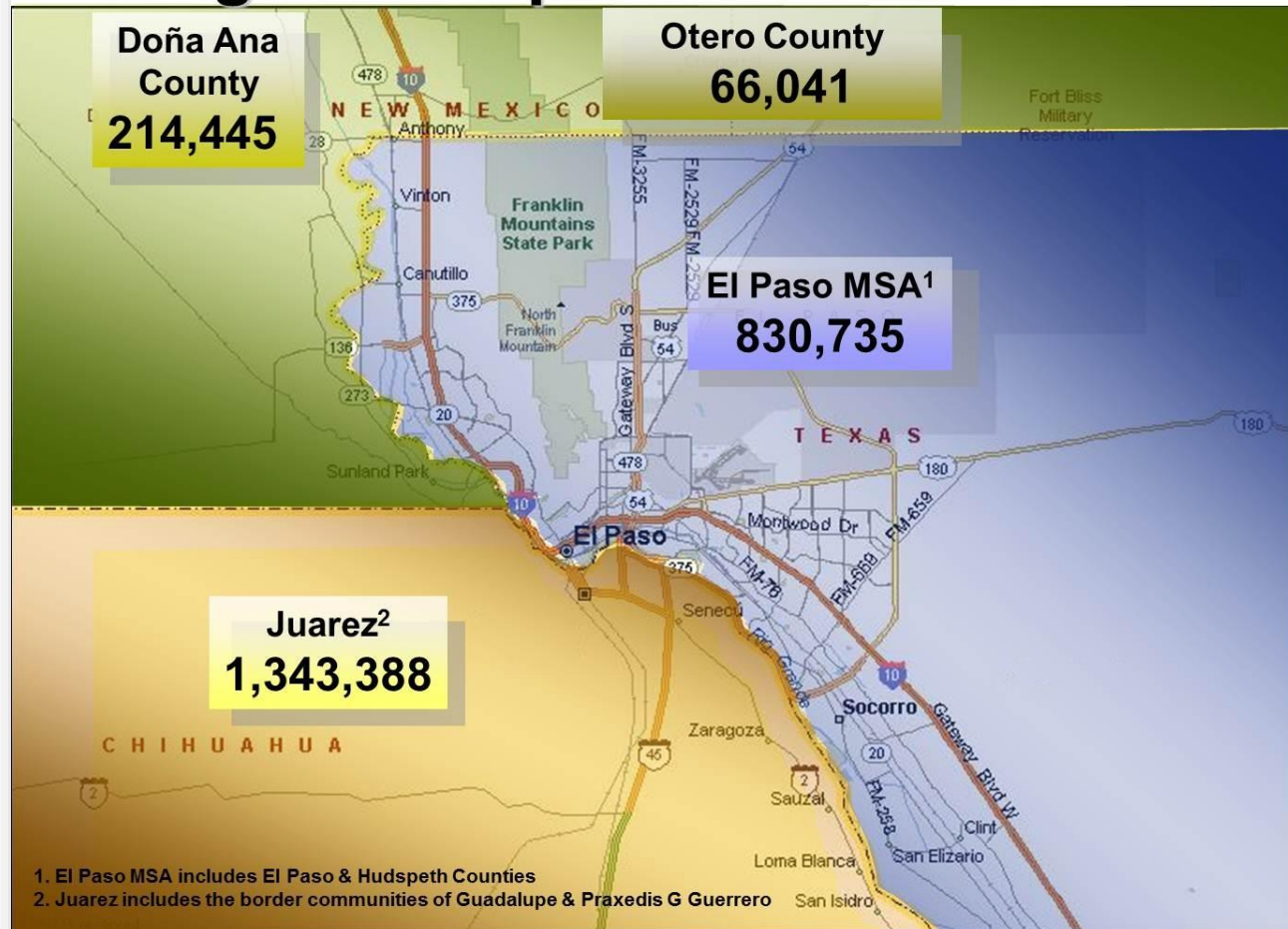
- All disasters are locally-driven events
- Local officials provide leadership and policy guidance and engagement in preparedness efforts
- Responsible for public safety and welfare of communities
- Local elected officials operate at the policy and strategic levels and coordinate with local emergency managers (operational) & field operators (tactical levels)



El Paso OEM Regional Collaborations (Whole Community)

- Regional Emergency Management Group
- MOU/MOA
 - Federal Homeland Security Agencies
 - Ft Bliss - DOD
 - Inter-state
 - Inter-local
 - "Sister City"
 - Council of Gov's
 - BorderRAC
- Tribal
- Nonprofit
 - Red Cross
 - Salvation Army
 - Food Banks

Regional Population: 2.5 million



Source: US population – US Census Bureau, 2012 estimates, MX population – INEGI – 2010 Census (Information retrieved August 2013)

Role of Elected Officials Before a Disaster Occurs

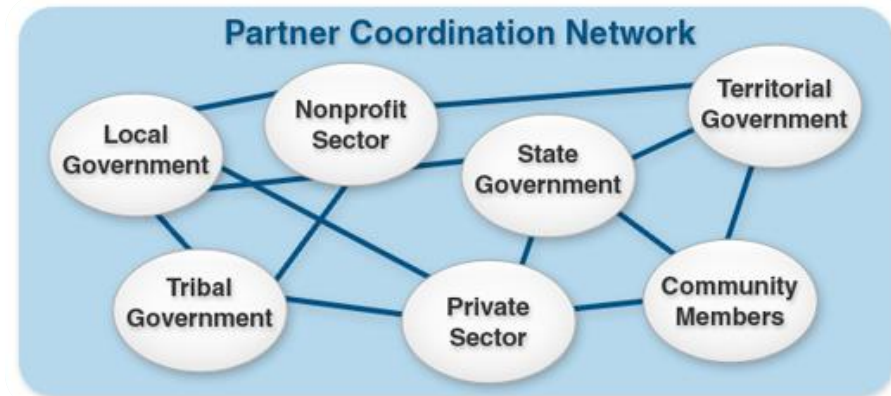
- Make planning a priority
- Learn about the hazards in your jurisdiction and what is being done to mitigate them
- Learn about emergency management and disaster assistance programs

**EMERGENCY
PLAN**



Role of Elected Officials Before a Disaster Occurs

- Provide policy direction for mitigated-related, preparedness, response, and recovery-related activities
- Encourage coordination and collaboration between the government, NGOs and private sector
- Ensure you have up-to-date Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP)



**What's
Your
Plan?**

Role of Elected Officials Before a Disaster Occurs

- Visit your jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Participate in emergency and disaster training and exercises
- Encourage individual preparedness
- Learn your legal authorities and responsibilities



The Role of Elected Officials During a Disaster

- Responsible for ensuring public safety and welfare of citizens
- Provide policy guidance on priorities and objectives based on situational needs and the Emergency Plan
- Oversee resource coordination and support to the on-scene command from the EOC or through dispatch

Disaster Declarations

Authority to:

- Power to declare local state of emergency
- Evacuation or restricting the movement of people
- Suspending various procedural laws/rules
- Commandeering private property
- Obligate funds
- Implement price controls
- Commit resources
- Command resources necessary to protect population, stop the spread of damage, protect environment

The Role of Elected Officials During a Disaster

- Support and work with your emergency management officials
 - Facilitate communication with other agencies
 - Obtain and expedite assistance
 - Declare a local state of emergency
 - Issue emergency orders
- Understand the resource request process and mutual aid options, and how your local emergency manager coordinates this process

The Role of Elected Officials During a Disaster

- In coordination with your emergency manager:
 - Communicate with constituents and ensure a coordinated message
 - Ensure all messaging is accessible
 - Maintain situational awareness
 - Provide direction for response-related activities
- Trust and empower your emergency management officials to make the right decisions



The Role of Elected Officials Following a Disaster

- Understand available disaster assistance programs and application processes
- Support your community throughout the recovery process
- Help identify opportunities to build back better and mitigate future damage



Disasters as “Wicked Problems”



- Difficult to define
- Interdependent (systems)
- Attempts to solve often lead to unforeseen consequences
- Not stable
- No clear solution
- Socially complex
- Multiple stakeholders
- *Solutions involve changing behaviors*
- *Characterized by chronic policy failure*

Questions?

Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well informed just to be undecided about them.

(Laurence J. Peter)