Joe Thomas  
Sussex County Emergency Management

Emergency Management
- Coordinates state, private, and volunteer agencies to provide response and resources to any disaster.
- The job of Emergency Management is to improve the outcome of a disaster.
- Grass roots of emergency management is through the local EMAs. Notification of incident and requests for resources start here.

Natural Disasters
- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Snow and Ice Storms
- Severe Thunder Storms
- Nor’Easters

There are 4 Basic Phases in Emergency Management:
- Mitigation: Activities that eliminate or reduce the chance of occurrence or the effects of a disaster. 
  Example: Preventing construction in floodplains or elevating structures.
- Preparedness: Planning how to respond when an emergency or disaster occurs and working to coordinate the resources to respond effectively.
  Example: Short-term vital life supporting systems.
- Response: Where public officials provide emergency assistance to victims of the event and try to reduce the likelihood of further damage. This takes place during and immediately following a disaster.
  Example: Long-term community relocations.
- Recovery: Final phase of emergency management and continues until all systems return to normal or near normal operation.
  Example: Long-term community relocations.

Each phase links to the others and tends to overlap and is a continuous cycle.

N.I.M.S. (National Incident Management System)
- Developed to handle requirements from different jurisdictions and disciplines that work together better.
- This includes emergencies, natural and man made disasters.
- Benefits include a unified approach to incident management, standard command and management structures, and emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

I.C.S. (Incident Command System)
- Meets the needs of any kind or size of incident.
- Allows personnel into a variety of agencies to work rapidly and effectively to control an emergency.
- Provides logistical and administrative support to operational staff.
- Is cost effective by avoiding duplication of efforts.
**Delmarva Emergency Task Force (DETF)**

"Cooperation among jurisdictions"

DETF is composed of emergency management officials representing three states, 14 Delmarva municipalities, other government agencies, and volunteer agencies serving the emergency management needs of the residents, businesses, and visitors that populate the Delmarva Peninsula.

Established in spring 1997, the DETF was the first of its kind to approach the Emergency Management Coordination aspect of planning for Disasters by using a regional approach.

**DETF Consists of six individual workgroups:**
- Communications
- Education
- Planning
- Resources and Recovery
- Shelter
- Evacuation

**Delmarva Flood Map**

- **Delaware**: New Castle, Kent, Sussex
- **Virginia**: Accomack, Northampton
- **Maryland**: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester

**Emergency Management and Industry Should:**
- **Share plans**:
  - Be familiar with how each other does business before, during and after disasters.

- **Exercise together**:
  - Sussex County Emergency Management sponsored both a Tabletop and Functional exercise to deal with Avian influenza with DPI and DPH.

- **Work together during activations**:
  - Communicate throughout incident or activation and coordinate actions.

- **Coordinate Media releases**:
  - Industry possibly has different requirements than Emergency Management.

**Other Information:**

FEMA Independent Study Program- IS-111 "Livestock in Disasters"

- For farmers, extension agents, emergency managers, and others who have interests in the livestock industry.
- Describes the various hazards that animals face and how to mitigate them.
- This course can be downloaded from the Independent Study website and the test can be completed and submitted online.

*The livestock industry is a multi-billion dollar business that provides food for the American people as well as their livestock. It is important to insure our livestock are safe from hazards and will not suffer from the effects of disasters.*

*Taken from the FEMA website at [http://www.training.fema.gov](http://www.training.fema.gov).*