County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA)

Presentation to the House Innovation, Community & Economic Development, and Veterans Committee

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Robert Ezelle
Director, Emergency Management Division
Washington Military Department

Kathryn Zetzer
Preparedness Grants Section Supervisor

EMD Manages $32 Million in Federal Preparedness Grants Annually

Grant requirements are published in annual notices of funding opportunity (NOFO)

Preparedness Grants Application Requirements

- Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)
- Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)
- Identify capabilities and gaps in the context of five EM mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery)
  - 32 FEMA Core Capabilities
  - Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercise (POETE) elements

Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA)

Comprised of three steps:

1. Identify threats and hazards
   - What threats and hazards can affect our state?
2. Give threats and hazards context
   - What impacts would those threats and hazards have on our state?
3. Set capability targets based on core capabilities
   - Based on those impacts, what capabilities should our state have?

- Submitted to FEMA every three years; next submission is December 31, 2025

Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

Composed of three steps:

1. Capability assessment
   - A self-assessment of current capability levels against the targets identified in the THIRA
2. Gap identification
   - Identify capability gaps related to the solution areas of planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise (POETE)
3. Funding impacts assessment
   - Identify how FEMA preparedness grants helped to build or sustain capabilities

- Completed annually; submission is due December 31st
- The SPR (gaps) must be referenced in grant applications

SPR Challenges

- Data is collected using SurveyMonkey online surveys
- The process does not guarantee responses or quality; some counties completed many surveys, some little to none
  - *Example*: 2023 SPR survey responses
    - Capability assessment surveys: 13 of 39 counties responded
    - Capability gap identification surveys: 31 of 39 counties responded
    - Funding sources surveys: 11 of 39 counties responded
- Process provides little benefit to the respondents

County Emergency Preparedness Assessment

- 3-year pilot program
  - 1/3 of counties in the state completed each year
- Six-hour state facilitated workshop once every three years involving the community's SMEs across diverse emergency management and related fields
- Process is designed to:
  - Meet federal reporting requirements
  - Provide expanded and in-depth reports back to jurisdictions
  - Engage with the largest audience of subject matter experts
  - Produce valuable emergency preparedness data not collected by the SPR

CEPA Process Overview

County Characteristics
Captures/validates key information about each county

Capability Assessment
Identifies capability gaps across POETE elements for 32 core capabilities

Resource Inventory
Identifies and inventories key response resources and anticipated resource needs

Risk Assessment
Identifies threats/hazards of concern to the county

Response Capacity
Determines capacity limitations for response related core capabilities

Strengths/Areas for Improvment
Captures the county's best practices and areas for improvement

Reliance on Grant Funding
Evaluates the extent to which each county relies on federal and state grants to provide capabilities



Inform Program Decisions

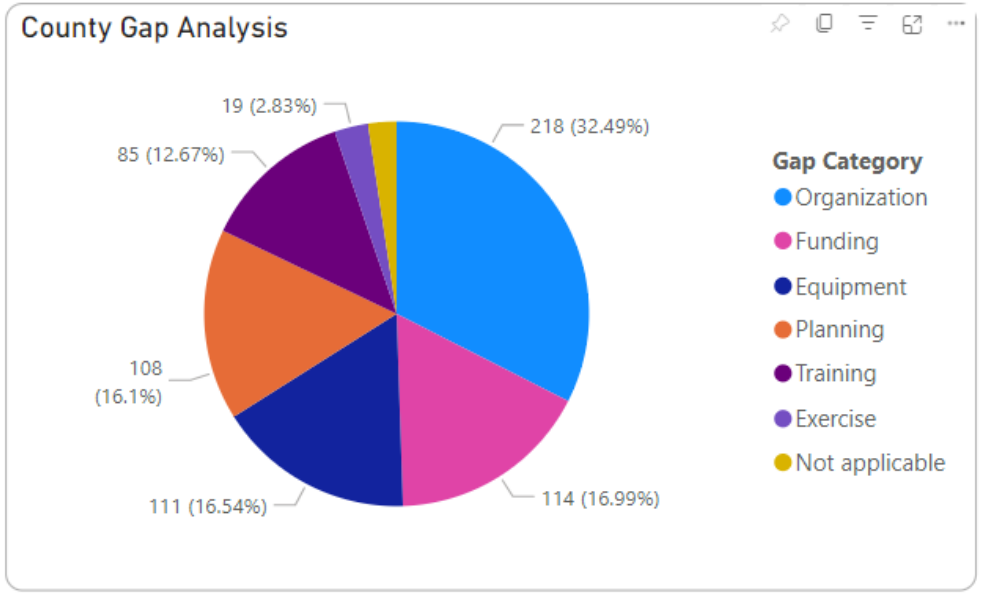
Promote Communication

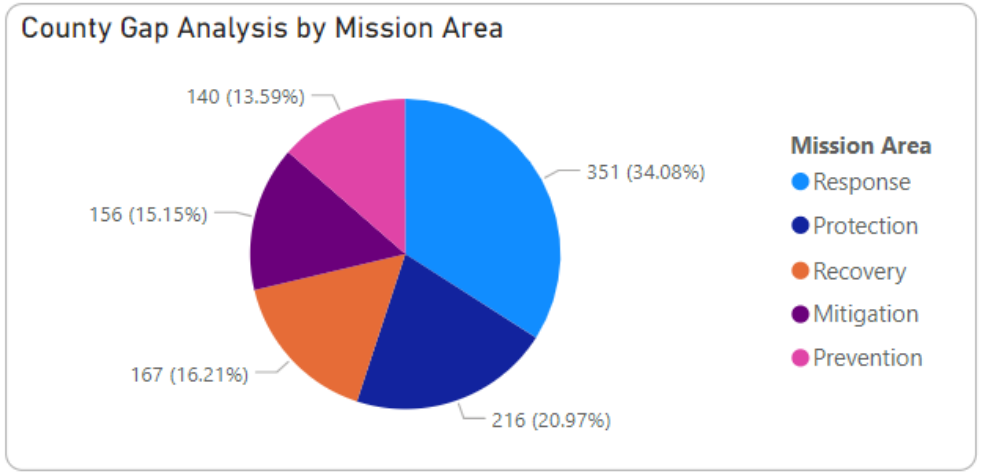
Identify Best Practices

Better Anticipate Local Needs

CEPA Gap Analysis

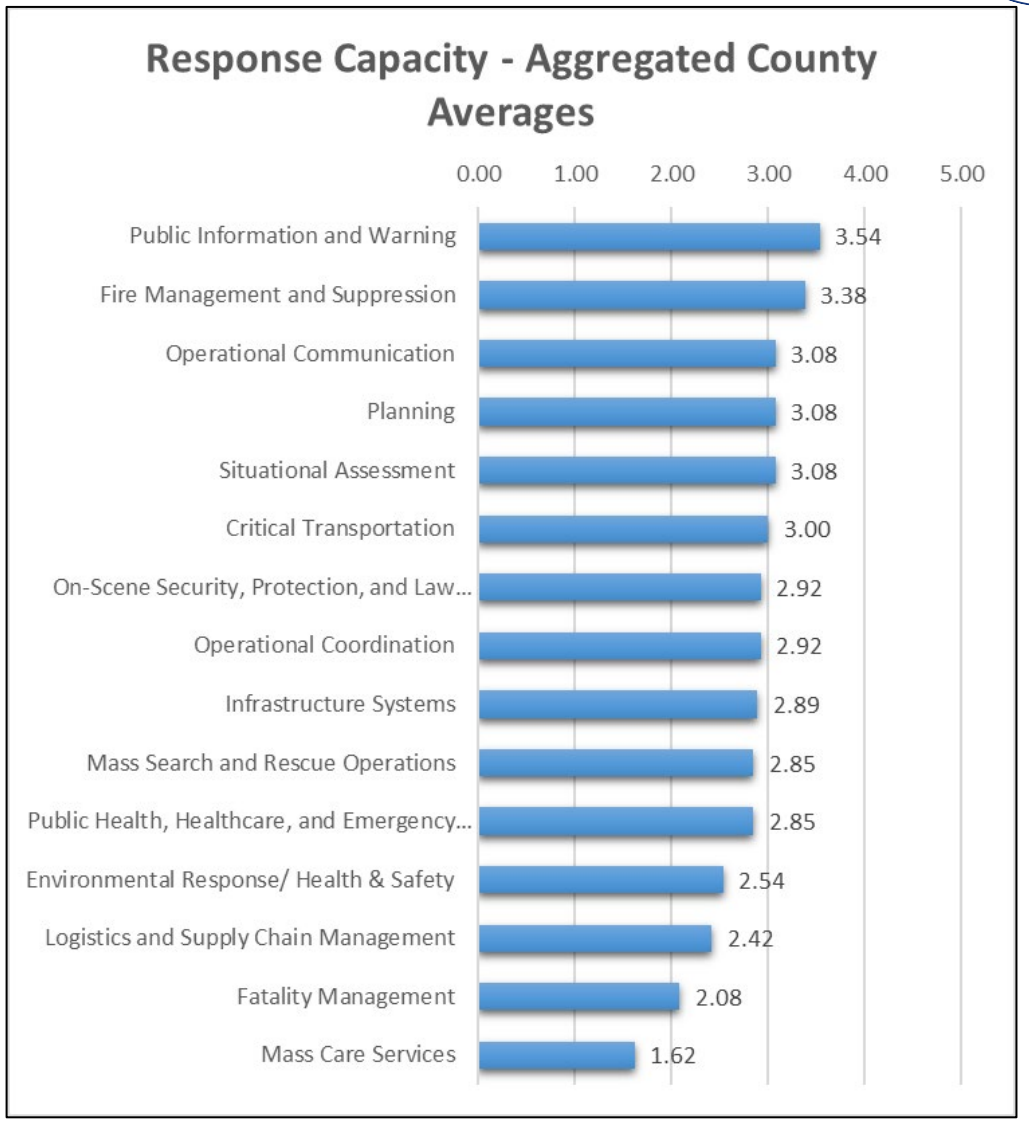
- Gaps are captured in 2 ways:
  - **Numerical**: scales associated with 1-5 scoring provide gaps in each area as a percentage
  - **Comments**: gaps highlighted during discussions are documented and included in reports
- Gaps (both numerical and text based) can be analyzed by county, region, and statewide
  - Highlights trends and areas needing more development
  - Applies to capabilities as a whole and specific POETE elements





CEPA Use Relative to THIRA & SPR Process

- CEPA data can be used during the THIRA process to shape state scenarios and set capability targets
- Each CEPA session collects 256 direct SPR related data points and free-text gap descriptions to include:
  - Grant reliance
  - POETE assessment for each of the core capabilities
  - Gaps and approaches to close them
  - Whether the capability was built, lost, or sustained
- CEPA data is used to determine the current level of capability in relation to target levels established in the THIRA



CEPA vs. Prior SPR Data Collection Process

- CEPA provides guaranteed, standardized data collection
- CEPA process ensures high-quality data collection
  - SPR surveys used technical language not easily understood by those not directly involved in THIRA/SPR submissions often leading to inaccurate and incomplete responses
  - The CEPA's in-person facilitator ensures participants' questions are answered and they understand what is being asked of them

CEPA vs. Prior SPR Data Collection cont'd

- Reduces assessment process burden
  - Previous survey process occurred over a short period of time leading counties scrambling to complete hundreds of survey questions on a yearly basis
  - CEPA is one 6-hour time commitment every three years
  - Database entry occurs as assessments are completed, reducing end-of-year burden for EMD staff to compile, analyze, and complete SPR submission
- Previous survey process solely met the SPR requirement (data entry in FEMA system)
  - Reports created by the FEMA system are not user-friendly and difficult to extract meaningful information from, let alone county specific entries
  - CEPA sessions produce data for both SPR entry as well as a county-specific report
  - The CEPA dashboard visualizes assessment results and allows for deeper analysis

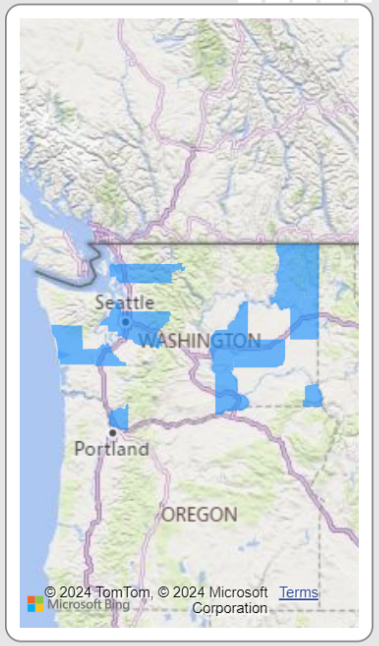
County, Round: All

Mission Area: All

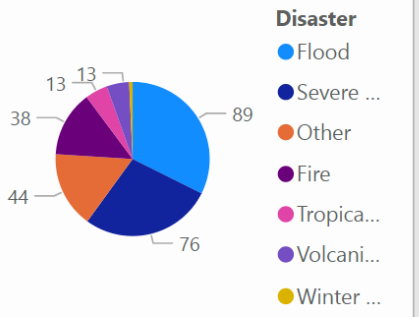
Built, Lost, or Sustained: All

Region, Round: All

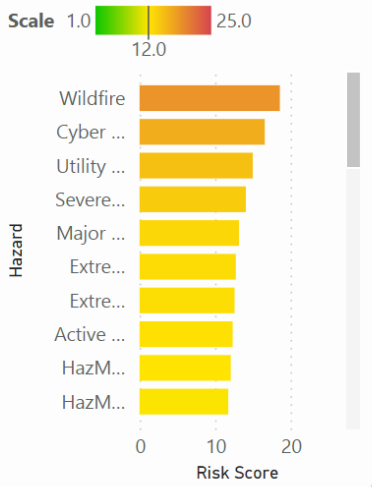
County View | Comparison View



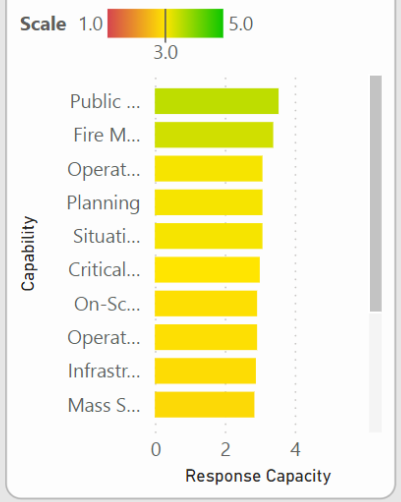
FEMA Disasters



Hazard Risk Score

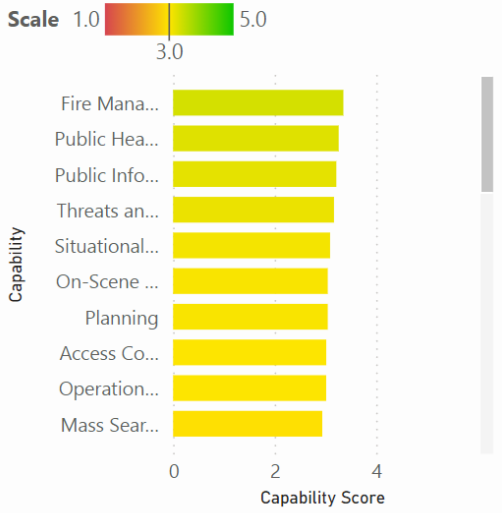


Response Capacity

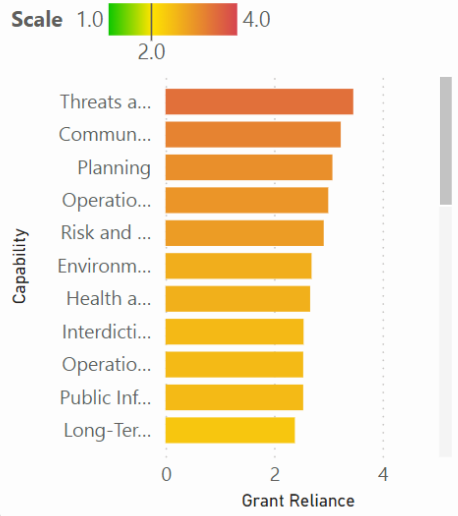


Capability	Planning	Organization	Equipment	Training	Exercise
Community Resilience	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0
Critical Transportation	1.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	2.0
Cybersecurity	1.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
Economic Recovery	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Economic Recovery	1.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Environmental Response/ Health & Safety	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Fatality Management	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0
Health and Social Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Health and Social Services	1.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.0
Health and Social Services	1.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	2.0
Housing	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Infrastructure Systems	1.0	3.0	4.0	1.0	2.0

Capability Score



Grant Reliance



Questions?