



**Hurricane Irene Activations  
FEMA Region II  
August 26-29, 2011  
ESF 11 After Action Report (AAR)**



### **Summary**

The ESF11 Coordinator was activated (via SU and then EM Mission Assignments) to staff the ESF11 Desk in the Regional Response Coordination Center in FEMA Region 2 (FR2) from August 26-29 2011 for Hurricane Irene. Prior to this and starting on Aug 19 2011, the ESF11 Coordinator was monitoring Tropical Storm (TS) Irene and its potential impact on Puerto Rico and the USVI. Additionally, the ESF11 Coordinator stayed engaged to monitor and support the response and recovery activities in the impacted states (NY and NJ) from Hurricane Irene and the remnants of TS Lee. After demobilization from the RRCC on Aug 29 2011, the ESF11 Coordinator was asked to support the NY Ag and Markets and the NY JFO FCO through a DR Mission Assignment (MA). Initial discussions determined that support could be done by reach back, however after numerous subsequent discussions a MA was issued to allow for travel to provide support to NY Ag and Markets, the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), the Debris Task Force and to discuss ESF11 support and from USDA agencies outside ESF11.

### **What Went Well**

- Disaster Feeding: Excellent support from FNS in obtaining inventories. Excellent collaboration and support from FNS MARO in obtaining USDA Foods with the NJ State Distributing Agency and FR2 ESF11, for the NJ Food Bank to prepare meals for the Salvation Army to provide disaster feeding in NJ. This was the first time USDA Foods from the warehouses were utilized in NJ for disaster feeding. Accolades from this endeavor were received from the NJ Department of Human Services Commissioner and from the NJ Department of Agriculture.
- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance: Collaborated with FNS MARO and the State in obtaining DSNAP for all 21 counties in NJ- another first for NJ- and collaborating on information for automatic SNAP supplements and replacements.
- Education: Was able to educate the NY FCO and Deputy FCO on ESF11 roles and responsibilities and the other non-ESF11 USDA agencies and they were much appreciative, especially for being that liaison to obtain support from the other USDA non-ESF11 agencies.

### **Challenges/Areas for Improvement**

- IT: Need 24/7 IT monitoring and support to address IT issues because disasters and notifications happen all the time. Blackberries and computers were not able to receive emails from external sources August 20-22 2011 when Irene was impacting Puerto Rico/USVI. ATAC support does not include the hours after 8pm daily or on the weekends.
- Travel authorization: Need a pre-scripted approved travel authorization to travel and hotel upon FEMA activation. Need it to be automatically implemented, instead of having the ESF11 Coordinator develop one in GovTrip and having to commute back and forth before its approval. Need to have reserved accounting codes for disasters, especially during hurricane season, which are already populated in the ESF11 Coordinator's drop down box.
- Animal Care: Need consistency in their messaging and to match their capabilities, which should match their established roles and responsibilities and follow the National Incident Management System/ICS. Consistent with NIMS, headquarters level should not reach down to the state/local levels.