

# CCAO Emergency Management Tabletop Exercise

8/31/2026





# Welcome and Introductions

# Exercise Guidelines

- This is an open no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints and open discussion is encouraged.
- Base your responses on the existing plans and capabilities of your organization.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response and recovery efforts; problem-solving efforts should be the focus.
- We will adjust our Debris Management Plan if improvements are identified.



# Exercise Overview

## Objective: Pre-incident Response

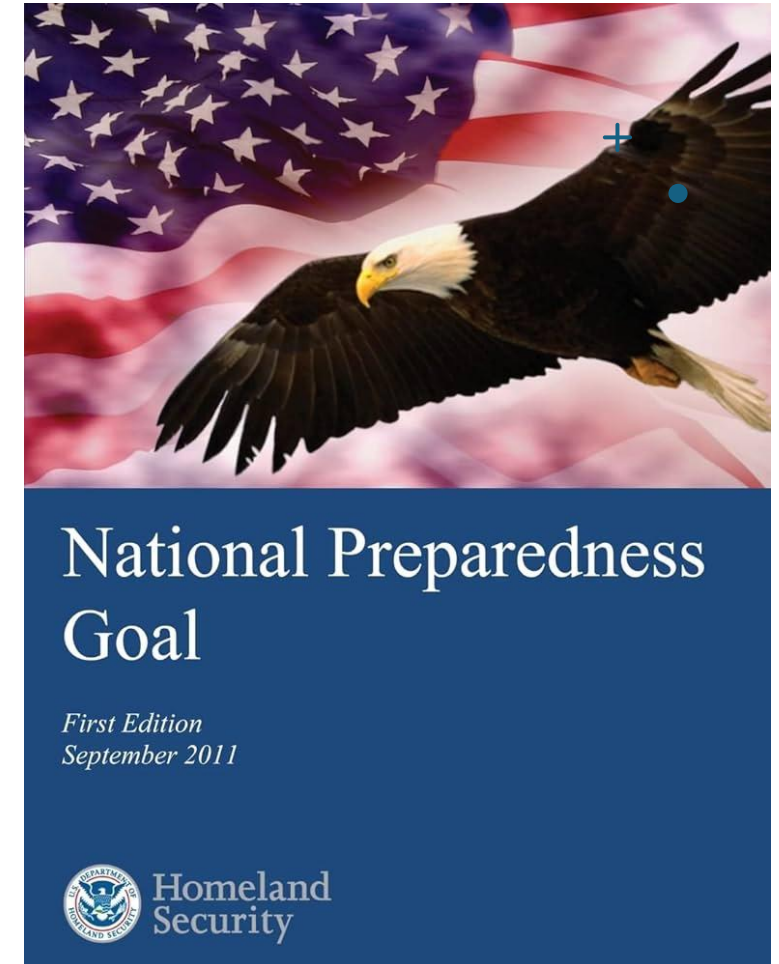
Aligns to: Public Information and Warning, Operational Communications, Operational Coordination.

## Objective: Incident Response

Aligns to: Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operational Coordination, Infrastructure, Transportation, Safety, Fatality Management, Fire/EMS Management, Logistics, Mass-care, SAR, Law Enforcement, Communications, Public Health, Situational assessment.

## Objective: Community Recovery

Aligns to: Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operational Coordination, Infrastructure, Economic Recovery, Health and Social Services, Housing, Natural and Cultural Resources.



## 3-Day Severe Weather Outlook

Valid: May 28 - May 30, 2027

Issued: May 28, 2027

Thunderstorms are expected across the Ohio Valley and surrounding areas through the Memorial Day weekend.

Severe storms capable of producing large hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes are possible, with the greatest risk from central Illinois into Indiana, western Ohio, and portions of Kentucky.

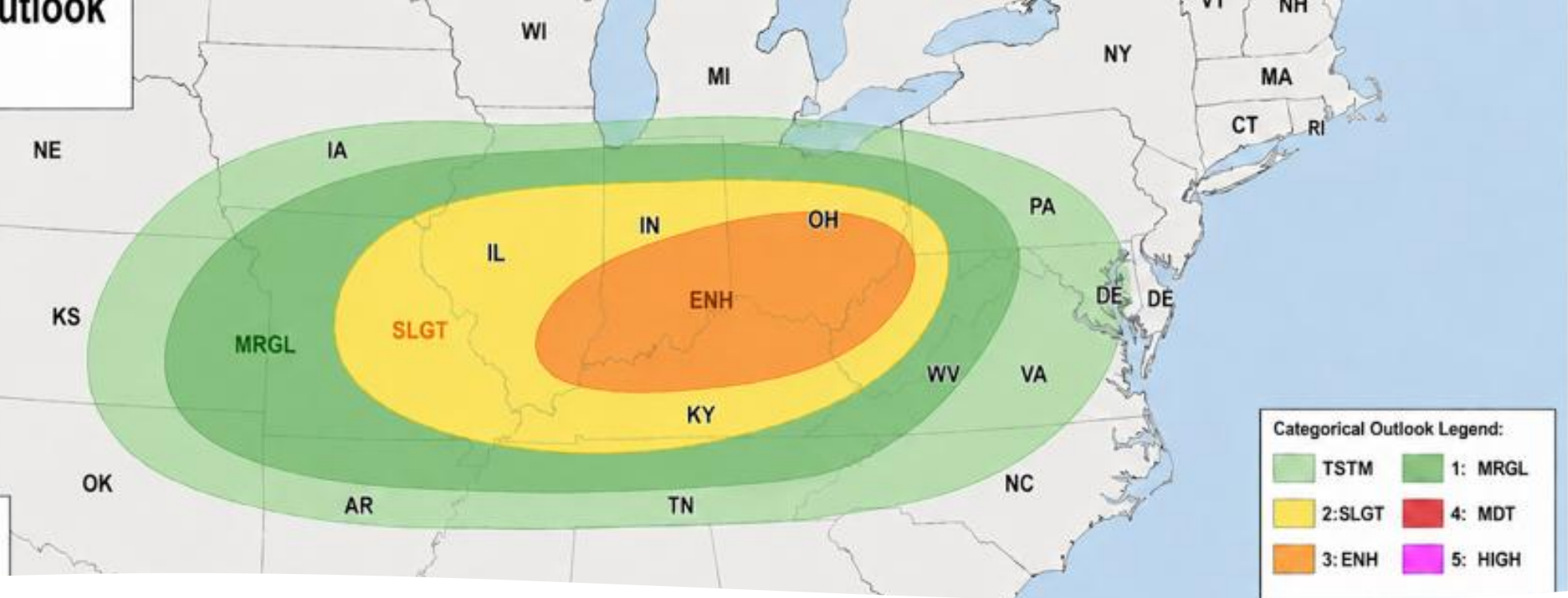


SPC DAY 1-3 CATEGORICAL OUTLOOK

ISSUED: 05/28/2027 0800Z

VALID: 05/28/2027 - 05/30/2027

FORECASTER: BROYLE SS



## Module 1: Community Preparedness

On 5/28/2027, the SPC has issued a 3-day severe weather outlook for the memorial day holiday with portions of Ohio located in a marginal level 1 to enhanced level 3 risk. As communities go into the holiday weekend, emergency managers begin communicating with the NWS on the threat and begin providing appropriate alerts to stakeholders and the public.

With the 3-day outlook, personnel expect changes as the day gets closer, but current forecasts are not looking ideal for family gatherings, cookouts, and a day of remembrance.

# Module 1: 3-day outlook

- Who is your EMA Team, and how are structured under ORC? – Executive Board or under BOCC?
  - What do you as county commissioners see your role being during blue sky times?
  - Do you attend regular meetings, or planning and preparedness initiatives to understand roles and responsibilities?
  - Does the EMA promote coordination, integration, and partnerships among all sectors?
  - As the chief(s) elected officials of your county, what is your overarching priority as it pertains to emergency management?
  - Have you been trained in emergency management concepts and operations?
- Does your jurisdiction have an emergency operations plan, EOP?
  - Are you familiar with that plan?
  - What is your highest or most prevalent hazard? Share a success story: How have you mitigated that hazard!?
  - Have MOU's with outside governmental, non-profit, private sector etc. stakeholders for resources?
- Approximately where your county is in the green, yellow, or orange, are notifications going out to stakeholders and policy makers on the threat?
  - How far in advance of a severe weather forecast do you typically get notifications?

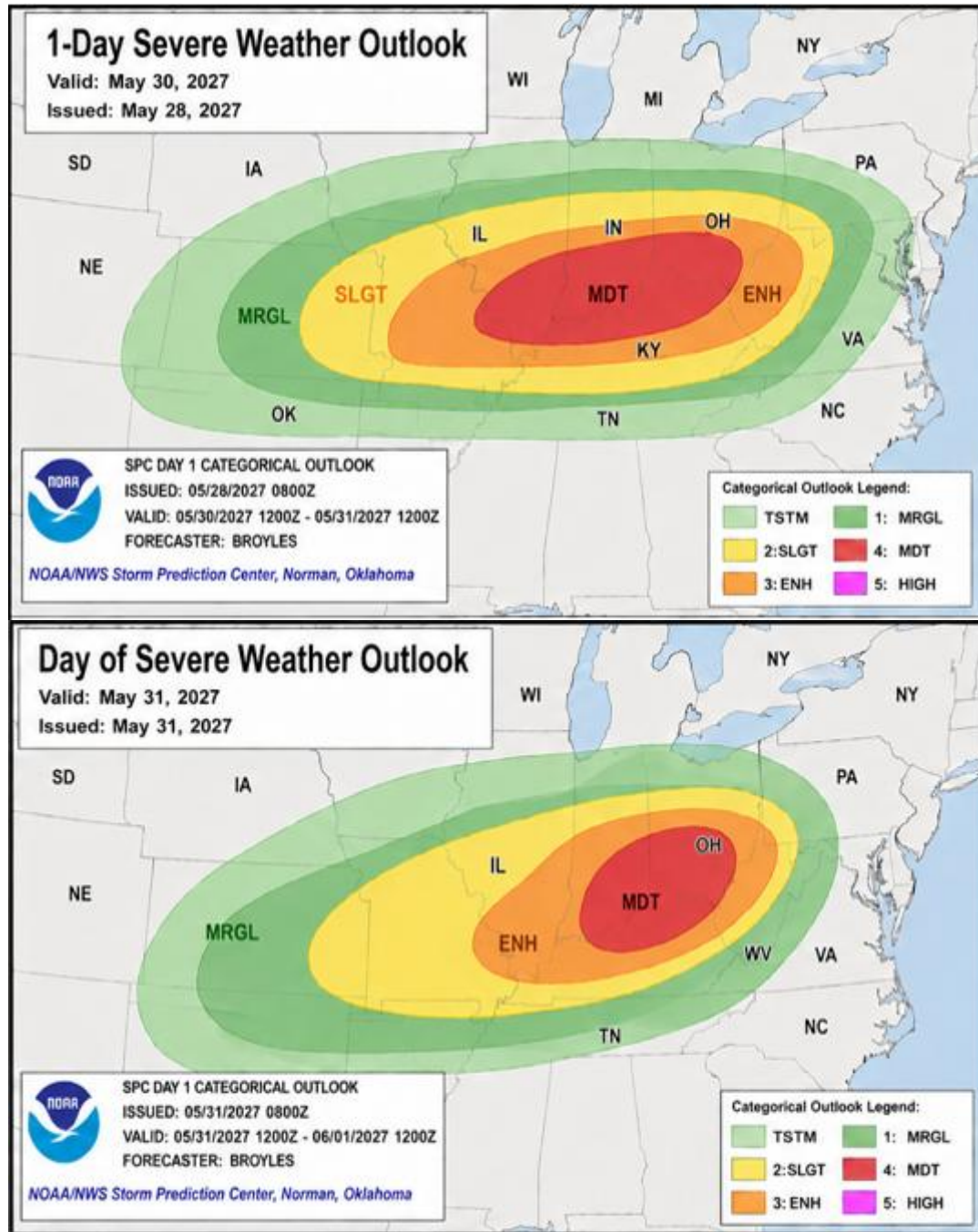


**Preparedness is the actions taken to plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from those threats that pose the greatest risk.**

# Scenario Continued

The day before memorial day, meteorological conditions enhance such that the NWS increases the hazard risk to red or “moderate”. An uncommon ranking for Ohio, NWS confidence in a severe weather outbreak, including high winds, rain, hail, and potentially dangerous and long-track tornadoes are all on the table. On 5/31/27 (Memorial day), NWS closes in on the forecast to focus more on Ohio, KY, and Indiana. Fortunately, the anticipated time of arrival is between 1pm – 9pm.

With your community planning memorial day parades, celebrations, and outdoor concerts, officials are deciding what precautionary measures are necessary.





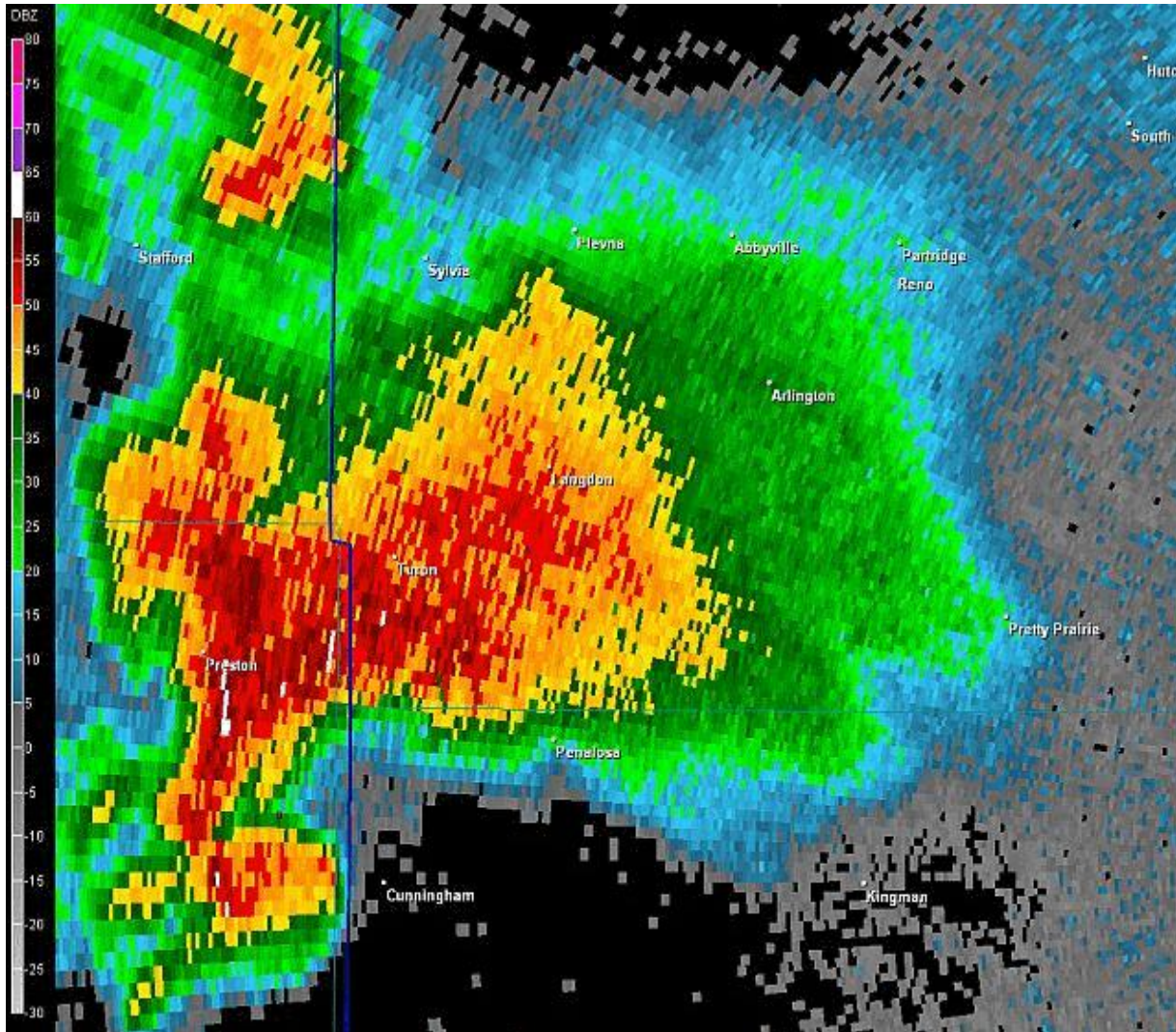
## Module 1: Day-of Outlook

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- We know we are expecting a severe weather outbreak today, what type of information do you want your emergency management program to send out?
- Who are those vulnerable communities in your area and how are they being notified?
- How is the EMA Disseminating information and warnings?
- Does your jurisdiction have a (warm status) primary and alternate emergency operations center, and have you been there or conducted exercises with it?
- Have you've done a significant natural disaster exercises before?

# Module 2: Incident and Initial Response

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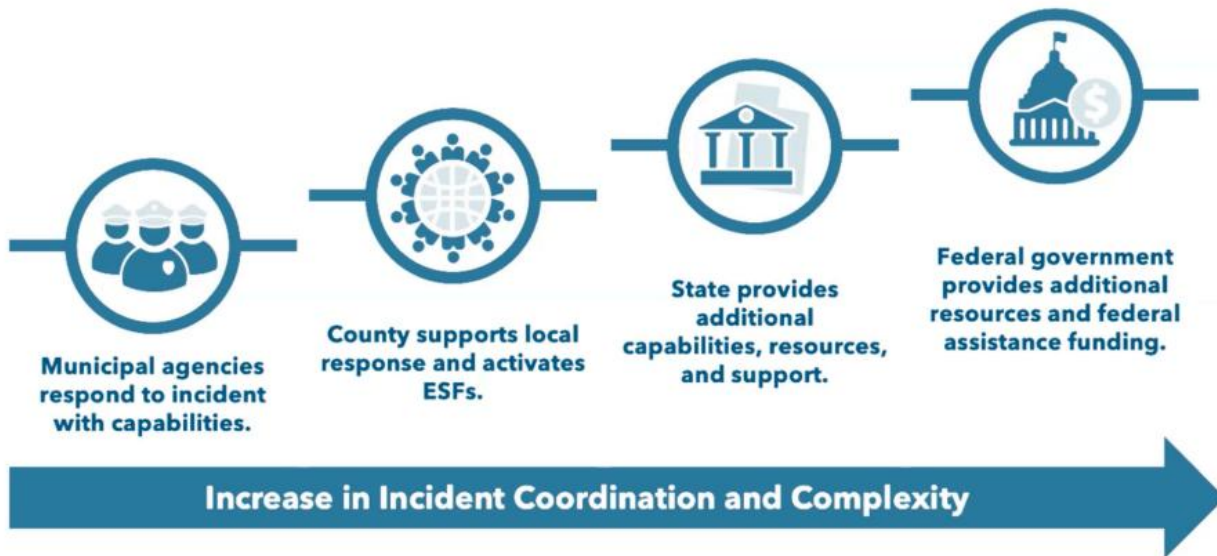
- Scenario: On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027, at 5:45pm The NWS has issued a Tornado Warning for *your county* as a supercell thunderstorm rapidly intensifies. the storm quickly shows a debris indication on radar confidently identifying a tornado on the ground.

# Scenario Continued

- Within minutes large swaths of residential, wooden, public, and commercial portions of *your community* are gone. 9-1-1 calls ring out to dispatch of residents hurt, trapped, missing, or in general need. Powerlines are like spaghetti, and vegetative, construction/demolition debris litter the roads making them impassible. Utilities are down and wireless communications are limited. There is impacts to municipal water and sewer and reports of significant damage to county courthouse and one of the local fire stations. The damage is extensive as nighttime is quickly approaching.

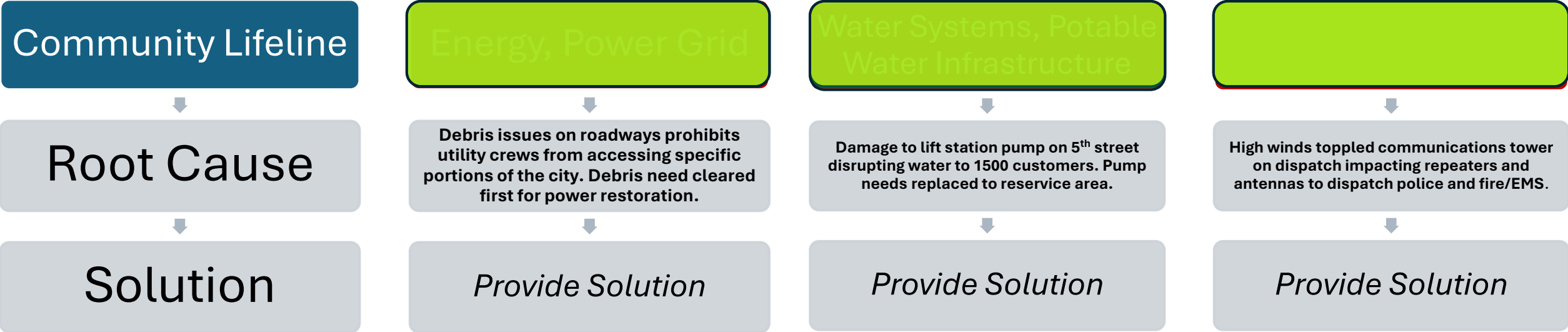


# Module 2: Incident Response



- What do you see as the county's role in supporting local government(s) and field incident command with both resources and policy decisions? Is the state or feds taking over?
- If your county EOC is activated and what do you consider your role in the EOC?
- How can you support the process of identifying unmet needs of disaster survivors?
- Think about the townships and municipalities across the county, which are more vulnerable and would need more county support?
- Intrastate mutual aid compact provides for 8 hours of free mutual aid until the local community can be charged. Is there funding for mutual aid beyond the 8-hour period?
- Fiscally: in the midst of response who and how are we paying for it? Do we know our private sector vendors that can bare physical resources?
- How's internal communications (Strategic) to ensure situational awareness and a common operating picture with all stakeholders?
- How is overall tactical communications and interoperability of local and state responders?
- What is the messaging to the communities impacted and who is taking that lead? County versus municipal/township messaging?
- How could you managing dignitary visits and balancing policy support needed in the EOC and presence in the community?
- Do you have the following annexes to your County EOP: Hazard Mitigation, Continuity of Operations and Government, Mass-care annex, Mass Fatality/Casualty annexes, EOC SOP's etc?

# Community lifelines Drill





# Module 3: The Dust Settles

Within a few days, most routes are cleared, utility lines deenergized, and life safety concerns are no longer present.

law enforcement concerns are still present into the overnight, and a curfew has been issued. Countless residential, business, and public structures are damaged, and housing concerns are prevalent. A shelter has been opened in the community by American Red Cross and mass care partners are assisting with food, water, and basic human needs, including loss of pharmaceuticals and local pharmacies.

Utility lines are severely damaged (electrical, and water/wastewater) and in need of stabilization, but main transportation routes are now open. Individuals and organizations are deploying to assist and looking to monetary and physically donate to the incident. As your community moves into recovery, the sheer amount of debris on public and private property is overwhelming. Leaders from the community are coming together to discuss continued recovery operations, the daunting task of debris removal, and balancing practical matters that arise.



# Module 3:

## Community Recovery

- What does it take for you to declare an emergency, and is it necessary?
- Municipal powers versus county powers? Imposing restrictions, curfews etc.?
- What role do you see the Board of Commissioners having in helping disaster survivors and public entities recover?
- Have you been involved in, or briefed on long-term recovery planning in your county?
- Do you have a debris management plan and a process for the removal of 100's of thousand of pounds of debris like household trash, vegetative, construction, appliances, electronics, and HHW?
- Under what circumstances would you be compelled to hire a debris management contractor?
- If public building are damaged, do we have a continuity of government plans to ensure essential services and processes are delivered?
- What capability does your county have to support municipalities and townships with recovery planning, economic recovery, housing recovery? Is it written in a disaster recovery plan?
- Do you have economic development plans, master plans, approved and adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan, and architectural & engineering renderings or other documents that can aid long-term recovery planning?

# Module 3

## Community Recovery

- What is the message to the community, businesses, and stakeholders regarding the recovery process?
- How can we engage the public to capture their considerations in the rebuilding process?
- How can we insulate the public from insurance fraud and unethical contractors?
- Discuss your county's competitive procurement requirements coupled with 2CFR200 requirements? Do you have a rainy-day fund and disaster fiscal procedures?
- How are we tracking our force account labor, equipment, M&S, and contract costs for hopeful cost recovery?
- Disaster RFPs for post-disaster work are complex and require specialized knowledge, who can assist with drafting RFPs and ensuring proper procurement to limit audit findings?



# CATEGORIES OF WORK



Addressing an  
immediate threat:

- Category A: Debris removal
- Category B: Emergency protective measures

COST

WORK

FACILITY

APPLICANT



Addressing  
restoration of:

- Category C: Roads/bridges
- Category D: Water control facilities
- Category E: Buildings/equipment
- Category F: Utilities
- Category G: Parks, recreational, and other facilities



Administer and enforce:

- Category I: Building code and floodplain management

- No duplication of funding including insurance, salvage.
- Overtime and straight-time for reassigned staff for emergency work.
- Reimbursement for equipment when in use, not idle time.
- Non-competitive bid awards should not be made several days (or weeks) after the disaster or for long-term debris removal.

## **Procurement:**

- Thing about the diversity in potential scope of work.
- Cost analysis of contractors and price reasonableness.
- Contractor references, licenses, fiscal records and proof of insurance/bonding.
- Ensure you are documenting procedures to award contracts.
- Only do Time and Material type contracts when absolutely necessary.
- Consider invoicing frequency.
- Any termination clauses, and reasonable limit of period of performance should be included.
- Consider Subcontractor requirements
- Type of trucks for hauling (no frameless dump trailers), mechanical equipment to load and compact into trucks - debris only.
- Consider safety implications
- With staffing consider overseeing of contractors.
- Portage County Example:  $\$4.86 \times 161,791 = \$786,304.26$  in loss before assistance can be considered.

An aerial sketch of a city. In the foreground, there's a large, modern building with a flat roof and a glass facade. To its right is a green space with trees and a small structure. In the background, a dense city skyline is visible.

# Long-term Recovery

Over months into the next year, significant restoration of damaged buildings, public infrastructure, and green space occurs. The public is motivated as leaders of the community came together to ensure the community recovered through this tragedy. While work will take years, a long-term recovery plan is in place, and officials are working to fund projects and achieve the long-term vision of the community.



# Questions?

- References:
  - FEMA Independent Study Course IS-0908 Emergency Management for Senior Officials
  - National Incident Management System, 2017
  - National Response Framework, 2019
  - National Disaster Recovery Framework, 2024
  - FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide, 2025
  - Long-term Community Recovery Planning Process, 2005
  - Emergency Management Association of Ohio, County EMA Capacity Study, 2026
  - ANSI EMAP Emergency Management Standard 5-2022
  - NFPA 1660 Standard for Emergency, Continuity, and Crisis Management: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery