County of Los Angeles Public Health

Los Angeles County Operational Area

County of Los Angeles Office of Emergency Management

County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office

2015 Medical Countermeasures Exercise Series

Operational Area Policy Group Tabletop Exercise

Supported by CPARS Consulting LLC

November 12, 2015

OPENING REMARKS

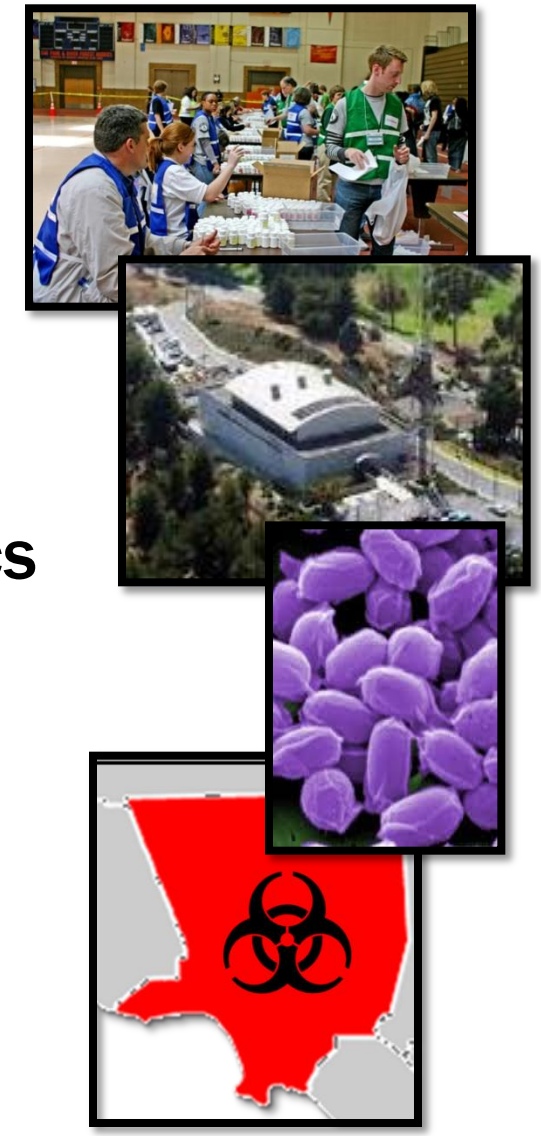
INTRODUCTIONS

Housekeeping

- Restrooms
- Emergency Exits
- Parking Validation
- Communications devices on silent/vibrate
  - Please take unrelated conversations outside
- Documentation
  - Participant Manual
  - Feedback Form

Exercise Purpose

- Familiarize members with the Policy Group's concept of operations
  - Emergency Management Council (EMC)
  - Operational Area Coordinating Group (OACG)
- Understand the unique characteristics of a public health emergency
- Rehearse Policy Group functionality
  - Briefings and policy requests
  - Policy analysis and negotiations
  - Decision-making and implementation



Agenda

Time	Activity
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and Overview
09:15 – 10:00	Policy Group Orientation Purpose and Functionality Public Health Emergencies OA Relationships
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:45	Policy Group Practical Application Briefings and Requests Decision-Making & Implementation
11:45 – 12:00	Closing Activities Ongoing Engagement Participant Feedback

Rules & Assumptions

- Initial Exposure to Policy Group Concept
  - No “hidden agendas” or trick questions
  - Ask questions/seek clarification
  - Be candid and forthright
- Explore multiple options and solutions
  - Differing viewpoints expected
  - Decisions do not set a precedent
  - Issues may not be fully resolved

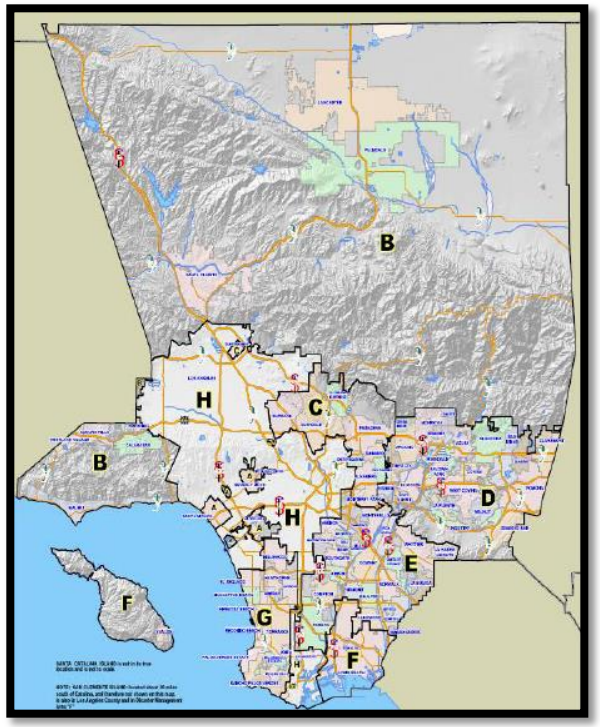
Rules & Assumptions (Cont.)

- Assume the scenario is plausible
- Focus on strategic, cross-jurisdictional policy
  - Avoid the temptation to get tactical
  - Focus on the greater good rather than individual jurisdictions/organizations
- Provide input on demonstrated strengths or areas needing improvement

POLICY GROUP ORIENTATION

Operational Area

- OA is defined as a single county and all political subdivisions within the county
  - Cities
  - Special Districts
  - Unincorporated areas
  - County government
- For coordination of emergency activities, information and resources within the County
  - Process Facilitated by County EOC



Policy Group Members
1) Emergency Management Council

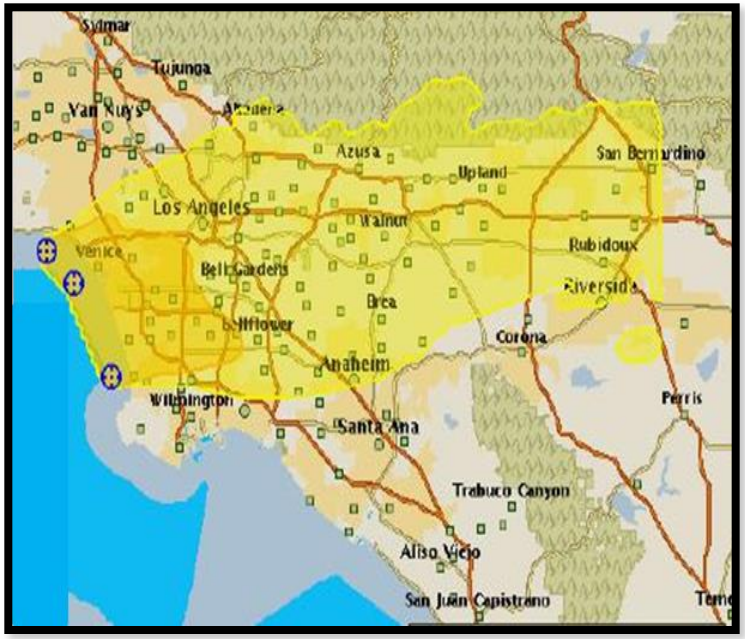
1. Chief Executive Officer (Chair)*
2. Sheriff (Vice-chair)*
3. Fire Chief*
4. Director, Public Works*
5. Director, Health Services*
6. Director, Internal Services *
7. Director, Public Social Services*
8. Director, Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner
9. Director, Mental Health*
10. Director, Animal Care & Control
11. County Superintendent of Schools
12. County Counsel
13. Chief Probation Officer
14. Director, Children and Family Services
15. Director, Office of Emergency Management
16. Director, Office of Public Affairs
17. American Red Cross – LA Region

Other members as appropriate

18. Director, Human Resources
19. Director, Child Support Services
20. Director, Beaches & Harbors

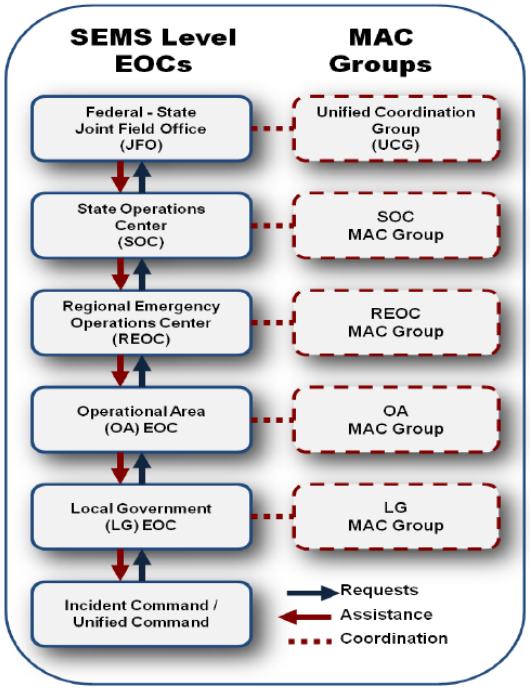
Policy Group Members
2) Operational Area Coordination Group

- Jurisdictions with responsibility/authority to abate the emergency situation
- OA representatives responsible for overseeing emergency management activities
- Dictated by the emergency situation
- Representatives with authority to commit resources and funds



Decision Making

- Establish <u>consensus</u> that addresses:
  - The concerns of all group members
  - Without compromising statutory authorities



- Consensus does not imply the agreed-upon decision is every member's first choice, but the best decision that <u>all members can support</u> and <u>collectively serves the emergency management process</u>

Responsibilities

- Forum to resolve strategic and operational issues within the County and its political subdivisions
  - Critical resource acquisition and allocation
  - Incident priorities
  - Interagency activities

Responsibilities (Cont.)

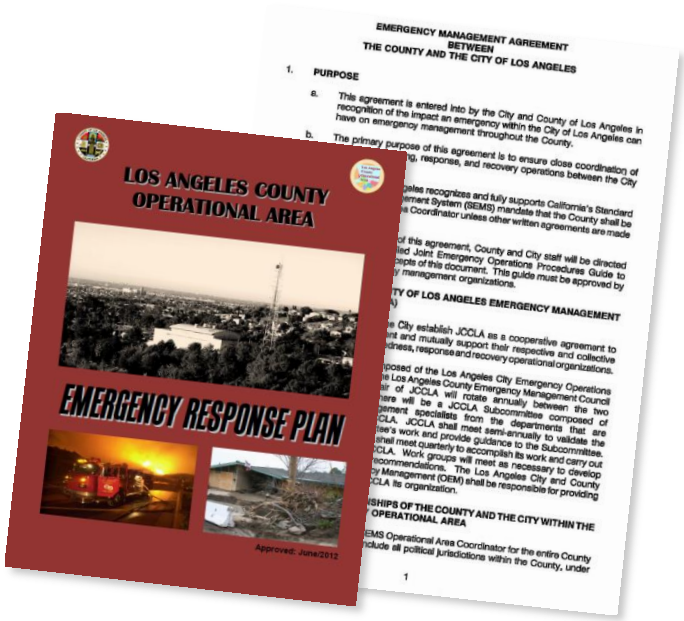
- Harmonize agency/jurisdiction policies
  - Review/de-conflict existing policies
  - Establish new emergency policies
- Offer guidance and direction to OA Members
- Make requests to the State on behalf of OA

Implementing Policy

- OAEOC/CEOC
  - Disseminates policy information via:
    - Direct communication with County DOCs and political subdivision EOCs
    - Agency representatives and liaisons
    - Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs)
    - Operational Area Response and Recovery System (OARRS)
    - LASD Disaster Communications Service (DCS)
  - Receives feedback on policies, recommendations, and requests from OA Members
- County DOCs and Political Subdivisions
  - Determine the <u>tactical strategies</u>
  - Apply necessary resources
  - Adapt, modify, and de-conflict local policies with OA policy

OA Policy Group Authorization

- Organization established in multiple documents
  - County Code 2.68
  - OA Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
  - Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)
    - Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) Plan
- Precedent document
  - Joint City/County of Los Angeles Memorandum of Understanding



AUTHORITIES RELATIVE TO THIS SCENARIO

Proclamations

- Emergency proclamations (of any type) allow government to:
  - Restrict
  - Waive
  - Exceed limits
  - Apply limits
  - Expedite processes

- For only a limited time, with restriction, and usually require documented justification

Local Health Emergency

- Authority
  - California Health and Safety Code
- Scope
  - Declared by Local Health Officer
    1. Threat of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, non-communicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent
    2. Release or escape of hazardous or medical waste that threatens public health

Health Declaration Authorizes

- Health Officer (HO) to:
  - Order isolation
  - Require first responders to execute orders
  - Compel the submission of technical information (release only)
  - Study and share technical data

- Activation of State and local mutual aid*
- Liability protection for medical personnel*

*Same as other emergency declarations

Potential HHS Health Emergency

- Conduct/support investigations into the cause, treatment, or prevention of health threats
- Make grants, execute contracts, and access the Public Health Emergency Fund
- Adjust reimbursement and grant requirements
- Appoint or reassign personnel
- Waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and HIPAA requirements
  - Presidential declaration required

Local State of Emergency

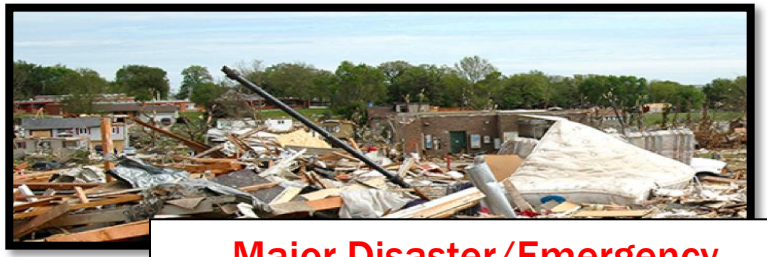
- Authority
  - California Emergency Services Act
- Scope
  - Declared by governing body of political subdivision or State
    - Disaster or extreme peril caused by…air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake…or other conditions…

Emergency Declaration Authorizes

- Promulgation of orders and regulations to protect life and property, preserve public order and safety
  - Emergency powers
  - Legal flexibilities
- Control and direct jurisdiction resources and personnel
- Liability protection
- Requisition of necessary personnel or materials
- Activation of State and local mutual aid

Health Officer Authorities in a State of Emergency

- Take <u>any preventive measure</u> that may be necessary to protect and preserve the public health from any public health hazard
  - "Preventive measure" means abatement, correction, removal, or any other protective step
- Certify the existence of a public health hazard if certification is required for any federal or state disaster relief program



Major Disaster/Emergency declarations with debris operations require a local PH threat certification for reimbursement of government work on private property

Potential Federal Declaration Precedent for Health Emergency (H1N1)

- Under these conditions:
  - State emergency plan implemented
  - Incidence higher than the State's seasonal average
  - Beyond the capability of State and local governments
  - Specific resource requests are made

- Limited to:
  - Public Assistance Emergency Protective Measures
  - Direct Federal Assistance (DFA)

Of the 17 declared PHEs since 2005, 16 were also presidential declarations. The 2009 H1N1 outbreak was the only stand alone PHE.

BREAK

POLICY GROUP PRACTICAL APPLICATION

COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER BRIEFING

CEOC DIRECTOR BRIEFING

COUNTY PIO BRIEFING

Policy Consideration

Emergency Proclamations

Which proclamation (State of Emergency) and/or declaration (Health Emergency) is appropriate for this incident?

Policy Consideration
Resource Prioritization

Situation

- Absenteeism rates as high as 50%
  - Including Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) assigned to distribution and dispensing
  - Civil servants and first responders requesting advance prophylaxis
  - Concerns about disabilities, access, and functional needs
- Nearly 25% of all PODs may be unable to open

Policy Consideration

- Should medication be provided to civil servants (or others) before the general public?
  - Everyone or categories?
  - What is the priority?
  - Does that include their families?
  - Accommodations for disabilities?
- If multiple PODs cannot open, what strategy should be employed?

Policy Consideration
Public Recommendations

Situation

- Cities, special districts, private industry, and county departments seeking guidance on whether to suspend/ cancel operations/ activities
  - Schools cancel instruction?
  - Cancel large capacity events (e.g., sporting events, conventions)?
  - Businesses to close?

Policy Consideration

- What are the Policy Group's recommendations?
  - What are the pros and cons of allowing day-to-day activities to continue?
  - What are the pros and cons of cancelling?
- What timeframe should apply and what are the triggers for re-starting?
- What about non-compliant jurisdictions?
- How are those communicated?

Policy Consideration
Common Public Messaging

Situation

- THE top story around the world
- Widespread discrepancies and misunderstanding
- Significant levels of fear
- Lack of trust in gov't/ conspiracy theories
- Public Reactions
  - Violent aggression to complete isolation
  - Raiding pharmacies, hospitals
  - Attacking trucks
  - Congregating at potential PODs
  - Individuals with disabilities feeling unsupported

Policy Consideration

- What are the Policy Group's primary messages related to:
  - Health
  - Safety
  - Reassurance/confidence in government
  - Law enforcement
  - Message for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs

Policy Consideration
Waiving Rules/Delegations

Situation

- Traffic control policies require advance traffic plan approval, permitting, and 48 hour notification for rerouting, traffic diversions, temporary no parking, etc.
- Many PODs have traffic management concerns
- Request to waive requirements and delegate authority to site managers

Policy Consideration

- Should across-the-board traffic policies be waived?
  - Are there any exceptions/ guidelines?
- Any liability concerns?
- What is the process for waiving regulations?
- Should on-site personnel be delegated authority?
  - Pros and cons?
  - How can coordination be assured?
- Expiration date?

Policy Consideration
Waiving Regulations (Cont.)

Situation

- Emergency services and EMS overwhelmed
- Resources operating beyond capacity and response times quadrupled
- County Policy 808.1 "Base Hospital Contact and Transport Criteria" mandates in-person contact and transport for certain issues
- Request to waive the current policy

Policy Consideration

- Should 808.1 be suspended?
  - Entire policy or only certain aspects thereof?
- What are the pros and cons of waiving this regulation?
- When should the waiver expire or be reviewed?
- What are the liability concerns?
- What is the process for waiving?

Policy Consideration
Requesting State Authority

Situation

- Governor can request all drugs and medical supply stocks intended for wholesale to be held subject to CA Dept. of Health Services
- LACOA request to divert wholesale supplies of Cipro and Doxy to the Regional Distribution Site (RDS) for integration into the mass prophylaxis campaign

Policy Consideration

- Should the Policy Group submit a formal request to the Governor?
- What are the pros and cons of potentially redirecting resources or taking no action on the topic?
- What is the process to make a formal request?

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Ongoing Engagement

Exercise series continues November 16th – 20th

- As if a real event, how would the Policy Group like to remain engaged?
  - Means?
  - Frequency?
  - Content/essential information?
  - Participation?

Exercise Debriefing

- Strengths demonstrated during the exercise?
- What can be improved upon?
  - Involvement
  - Plans, policies, procedures
  - Training
  - Communication and coordination
- Recommendations for next steps and continued evolution of the Policy Group?

Please complete and submit a Feedback Form

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Thank You for Participating!

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