



**Hurricane Irene Activations in FEMA Region IV
August 24-29, 2011
Emergency Support Function 11 After Action Report**



Summary

The ESF11 Coordinator was activated to the FEMA Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) from August 24-29, 2011 in response to Hurricane Irene and possible impacts on FEMA Region IV states on the Atlantic coast. This activation was initially under a North Carolina SU Mission Assignment (MA) and subsequently a North Carolina EM MA. North Carolina was heavily impacted by Hurricane Irene, suffering extensive agricultural damage.

What Went Well

USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Southeast Regional Office (SERO) provided exceptional and responsive support, as always. In addition to providing RRCC desk officer staffing, FNS provided USDA Inventories and quickly responded to inquiries from North Carolina and FEMA. FNS has well established partnerships which ensured proactive support to North Carolina and FEMA.

Georgia APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine and Veterinary Services volunteered to assist with ESF11 RRCC staffing.

The availability, responsiveness and support of both the Eastern Region ESF11 Program Manager and the ESF11 National Coordinator during this activation which also included three other FEMA regions were very helpful in addressing issues and requests for information.

Challenges/Areas for Improvement

After demobilization at 12 noon on the 29th, we received a request at 7:30 PM that evening from the FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) to NC that ESF11 provide staffing to the FEMA IMAT in NC first thing the following morning. After extensive discussions it was agreed that the FCO's needs could be met by the NC USDA FSA office in Raleigh.

In NC there was significant political interest in the federal support to the impacted agricultural communities and a perceived deficiency in USDA response as noted on a NICCL call. This issue was cited by our USDA representative on the call and corrective communications initiated but this action was not communicated to ESF11. Reporting and information flow should not only be one way (Daily ESF11 Report, etc.) but also information should flow down to the ESF11 Coordinators also.

There was a request from the RRCC to provide points of contact for NC USDA Rural Housing over the weekend. This process was very time consuming and needs to be better defined, as this contact information could have been made available to FEMA proactively. The evolving role for the USDA State Emergency Board (SEB) as outlined in the USDA Department Manual 1800 needs to be refined, understood and exercised.