New Normal in Urban Response

C. Balaji Singh
Urban disaster features

• High exposure to economic losses and impact
• Externalization
• Expectations for services with speed
• Good and bad work is noticed
• Secondary Events: Health, Technological, Social, safety and security, family reunion
• Need for bigger scales of response
• Significant fiscal impact
• Image
Urban disaster - complexities

- Higher population density
- Dependency on regular external supplies on large scales
- Technology / Power dependency
- Interconnectedness with industry
- Fuel and electricity critical for day to day living
- Dependency on infrastructure
- Large, vulnerable informal sector
- Greater anonymity, Nuclear families
- Overstretched public service sector
- Complex administrative mechanism / jurisdiction
- Climate change
- High visibility
Urban localities – strengths

• Infrastructure, knowledge, skills
• Trained / capable government machinery
• Technology, resources, institutions
• By enlarge an educated community
Some ideas

- Microzoning and Planning
- Cooperative agreements NGOs and Businesses
- Detection, surveillance and early warning
- Management System that can bring departments together seamlessly
- Identifying and addressing coordination issues
- Pre identified facilities and supply chains
- Aware and well prepared stakeholders (administration, community, business)
- Training and Drills
How

• Integrated EOC with identified roles, responsibilities, decision support system, and mechanism for activation and escalation

• Institutionalization of Incident Response System including agreed triggers, this needs to be integrated also in to Utility companies, schools, universities and companies

• Identification of staging areas, pre stocking shelter material

• Establishing Emergency Response Teams
How

• Media partnership - credible communication
• Pre agreed ideas for adaptive coordination
• Provisions for virtual coordination and Decision making
• Organized role for businesses at least during the first week after the calamity
• Integrating emergency response in to job descriptions and training
MHA, GOI approved Policy Document

• In 2004, MHA approved a Policy document outlining the approach, strategy & activities in this adaptation process.

Main Considerations:
• ICS will not put in place a new hierarchy or supplant the existing system
• Designated authorities at different levels to be backed by trained Incident Command Teams
• Training (Principal driver for Institutionalization)
NDMA, GOI Guidelines on IRS
Thank you for your attention