



Freight Issues In Disaster Response

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Agenda

- Background
 - Asset Tracking
 - Security
 - Regulations/Waivers
 - Identification
 - Delays
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Background

- ESF-1 under the NRP is responsible for providing transportation
 - Other ESFs have their own transportation
 - We have moved approximately 16,000 truckloads in response to Hurricane Katrina
 - Sources have been all over the nation
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Asset Tracking

- ❑ Often requests are made under dire conditions
 - ❑ Storage space is scarce in a disaster zone
 - ❑ DHS is interested in a “just in time” logistics concept
 - ❑ Knowing where every asset is becomes critical
 - ❑ Loads may be “redirected” or may need to use alternate routes due to damage/debris/fuel issues
 - ❑ That capability may need to operate without landline/cellular communication
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Security

- ❑ Localized lawlessness does occur in disaster zones
 - ❑ Local authorities may “appropriate”
 - ❑ Security applies to the operator, the power unit, the trailer, the load, and the staging area
 - ❑ Security is an issue en route and at destination
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Regulations

- Regulation comes from multiple levels
 - Federal
 - State/Local
 - Often operators are scarce, so extended hours may be appropriate
 - Often overloads are appropriate
 - Use of untaxed fuel may be necessary
 - Access to waivers is key
 - Waivers may be needed far outside the disaster zone
 - The Katrina waiver period is much longer than previously experienced; waivers must be maintained
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Identification

- ❑ Disaster response loads should receive appropriate treatment
 - ❑ Many private sector haulers get involved
 - ❑ Sometimes multiple levels of contracting occur
 - ❑ During Katrina, a “FEMA letter” was provided to verify the mission
 - ❑ A separate letter was provided to certify access to scarce fuel supplies
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Delays

- ❑ Disaster logistics is an inexact science
 - ❑ Politics may outweigh expertise, resulting in complications and challenges
 - ❑ Delays may result from processing time
 - ❑ Delays may result from labor shortages
 - ❑ Delays may result from routing problems
 - ❑ Delays may result from lack of communication of key issues or information
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Conclusions

- Disaster response is:
 - Somewhat like regular hauling
 - Somewhat unlike regular hauling
 - Flexibility is key
 - Understanding the process is essential
 - Communication makes it much easier to do
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