All Hazards Consortium Webinar Series

Understanding Mutual Assistance for Investor-Owned Utilities

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Welcome

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Understanding Mutual Assistance for Investor-Owned Utilities
Understanding Mutual Assistance for Investor-Owned Utilities

- Why a Regional Approach?
- What are Regional Mutual Assistance Groups?
- How do they prepare for an event?
- How do they share resources?
An independent (non-regional) approach can result in impacted utilities competing for the same limited pool of resources.

A cooperative, regional approach for requesting and providing mutual assistance provides a means to identify and mobilize resources in an entire geographical region in the shortest period of time.

Over the past 60 years, electric utilities have formed various Regional Mutual Assistance Groups (RMAGs).

Each RMAG uses Edison Electric Institute’s (EEI) Governing Principles or have developed their own using EEI’s Principles as their foundation.
Member Companies – Preparation

- Annually determine resource availability
  - Determine base of resources that could be available provided there are no other internal needs
  - Manpower & equipment
  - Determine if company is willing to be self-sufficient, and if so, make necessary contracts and arrangements

- Deployment strategy

- Education of employees

- Monitor weather across US – alerting leadership of potential weather events in case of request for assistance
Pre-Impact

- Conference calls
- Share weather
- Damage estimates
- Initial resource requirements
- Identification of resource pool
- Declarations – DOT waivers – public evacuations – etc.

Track Established – How Many Companies Expect Damage?

- Companies requesting help conference call - agree on which resources go where
- No release of crews prior to agreement by requesting companies

Mobilization

- Requesting Companies work directly with assigned Responding Companies
- Interim staging for deployment (as necessary)
Impact

- Conference calls
- Damage estimate
- Initial resource requirements (establish needs)
- Identification of resource pool

- Companies requesting help stay on conference call - agree on which resources go where
- No release of crews prior to agreement by Requesting Companies

- Interim staging for deployment (as necessary)
- Companies in need work directly with assigned supporting companies
- Decisions are usually final and resources deployed
Event Levels

- Level 1 – **Local Area** (resources come from within your company including sister companies)
- Level 2 – **Local Region** (resources come from 1 RMAG and potentially neighboring utilities)
- Level 3 – **Regional** (resources come from more than one RMAG)
- Level 4 – **National Response Event (NRE)** (impacts a significant population and requires resources from multiple RMAGs or sources)
Logistics - Food

- Utilities have established relationships with local restaurants that are able to supply food for small events.

- During larger events that cover multiple days and require large number of external resources, it becomes difficult to support utilities’ efforts. Therefore, utilities must reach out to logistic vendors.
Logistics - Lodging

- **Hotels**
  - Preferred lodging
  - Several vendors will locate hotels and reserve them for minimal cost

- **Bunk Trailers**
  - Sleep from as little as 12 employees up to 42 and some have restroom facilities that include showers

- **Large halls (fairgrounds, civic centers, etc.)**
  - Vendors can supply cots with bedding

- **Tents**
  - Sleep 200 to 1,000 employees
  - Can be heated or cooled
Logistics – Staging Sites

- Secured by the utility prior to the event
- Many vendors can provide turnkey staging sites
  - Complete set-up
  - Management of site
  - Required transportation (if employees stay off-site)
  - Security
  - Command centers
  - Fueling
  - Catering
  - Lodging, etc.
Re-Deployment

- Conference calls
- Release schedules
- Identification of resource pool being released
- Agreement on assignment of releasing resources

Crew Change-Out And Continue Working
(After 10 days – two weeks)
Summary

Over the years, the need to move resources within RMAGs, to neighboring RMAGs and across the US has been necessary and will remain a critical part of any utility’s restoration effort.

This will require continued effort by all RMAG members. Requiring a tremendous amount of pre-planning to make sure we can safely and efficiently provide service restoration during all types of events.
Understanding Mutual Assistance for Investor Owned Utilities

Q&A
Thank you for attending!

For more information visit www.ahcusa.org

YouTube Channel: ahcusa