Today we will discuss...

• Background- 2009 Kentucky Ice Storm
• Environmental Public Health Strike Teams (EPH Strike Teams)
• EPH Strike Team Results
• Lessons Learned
• Next Steps
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Background: 2009 KY Ice Storm

- Kentucky was declared a major disaster area by the President
  - 102/120 counties & 87 cities declared states of emergency
- Emergency Responses Activated
  - Commonwealth’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
  - Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH)-Department Operations Center (DOC)

Background: 2009 KY Ice Storm

- KDPH-DOC Major Concerns
  - Loss of communication with local health departments
  - Public health needs not being met
  - Emergency shelters
  - Reports of make shift shelters
  - Operational capacity of healthcare facilities, local health departments (LHD), and emergency management
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**EPH Strike Teams**

- **Division for Public Health Protection & Safety** decided to deploy environmental public health strike teams

- **Thirteen teams**
  - Volunteers from various LHD
  - Comprised of three people
    - Environmentalist/Registered Sanitarian (Team Lead)
    - Nurse
    - Local person with working knowledge of the area

- **North Carolina CASPER Standard Operation Guidelines**
  - Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response
  - Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams
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EPH Strike Teams

• Mission
  – Re-establish communications with LHD
  – Conduct surveillance
    • Shelters
      – Modified CDC Environmental Shelter Surveillance form
      – Previously identified & Unknown/ make shift facilities
    • Initiate morbidity reporting
      – Modified CDC Aggregate Natural Disaster Morbidity Report form
  – Support healthcare facilities via Emergency Support Function-8
    • Dialysis Centers
    • Hospitals
    • Nursing homes
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**EPH Strike Team-Results**

- 711 environmental health inspections were conducted during the ice storm
- Immediate needs were identified during 53 inspections at 34 shelters conducted by the EPH Strike Teams
- Immediate needs observed in the emergency shelters
  - Inadequate drinking water supply (2)
  - No medical services (14)
  - No electricity (5)
  - Inadequate number of sleeping cots (12)
  - Unsafe food handling, preparation, or supply (15)

- No major delays in the re-opening of permitted retail food establishments

**Lessons Learned**

- Support intra- and interstate emergency preparedness collaborations
- Develop EPH Strike Teams guidelines before an emergency
  - Roles & Responsibilities
  - Resources (i.e. vehicles, gas, forms, office supplies, health education materials)
  - Overtime Approval
  - Cash advances process
  - Lodging
“No battle plan survives contact with the enemy”
Colin Powell

Next Steps

• Emergency Readiness training
  – Barren River State Park- July 15, 2009
  – Twin Cities Advance Practice Centers

• EPH Strike Team working group
  – Development of the environmental health emergency response skills assessment
    • Determine staff knowledge & skills
    • Identify training gaps
    • Develop training curriculum
    • Tailor skills assessment to fit other KDPH divisions

Steps we have taken:

• Pre-identified two strike teams
• Go kits
  – Inventory identified
  – Funding to purchase identified
  – LHD to be identified to purchase items
• Centralized reporting system for shelter reports
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