



College of Medicine

Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine
Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System

4800 S.W 35th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608
Tel: (352) 265-0680 x 72047
Fax: (352) 265-9904

September 30, 2005

TO: Robert A. Smith, Ph.D.
Director Emergency Operations
Florida Department of Health

FROM: Kelly H. Lonesk, MBA
FEMORS Administrative Chief

SUBJECT: After Action Report – Hurricane Katrina, August 26-September 1, 2005, Mission # 723

Executive Summary

This was the sixth alert of FEMORS since its inception in June 2002. FEMORS was able to determine its response capability within a few hours, provide pre-storm advice to medical examiners in the path of Katrina and stand down its members when significant fatalities did not materialize.

- FEMORS placed the team on alert at 10:30 am on Friday, August 26, 2005 with Katrina then passing by the Florida Keys and aimed at hitting the Florida panhandle on Monday, August 29, 2005 or Tuesday August 30, 2005. This was done in advance of being put on official stand-by from the Department of Health.
- FEMORS provided pre-storm contact information to the medical examiner district in Katrina's path on Friday, August 26, 2005, suggesting pre-storm contact with the local EOC and methods to request assistance if the need arose.
- FEMORS developed a Ready List of 57 team members who would be able to respond (assuming they were not impacted by Katrina's path).
- By Sunday, August 28, 2005 Katrina had turned west and was expected to hit Louisiana.
- DMORT was activated on Sunday, August 28, 2005 at 1:00 pm.
- Katrina made landfall on the morning of Monday, August 29, 2005 in Grand Isle, LA.
- FEMORS was asked by ESF8 on Tuesday, August 30, 2005 at 2:00 pm to assemble a small Ready List of team members for possible out-of-state deployment.
- FEMORS developed a Ready List of 74 team members who would be able to respond out-of-state.
- FEMORS was not activated and advised to stand down for Katrina on Thursday, September 1, 2005 at 10:00 am.
- Approximately 25 labor hours were expended in this alert.
- Note: FEMORS Commander Larry Bedore was deployed to Gulfport, MS by FEMA as Planning Chief for the DMORT East (Mississippi) temporary morgue operations center.

Lessons Learned

- Pre-storm medical examiner contact should be done within one business day, well in advance of the storm. FEMORS Commander and/or Program Director should obtain all necessary contact information.
- Redundant coverage of command positions in FEMORS proved valuable with Commander Bedore’s deployment under DMORT to Mississippi.
- With many FEMORS members deployed to DMORT’s temporary morgues, FEMORS was able to muster redundant coverage for Florida for ensuing events or storms.
- Occasions of this magnitude (multiple, simultaneous DMORT operations) may result in requests for mutual aid support by state teams to the DMORT system in the future. For example, Ohio’s portable morgue was sent to Louisiana to supplement the DMORT New Orleans DPMU set-up for temporary morgue operations, if needed.

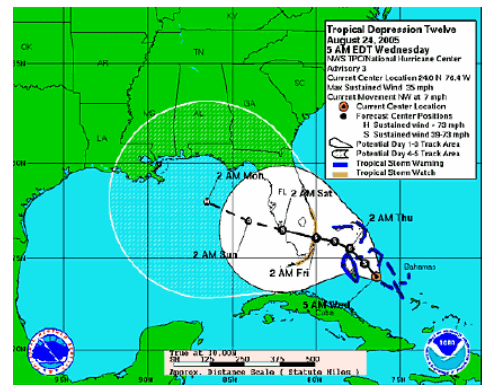
Event Time Line

August 24, 2005, Wednesday

9:00 am Received Flash Report #1 from State advising of Tropical Storm Katrina.

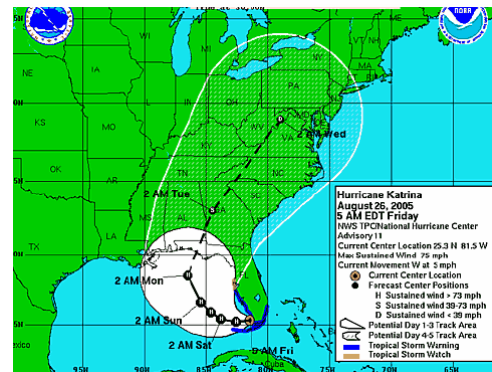
August 25, 2005, Thursday

1:40 pm SitRep #1 issued.
 2:10 pm Medical Examiner Commission (MEC) issued State of Emergency reporting message due to Governor’s Executive order EO #05-176.
 5:30 pm SitRep 1 forwarded to FEMORS team.



August 26, 2005, Friday

9:00 am Program Director Goldberger contacted targeted Medical Examiner (District 1, Dr. Minyard).
 10:00 am SitRep 3 received.
 10:30 am All FEMORS members alerted and requested to reply if able to respond by Commander Bedore.
 11:59 pm Replies from 32 members ready to respond.



August 27, 2005, Saturday

8:50 am SitRep 5 indicates movement to west then north by-passing the Panhandle



August 28, 2005, Sunday

Katrina had turned west and was expected to hit Louisiana.

- 1:00 pm DMORT activated its Strike Team including Commander Bedore for pre-staging in Anniston, Alabama. Dr. Goldberger assumed command of FEMORS.
- 11:59 pm Replies from 55 members ready to respond.

August 29, 2005, Monday

- 8:00 am Katrina made landfall in Grand Isle, LA.
- 11:59 pm Replies from 56 members ready to respond.

August 30, 2005, Tuesday

- 12:00 pm Replies from 57 members ready to respond.
- 2:00 pm ESF8 contacted Program Director Goldberger about a request from the State of Mississippi for assistance from FEMORS. FEMORS was asked by ESF8 to assemble a small Ready List of team members for possible out-of-state deployment. Program Director Goldberger contacted Commander Bedore who was meeting with the Mississippi Department of Health as a member of DMORT. Commander Bedore met with local officials and determined FEMORS assistance had not been requested officially but such a request might arise if the DMORT system became overtaxed. FEMORS team would remain in place to provide coverage for Florida as the next tropical storm was already brewing.
- 2:15 pm Admin Chief Lonesk sent an email to all Go-Team members about possible deployment to MS.
- 3:30 pm All FEMORS members requested to reply if able to respond out-of-state by Admin Chief Lonesk.
- 11:59 pm FEMORS developed a Ready List of 74 team members who would be able to respond out-of-state.

September 1, 2005, Thursday

- 10:00 am Mike MacDonald contacted Program Director Goldberger and advised FEMORS to stand-down.
- 10:30 am Admin Chief Lonesk sent email to all FEMORS members regarding stand down for Katrina. A total of 74 members were on stand-by.