The Sint Maarten Disaster Management Organization & Tsunami
Contents Presentation

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- Improvements to system
- Legislation
- Disaster Management System

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Hurricanes and tropical storms are the most common disasters on Sint Maarten, but this does not exclude any other possible disasters …
Disaster Types

1. Tropical storms & hurricanes
2. Other extreme weather conditions
3. Maritime accident
4. Flooding (rain, tidal wave or tsunami)
5. Accident with hazardous materials
6. Oil spills
7. Fire in a densely populated area
8. Aviation accident
9. Contamination of drinking water
10. Masssive food poisoning / epidemic
11. Forest, bush and nature fire
12. Collapse of large building
13. Panic in a large crowd
14. Large traffic accident
15. Geological disaster (earthquake & volcanic eruption)
16. Disruption of infrastructure
17. Nuclear incident (shipping) *
18. Terrorist threat or attack *
19. Cybercrime
In 1995 Sint Maarten was hit hard by hurricane Luis
(and many more storms followed after that)

Philipsburg, Sept. 1995
Disasters cannot (always) be avoided; but actions have been undertaken to mitigate the effects of these events as much as possible:

- Legislation;
- Disaster management system;
- Key coordination role for Fire Department;
- Construction, drainage and infrastructure improvements;
- Curfew system;
- Public awareness.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SINT MAARTEN

Prime Minister

Royal Dutch Marines

Fire Chief
(National Disaster Coordinator)

Head Section Disaster Mngt.

ESF- Coordinators

Prosecutor ‘s Office

Strategic
(National Disaster Staff)

= EOC

Operational

COPI
(On Scene Command)

Situation as of 10 10 2010

Tactical

GEBE

BT&P

VROMI

Fire Dept.

Police

VSA

Soc. Dvlp.

DCOMM

AZ

TEZVT

ESF 1
Water & Energy

ESF 2
Telecommunications

ESF 3
Public Works, Transport & Logistics

ESF 4
Hazard Response Activities

ESF 5
Public Order, Safety, Traffic Regulation

ESF 6
Public Health & Medical Assistance

ESF 7
Evacuation, Shelters, Relief & Mass Care

ESF 8
Public Information & Media

ESF 9
Governmental Affairs

ESF 10
Harbour, Airport & Hotel Activities

Operational

Situation as of 10 10 2010
10 ESF-groups
(Emergency Support Functions)

- Small specialized groups / teams;
- Government agencies are leading, but NGO’s are included;
- Tasks during disaster situations are similar to regular activities / operations, only on a larger scale;
- ESF-coordinator is the respective director, secretary general or department head of the agency;
- Responsible during preparatory and repressive phases for the various disaster processes (see next slides);
- Coordination, cooperation and interaction is required within and between the groups;
- Costs covered by budget of respective agency.
Tasks ESF-1
(NV GEBE = utility company)
(coordinator = managing director)

• Provide for primary necessities of life (with regard to water and electricity)
Tasks ESF-2
(Bureau Telecommunications & Post)
(coordinator = director)

• Connectivity (related to network and equipment)
  o To provide the necessary facilities to maintain as long as possible adequate telecommunication services, in particular communication between emergency support agencies.
  o Coordination of the work / repair to the telecommunication network.
Tasks ESF-3
(Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure)
(coordinator = secretary general)

- Accessibility and clean up
- Environmental affairs
- Storm water management
Tasks ESF-4 (Fire Dept.)
(coordinator = fire chief)

- Conceptualization, forming judgment and decision-making (operational)
- Notification of government & operational staff
- Control of cause and effect
- Decontamination of persons & animals (external)
- Decontamination of vehicles & infrastructure
Tasks ESF-4 (continued)

- Observation & measurement (varies per situation)
- Maintenance / logistics of emergency mngt potential
- Operational base plan
- Connections (internal emergency mngt org)
- Coordination of emergency site and surroundings
Tasks ESF-5 (Police)
(coordinator = commissioner of police)

• Clearing & evacuation
• Closing off / protection
• Traffic regulation
• Maintaining public order
• Identification of fatal casualties
• Guiding
• Criminal investigation
Tasks ESF-6
(Ministry of Public Health, Social Affairs & Labour)
(coordinator = secretary general)

- Decontamination of persons & animals (internally)
- Collection of contaminated goods
- Preventive health care, medical & hygiene measures
- Medical assistance chain
- Observation & measurement (varies per situation)
- Mental health care (psycho-social assistance)
Tasks ESF-7
(Dept. of Social Development)
(coordinator = dept. head)

- Sheltering & providing care
- Registration of victims
- Burial arrangements
- Provide primary necessities of life
Tasks ESF-8
(Department of Communications)
(coordinator = department head)

• Public relations / information
• Warning / informing the population
Tasks ESF-9
(Ministry of General Affairs)
(coordinator = secretary general)

• Damage settlement
• After care
• Administrative affairs
Tasks ESF-10

(Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport & Telecommunication)

(coordinator = secretary general)

• All processes that have consequences for visitors / the tourism industry
Sint Maarten at risk?
Sint Maarten and Tsunami

- Small Island Developing State;
- Most critical infrastructure at or near sea level;
- High vulnerability;
- Modeling has started
- Safe areas and evacuation routes will be determined;
- Public information and community planning will follow.
Gaps & Solutions

• SXM DMO system is very much hurricane oriented. Improvement process has started;
• Information procedure on possible threats needs to be improved → implementation early warning systems;
• Tsunami related affairs are now on the agenda;
• New (government) institutions (since 2010) need to be incorporated.
Thank you for your attention!