



Emergency Management Programs

*San Diego Chapter
American Society of Safety Engineers*



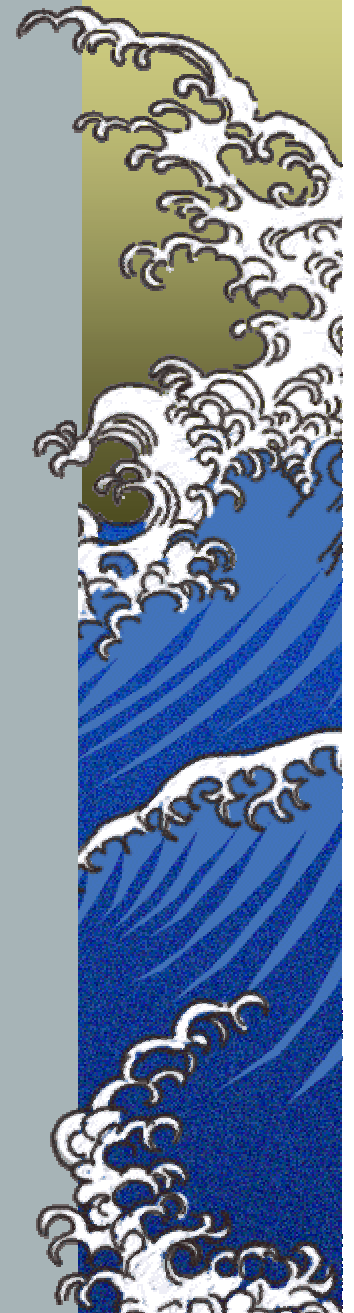
*William F. Norris
Disaster Preparedness &
Emergency Management Consultant*

February 8, 2011



Emergency Management Programs Introduction

- ▶ *What is “Emergency Management”?*
- ▶ *Framework*
 - ▶ *NIMS, ICS,*
 - ▶ *Statutes (city, county, state, federal),*
 - ▶ *Professional Standards*
 - ▶ *Organizational Safety Programs*
- ▶ *Emergencies are fundamentally unpredictable – response is a “come as you are” affair.*
- ▶ *Emergency management is everyone’s responsibility.*



Emergency Management Programs

▲ *An emergency management program is a never-ending cycle of four phases:*

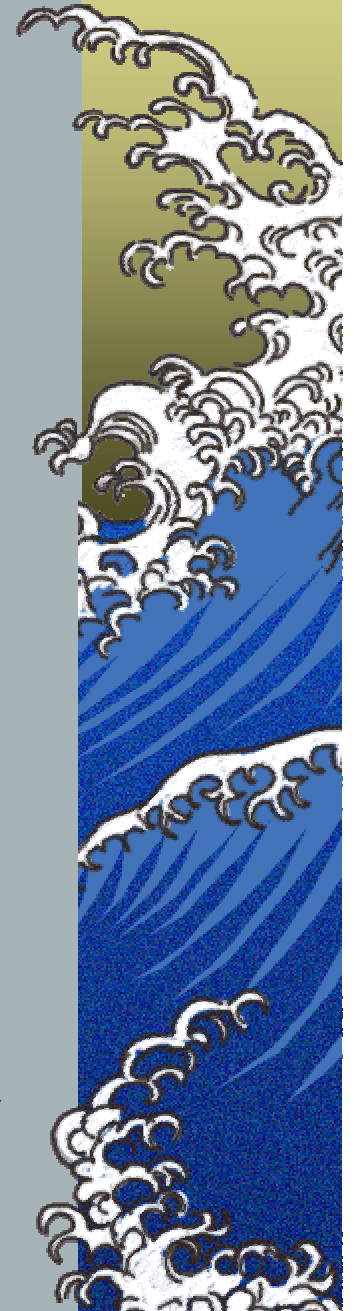
▲ *Preparedness*

▲ *Response*

▲ *Recovery*

▲ *Mitigation*

...and Prevention



Emergency Management Programs: Preparedness

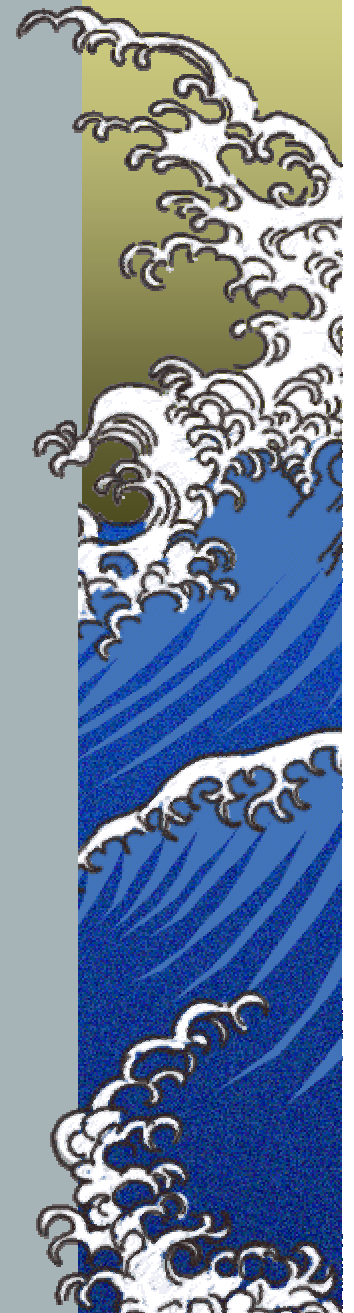
▲ *Classic Elements*

- ▲ *Training*
- ▲ *Plans*
- ▲ *Agreements*
- ▲ *Exercises*

▲ *Other critical elements*

- ✓ *Form good working relationships,*
- ✓ *Management Involvement*
 - ▲ *Organizational priorities*
 - ▲ *Resources*
 - ▲ *Be ready to sell the program!*
- ✓ *Be Knowledgeable*
- ✓ *Practice,*
- ✓ *Practice,*
- ✓ *Practice.*

Bottom line: This is where success is ensured



Emergency Management Programs: Response

▲ *Response priorities*

- ▲ *Save lives,*
- ▲ *Minimize/treat injuries,*
- ▲ *Protect property*

▲ *Strategies*

- ▲ *Effective emergency response plans*
- ▲ *Timely protective action decisions,*
- ▲ *Decentralized default execution until centralized management is established,*

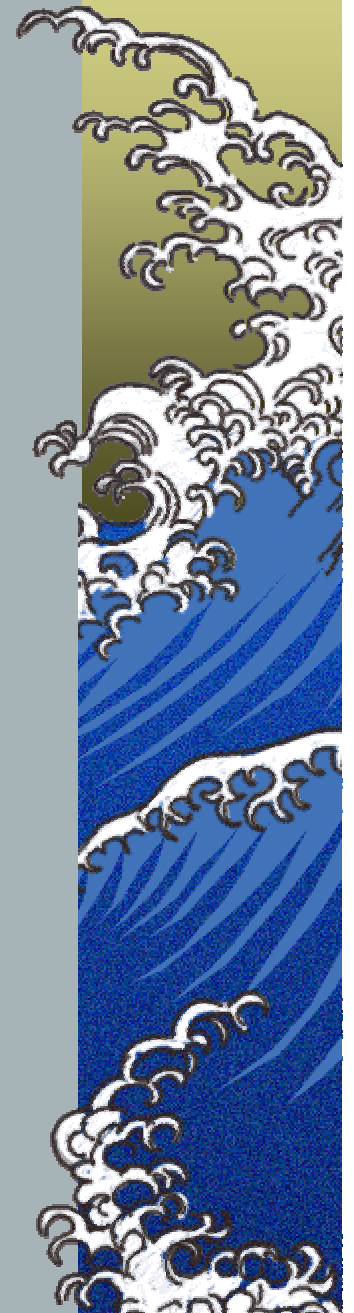
All emergencies are local. All response is limited and short of resources in a disaster. What happens when the phones do not work? No firefighters or ambulances arrive? Lights and sirens are busy elsewhere

and they do not respond?



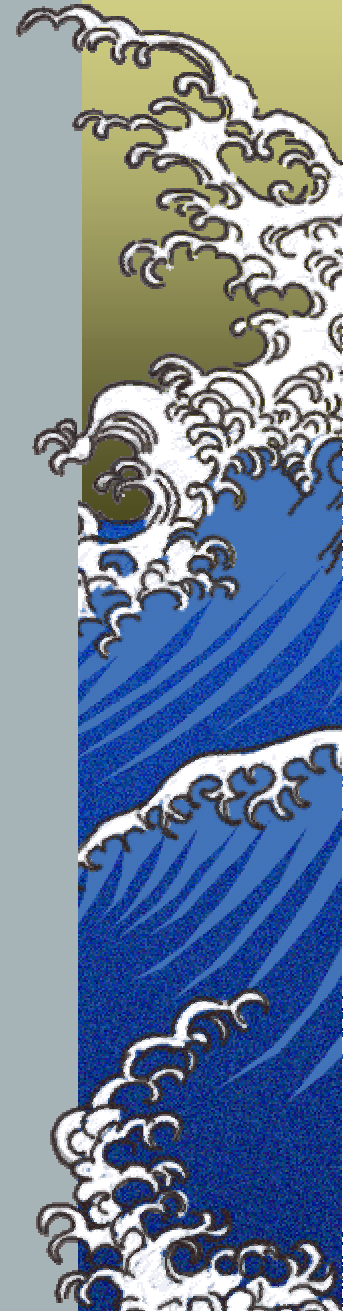
Disaster Management Programs: How Does Your Plan Stack Up

- ▶ *Do you Have an Emergency Response Plan? Safety Plans and Disaster Response Plans are related but not the same thing!*
- ▶ *Is it simple and easy to understand?*
- ▶ *Is everyone familiar with the plan?*
 - ✓ *How do you know?*
- ✓ *Will the plan work?*
 - ✓ *How do you know?*
- ▶ *Considerations:*
 - ✓ *Alert and Warning*
 - ✓ *Pre-designated and trained response teams*
 - ✓ *Proper equipment*



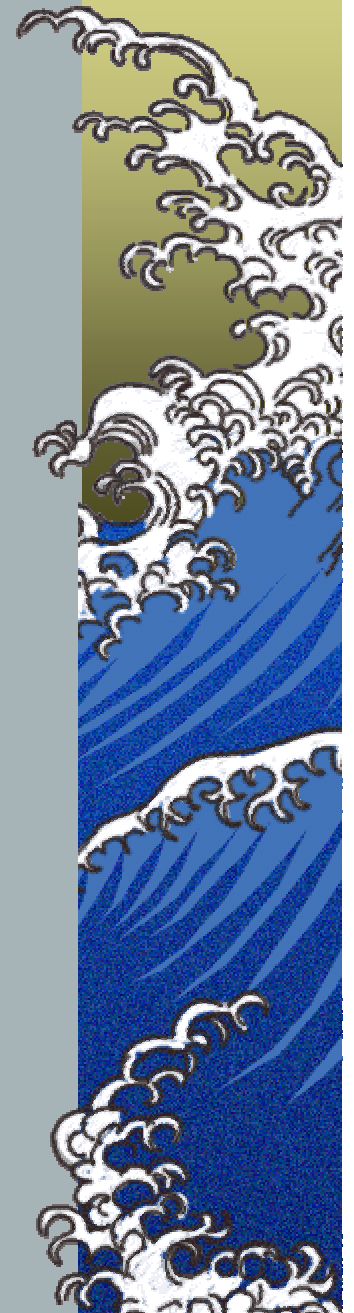
...More Considerations

- ✓ Default Actions
- ✓ Never overestimate your capabilities
- ✓ What if the power goes out?
 - ✓ Where is the master cutoff switch?
 - ✓ Backup warning systems?
- ✓ What if there is no water?
- ✓ Gas leaks?



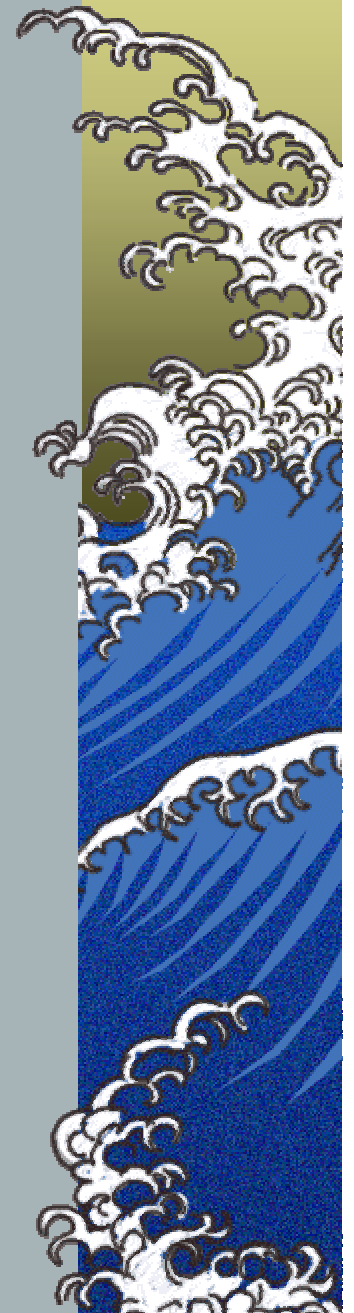
Emergency Management Programs: Mitigation

- ▶ *Mitigation is the process of reducing the impact of adverse events that cannot be prevented.*
- ▶ *Strategies:*
 - ▶ *Building codes*
 - ▶ *NFPA standards*
 - ▶ *Land use policies*
 - ▶ *Hardening of lifeline utility systems (Water, power, communications, medical care, etc.)*
 - ✓ *Creating disaster-resistant facilities,*
 - ✓ *Effective documentation and use of lessons learned*



Summary

- ✓ *Emergency Management is the process of regaining control over a situation,*
- ✓ *It is a continuous ongoing cycle*
- ✓ *The most overlooked resource/force multiplier is an educated involved employee*
- ✓ *We operate in an environment of limited resources and must be good stewards*
- ✓ *An effective program requires executive support. As professional safety managers, we must gain it and keep it.*



Thank you for your attention.

What are your questions?

