

# Disasters!

How Prepared are YOU?



# Have a System

- Good preparedness involves having your plans and assignments in place BEFORE you have an actual emergency
- Does your Mission have an Emergency Action Committee?
- In U.S. Embassies – EAC is chaired by the Deputy Chief of Mission, also includes all section heads and other USG agencies resident at Post.

# What crisis' are you prepared for?

- Fire
- Flood
- Earthquake
- Power failure
- Volcano
- Weapon of mass destruction/chem-Bio
- Terrorist acts
- Kidnapping
- Mass casualty?
- Collapse of local authority
- A combination of two or more?

# Emergency Action Plans

- Unclassified is best
- Collaborative efforts mean more to the collective
- Every employee should know the EAP!
- EAPs apply to more than just employees –
  - Families
  - Citizen nationals
  - Possible 3<sup>rd</sup> country nationals?

# Know Your Role

- All EAC members should know their responsibilities before an event.
- Lists of contacts and outside resources should be verified and updated regularly.
- All action plans should also be known back at the Ministry.
- Establish an incident command system – who can make decisions if the COM or EAC Chair are out of touch or incapacitated?

# Pre-positioned

- Water
  - Medical supplies
  - Excavation tools
  - Fire suppression tools
  - Communications equipment
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- Where is your Command Center? Do you have an alternate Command Center? Is the alternate off site? (we recommend)

# WHERE?

- Closest Police, Fire, Hospital?
- Airports and their capabilities (trains too). Routes? Alternate routes? (Watch out for choke points!)
- Building water cut-off?
- Building gas cut-off?
- Building electrical cur-off?
- HVAC cut-offs (for chem-bio incident)
  
- THIS APPLIES TO YOUR RESIDENCE AS WELL AS YOUR PLACE OF WORK.

# TRIPWIRES

- What are the circumstances that will drive your decision making?
- Best to sort them out before a crisis.
- Are they mandatory, or a starting point for discussion?
- Tripwires can become 'passe' based on longer term threat, then you can find yourself establishing ever riskier ones.
- It does no good to have these, if you are not going to follow-through with action.
- Tripwires can go in reverse as well as forward.....



# PRACTICE/PRACTICE/PRACTICE

- DRILLS:
- Fire/Evacuation/Rally points
- Duck and Cover
- Emergency Medical
- Phone tree/ notifications (do you have an alternative to phones?)
- DRILLS MUST BE MISSION WIDE AND SUPPORTED BY THE FRONT OFFICE – PEOPLE MUST TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY!

# Information is power

- The more people know, the more reasoned a decision they can make.
- Transparency is key.
- New arrivals briefings, town hall meetings, security/safety notices.
- Share “best practices”
- Far better to work hard to prepare, and never need, than to desperately need, and not be prepared.