

LEPC CHRONICLE

White House Innovation Day Highlights Disaster Response, Recovery

Emergency managers converged with the tech community to discuss tools that can create more resilient communities.

Elaine Pittman | July 29, 2014

Emergency managers converged with the tech community in Washington, D.C., to discuss tools that can create more resilient communities and also positively impact disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The White House Innovation for Disaster Response and Recovery Initiative Demo Day on July 29 showcased new innovations in both government and the private sector that aim to aid the survivors of large-scale emergencies.

The key goal is to “find the most efficient and effective ways to empower survivors to help themselves,” said U.S. Chief Technology Officer Todd Park, adding that there have been many technological advancements since Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

“We all know that tech in the wake of a disaster isn’t helpful,” Park said. So the demo day sought to highlight new initiatives and how emergency managers can work with and bene-

fit from them.

“You all here today and the effort that’s associated with this really do help bring the whole-of-nation approach to building preparedness because it relies upon integrating the efforts of the private sector, nongovernmental actors, communities, individuals, federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments,” said Rand Beers, deputy homeland security adviser to the White House National Security Council. “What we need to do is to build on this collective group of people who are committed to making our country safer and to responding to these kind of issues.”

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Bi-Annual Preparedness Conference is October 7-10
- September is national preparedness month
- October 16 at 10:16 is the national ShakeOut earthquake drill; register your community online

Thank you all for what you do every day in your communities! I take every opportunity I can to brag about the great work LEPCs are doing around Alaska and this newsletter is just one more chance to do so. I greatly enjoy working with each and every one of you.

- Mariel Fonteyn, DHS&EM LEPC Coordinator

LEPC SUPERSTARS

★ ☆ The Juneau LEPC would like to recognize Mike Lopez for always making himself available to support LEPC activities and for the hundreds of hours of time he has spent, over the last three years, training our community in CERT. To date he is our only Certified CERT trainer. You rock Mike!



Someone you want to recognize? Send your message to Mariel Fonteyn at mariel.fonteyn@alaska.gov or 907-428-7024

LEPCS AROUND THE STATE

- Juneau recently got approval from the Borough council for a vulnerable populations representative seat on the LEPC; their CERT program is getting community wide support and growing fast
- Kodiak is working with remote communities to improve preparedness and distributed emergency preparedness guides to businesses and residents. The earthquake simulator at Crabfest was a huge success.
- Sitka is working with the Sitka Community Hospital and Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) on hospital decontamination with 2 new 1 person decon shelters; they are developing an oil spill response drill for the Sitka Sound Science Center and National Parks Service. The community recently completed the Sitka Community Food Assessment Indicators Report.
- Northern Southeast has obtained a warning siren which will be installed in September.
- Petersburg had a booth at the community health and safety fair and is advertising positions to grow their LEPC.
- Wrangell held a community wide, multi agency disaster drill. LEPC members were given a tour of the local cannery.
- Copper River distributed area safety fliers to businesses and tourist hotspots.
- Southern Southeast LEPC is updating their Point of Distribution (POD) plan and continuing work with the communications subcommittee to develop cross-island communication capacity.

Develop a clear vision or mission and long term goals to stay focused.

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Numerous government agencies and companies made announcements during the event, including:

CITY72 TOOLKIT — San Francisco launched an open source tool based off its emergency preparedness portal, SF72 portal. The City72 Toolkit helps emergency managers create their own site, while benefiting from lessons learned by San Francisco. Kristin Hogan Schildwachter, external affairs specialist for the city's Department of Emergency Management, said current messaging focuses on pushing people to extremes and doesn't build on current tools that the public is already using to communicate. The customizable Web platform is also in use in Johnson County, Kan., and branded as JoCo72.

AIRBNB — The sharing economy platform used to locate a place to stay now has memorandums of understanding in place with Portland, Ore., and San Francisco to work with the cities before, during and after an emergency. Airbnb's director of public policy and civic partnerships, Molly Turner, outlined the four parts of the partnership:

- to identify hosts who will house emergency workers and survivors;
- to provide preparedness materials to hosts;
- to provide emergency alerts to hosts and their guests about hazards; and
- to provide community response training to hosts, helping them to become community leaders.

POWER OUTAGE DATA — Going forward, a number of electric companies will publish their power outage and restoration data in a standard format so that tools like Google Crisis Map can make the information easily accessible to the public. During Hurricane Sandy, this information wasn't openly available, leading Google to post links to the different utilities' sites but not being able to incorporate it into its information, according to Nigel Snoad of the company's Crisis Response and Civic Innovation arm. He also said another addition is that Google will include crowdsourcing capabilities in the Crisis Map.

LANTERN LIVE — Inspired by lessons learned from Sandy where situational awareness was lacking, particularly around the status of fuel and which gas stations were open, the U.S. Department of Energy is preparing to beta test Lantern Live, a new mobile app. Its features will include: the status of gas stations; the ability to report a power outage and downed power lines with geolocated information; and emergency preparedness tips.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND ASSESSMENT DASHBOARD — Appalicious launched a new disaster dashboard that aims to make rebounding after devastation more manageable. Get an in-depth look at the Disaster Assessment and Assistance Dashboard.

GEOQ — The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency announced its crowdsourcing tool, GeoQ, which allows users to upload geo-tagged photos of an area impacted by an emergency. Raymond Bauer, the agency's technology lead, said the tool is available for anyone to participate or work with the code via open source.

NOW TRENDING ON TWITTER — Helping emergency managers and public health officials, a new website, nowtrending.hhs.gov, searches Twitter data for health and natural disaster topics and analyzes that data. Karen DeSalvo, national coordinator for health IT, said the tool scours social media and looks for topics that could turn into public health emergencies.

DISASTER DATA — Coming soon, the new site disaster.data.gov aims to become a resource for preparedness and can also be used during and after an emergency. More than 100 tools from the public and private sectors have been submitted for inclusion on the site, and it will also host disaster-related data sets.

Additional announcements made at the event, via information from the White House, include:

The DHS and the Zoonotic and Animal Disease Defense Center of Excellence are piloting the AgCONNECT suite of plugable mobile and Web-based desktop applications in 15 states and more than 60 laboratories.

Getaround is launching a disaster assistance policy and Web portal to help educate people about how to find or share a vehicle following a disaster.

Continued at: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/White-House-Innovation-Day-Disaster-Response.html>