Adapting to Weather Extremes: Challenges and Opportunities for Emergency Management

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Iowa Disasters

- Since 2008, 14 Presidential Disaster Declarations
- Every county covered by one
- Some counties with six
- Currently managing 14 disasters
- $2.3 billion in total disaster recovery funds
Five-Year Average Disaster Funding
Total Disasters Managed by Year 1990-2013
Impact on Emergency Management

- Increased awareness that all disasters are local
  - Need for immediate resources for response
  - Pre-positioning pumps and generators
- Need for trained and ready staff to carry out disaster recovery activities
- Need for increased mitigation measures
  - Hardening infrastructure, acquiring property from known flood zones, and constructing tornado safe rooms
Minimizing Impact and Increasing Resiliency

- Pre-position assets for local emergency management
- Maintain core of workers for Public Assistance Program
- Increase hazard mitigation efforts
  - Strengthen rural electrical systems
  - Property buyouts
  - Tornado safe rooms
Pre-positioned Generators (17)
Pre-positioned Pumps (31)
Maintain Core Public Assistance Capability

- 2008: build PA staff from scratch
- Record disasters necessitate a trained and ready staff
- Be prepared for future disasters
Hazard Mitigation Projects

- Since 2007: $501 million invested in hazard mitigation
- $200 million to harden 3,000 miles of REC power lines
- More than 900 properties removed from flood hazard areas
  - 2013 flooding = avoided $38.4 million damage
- $52 million invested in 70 tornado safe rooms, 39 in schools
Policy Changes

▪ Flood Mitigation Board: $600 million over 20 years
▪ 12/4/13: $390.2 million awarded
▪ More applications next year
▪ Make flooding thing of past
Flood Mitigation Board approved projects

- Cedar Rapids: $263,773,493
- Coralville: $9,769,000
- Dubuque: $98,494,178
- Iowa City: $8,497,249
- Storm Lake: $4,083,060
- Waverly: $5,647,004
Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department

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