



Japan Earthquake & Pacific Wide
Tsunami
March 11, 2011
ESF 11 After Action Report (AAR)



Incident Summary

FEMA RIX Watch Center sent an e-mail reporting that an 8.9 earthquake occurred off the NE coast of Honshu, Japan (~231 miles NE of Tokyo) at **2246 PST (10MAR11)**. At **0100 PST (11MAR11)**, the Watch Center distributed an e-mail to the RIX ESFs stating that a Tsunami Warning had been issued (NOAA) for the Pacific and that the RRCC was activated. The FEMA RIX Watch Center also left a voice mail at **0230 PST** that the RRCC was activated. At **0530 PST**, received a call from REPM to confirm activation, as the NC was activated/deployed to the NRCC. Contacted FEMA RRCC at **0600 PST** and waited for confirmation of ESF11 activation, which was received at **0615 PST**. Participated in the Shift Change Briefing (**0700 PST**) via telecom and reported to the RIX RRCC at **0930 PST**.

- 1) Submitted RRW to ROSS and REPM at **0630 PST** and notified partner agencies/department (FNS, FSIS, DOI) upon arrival at RRCC
- 2) **0830 PST** – Tsunami reported (waves from 3-6 feet) to hit CA coast with the hardest hit areas of Crescent City and Santa Cruz.
- 3) **1000 PST** - Submitted ESF11 SitRep update to Planning Section Chief. Also, coordinated with ESF11 Coordinator in FEMA RIX, (John Grendon) to establish a joint ESF11/REPM/NC/Partner Agency Coordination Call at 1400 PST. Submitted FEMA SitRep to all RIX Agency Contacts. **1200 PST** – Telecom with FNS to re-confirm if food commodity requests (none received, but in contact with their partners) received by State agencies.
- 4) **1400 PST** – ESF11 Coordinator Conference Call with REPM, NC, and partner agencies did not indicate any ESF11 requests from the States/Territories/FEMA, due to the minimal impacts from the tsunami.
- 5) **1500 PST** – Tsunami Warning downgraded to a Tsunami Advisory for the CA coast and the RRCC Director released all ESFs, except ESFs 3, 6, 10, and DCE for ongoing missions. Received Mission Assignment (**#7220-SU-MP-APHIS-02**) before departing RRCC. ESF11 Daily Report submitted at COB.

Lessons Learned

- 1) **Successful** - FNS partner in FEMA RIX (SF Office) provided current food commodity information in the event of a request from State/Territory partners with an “acting Director” of Emergency Operations.
- 2) **Successful** – The coordination with REPM on emergency notification successfully utilized “back-up” comm. of office landline when BB did not receive a response.
- 3) **Successful** – “Pre-scripted RRW, template documents (e.g., Daily Report, 214, Log Sheet), and Air card operation all contributed to a seamless activation, set-up, and function at the RRCC.
- 4) **Improvement Area** – Verification that BB is operational and within hearing range at all times would reduce any potential delays in deployment.
- 5) **Improvement Area** – Confirming office land line is listed as a “back-up” communication method for FEMA Watch Center and APHIS staff would provide a verification tool for contact.
- 6) **Improvement Area** – Creating a series of e-mail distribution lists at the RRCC to include one for each State as well as “regions” (e.g., Pacific area contacts) would expedite communication during the first 24-72 hours.