Through The Eye Of The Storm: Lessons from the 2017 Atlantic Hurricane Season

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Disclosure

This presentation is based on my experiences and do not represent the views or policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Government.
A moment of silence in honor of the victims of the tragic events of 2017
THANK YOU
The Day After Tomorrow
National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

A Nationwide Medical Response System to:

• Supplement state and local medical resources during disasters or major emergencies
• Provide backup medical support to the military/ VA medical care systems during an overseas conventional conflict

A public/private sector partnership
HHS  DHS  DOD  VA
Partner Hospitals
Major Components of NDMS

Response Teams

Incident Response Coordination Team
Disaster Medical Assistance Team
Trauma & Critical Care Team
Logistic Response Assistance Team
Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams
Victim Information Center Team
Social Access Team
National Veterinary Response Team

Patient Movement

DoD Aeromedical Evacuation
Primarily Fixed Wing
Primary Reception Area (PRA)

Definitive Care

DoD/VA Federal Coordinating Centers
NDMS Partner Hospitals
• Hurricane Harvey makes landfall Aug. 25
• Over 1,000 HHS personnel deployed
• CA-6 backfilled to CA-4
August 29th, 2017

- DMAT CA-6 is placed on Alert Status
- Deployment possible within 8-12 hours
- Continuous monitoring
- Inform your employer
- Ensure personal gear is ready to go
- Prepare family and home matter
- At this point more than half of the deployable response teams are in committed to TX and other impacted areas
Alert Status: Aug. 29-Sept. 3
Sunday September 3, 2017
Monday September 4, 2017
Shelter In Place – Hurricane Irma

[Image of hurricane radar and water bottles]

Hurricane IRMA WINDS & GUSTS NOW

- San Juan: 35 MPH, GUSTS 46 MPH
- San Juan Int'l: 26 MPH, GUSTS 44 MPH
- Aguadilla: 18 MPH, GUSTS 25 MPH
- Mayaguez: 15 MPH, GUSTS 22 MPH
- Ponce: 12 MPH, GUSTS 17 MPH
- Culebra: 35 MPH, GUSTS 58 MPH

VIRGIN ISLANDS

NEXT NHC MAIN UPDATE AT 5PM EDT

IRMA IS "POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC"

Irma 1 of strongest Atlantic hurricanes on record

The Weather Channel

LAS VEGAS TODAY

101 81 Partly Cloudy 0% Chance of Rain

Delta Airlines
San Juan Puerto Rico
United States Virgin Islands
Impacts of Hurricane Irma

August 25

September 10
Critical Infrastructure
Hospital Incident Command System
Remember That You Have A Plan
Priorities

- Augment Emergency Care
- Evacuate Critical Patients
- Identify, Locate and Evacuate Medically Fragile
- Build a DMAT Base of Operations
Emergency Care
Emergency Care (cont.)
Patient Evacuation
Patient Evacuation (cont.)
Medically Fragile

- Dialysis
- Chemo
- Other (e.g. specialty medication needs)
Medically Fragile (cont.)
Newborn Screening Labs

Chain of Custody

- Lab Draw
- DMAT
- Ground Ambulance to Airport
- Air Ambulance
- Lab Courier
- Arrived at Lab
Base of Operations
Base of Operations
Base of Operations (cont.)
602\textsuperscript{nd} Area Support Medical Company
Hurricane Maria

[Map of Hurricane Maria with key points and wind velocities]
Dialysis Evacuations
Shelter In Place – Hurricane Maria

Hurricane Maria
CATEGORY 5
Forecast for 8:00 AM AST, Wed Sep 20

WINDS  GUSTS
165 MPH  200 MPH

18.0°N 65.8°W
Rapid Hospital Assessment
Centro Medico Base of Operations
The USNS Comfort delivers medical care and logistics in support of federal relief efforts. The Comfort will be part of the overall medical support plan and will conduct its mission in seven locations as detailed by the large numbers on the map.

*Phase 1, transit to Puerto Rico, is complete.*
Challenges
Transportation
Food
Food Rationing

One per person
Please
Water
Coffee
Human Resources
Hearts and Souls
Recap of Events

- Backfill Hurricane Harvey
  Aug 25
- Hurricane Harvey Alert
  Aug 29
- Puerto Rico – Irma
  Sept 4
- Hospital Assessment STT
  Sept 7
- HMTF to STT
  Sept 8
- SJ Airport Reception
  Sept 8
- Full DMAT Operations STT
  Sept 10
- Demob/Staging
  Sept 19
- Dialysis Shelter Operations
- Dialysis Pt Evacuation PR – Miami
- Shelter In Place – Maria
  Sept 20
- Hospital Assessments
  Sept 21
- Centro Medico BoO Setup
  Sept 23
- HMTF STT Mission Completion
  Sept 30
- On-Going Backfill

On-Going Backfill
HURRICANE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

- 4,674 personnel deployed
- 36,370 patients cared for
- 944 tons of equipment provided
- 251 contractual actions valued at $38.1 million
THANK YOU!

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