Mutual Aid Agreements

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Introduction

• The presentation is based on two reports published by ACRP and researched by Jim Smith (Smith-Woolwine & Associates)
  • ACRP Report 73 “Airport to Airport Mutual Aid Programs”
  • ACRP Synthesis (in progress) “Model Mutual Aid Agreements”
What is Mutual Aid

• FAA – “reciprocal assistance by emergency services under a predetermined plan”
• Advisory Circular 150/5200-31C
  – Does not define what a MA agreement is
  – Defines MOU and LOA – primarily with the airport and Air Traffic
Definition

• A **written** agreement between agencies (etc) to lend assistance **across** jurisdictional boundaries.
  – Use your own resources first

• A voluntary, non-contractual arrangement to provide emergency or disaster assistance b/n 2 entities. Typically does **NOT** involve payment, reimbursement, liability or mandatory response.
Literature

• In 2003, FEMA (III) had a study commissioned that said Mutual Aid Agreements were not properly developed/maintained for use in an all-hazards approach to community risk reduction
  – Handshake
  – Relationship-based
  – Written-Req’d for FEMA $ for Stafford Act under a Presidential declaration
  – MA agreements are more easily attained b/n public entities (airports)
  – 42 States have laws to protect volunteers
  – Some States have “pacts”
Types of Mutual Aid Agreements

- Airport to Airport
  - WESTDOG
  - SEADOG
  - CARST (Colorado Airport-to-Airport)
  - FAR/BIS
- Written Agreements
- Unwritten Agreements
Airports

• Most agreements pertain to police and fire
• A/C 31C for Emergency Planning pertains to FAR Part 139 Airports
• Need agreements for other items, not necessarily an airplane accident
• When surveyed (34 airports) Majority had written agreements, while some insisted on unwritten agreements
With whom?

- Police/fire
- EMS
- Local Govt Emergency Mgmt
- Red Cross
- Health Dept
- Municipal Utilities

- TSA
- CBP
- Hospital
- Airline
- Military
- School District
- CERT
Unwritten/Verbal Agreements

- Inside contracts/agreements/leases in place ~ Implicit relationship
- Airport owned by same entity
  - State owned airports
  - City/county owned airports
- Alaska – no road continuity
  - Legal liability issues that interfere with overall mission, so DOT goes with unwritten
  - Training records? (privacy issues – personnel)
  - Written agreement where money is involved
Airport 2 Airport
utilities helping utilities

• SEADOG
  – Unwritten
  – Began in Pensacola and Savannah for unique needs by airports in natural disasters

• WESTDOG
  – Written – highly specialized, forms, etc.
  – Headquartered at DFW ARFF

• Fargo/Bismarck
  – Flood induced

• Colorado Aviation Recovery Support Team (CARST)
Essential Items

1. Support from mgmt
2. Clarity
3. Legal review
4. Identify parties
5. Types of emergencies covered
6. Type of aid
7. Clear communication methods
8. Timeframe
9. Restrictions/limitations
10. Legal basis (enabling agreement)
11. AEP inclusion
12. NIMS compliance
13. Contact lists
14. Effective date

HIB example
Secondary Items

- Schedule of Review/Revision
- Procedures for update
- Training requirements
- Drill schedule
- Exercise schedule
- Documentation requirements

- Procedures for after action review
- An escape clause (ARFF index issues)
Resources

• James F. Smith
  – ACRP | ACRP
  – Report 73
  – Synthesis – Jan/Feb. Model Mutual Aid Agreements for Airports