Understanding and Working with the Players

Roles in an Emergency Situation
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
"It is coordinate-and-cajole more than command-and-control," Eckels said. "But we are all working together on a plan, we are all following that plan."
Hurricane Rita Track

Wikimedia Commons: Created using User:jdorje/Tracks. The background image is from NASA. Tracking data from the National Hurricane Center.
What happened?

- Estimated 1 to 1.5 million people attempted to evacuate the city
- Transportation network was overwhelmed and broken down to “parking lot” status
- Some people spent more than 24 hours on the evacuation routes
- Fatal accidents, abandoned cars, and other safety issues
## The Problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Lanes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 59</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 290</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-45</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: William E. King
Fact Finding Meetings

- Towing Industry Coordination (1/12/06)
- ISD Coordination (1/18/06)
- Fueling (1/24/06)
- Aerial Surveillance Assets (1/26/06)
- Upland Flood Risk (2/1/06)
- TXDPS/TTI/TXDOT (2/9/06)
- METRO and Private Bus Companies (2/15/06)
- Communication (2/22/06)
- Media Interface (2/28/06)
- Hospitals (3/1/06)
- Ship Channel Industry Coordination (3/3/06)
- Nursing Homes (3/15/06)
- Receiver Counties (3/24/06)
- Home Health Care (3/28/06)
Critical Issues

- Traffic Management Plan
- Command and Control
- Evacuating People with Special Needs
- Moving Fuel
- Public Education
## Current Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>State</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations Report</td>
<td>Contraflow Plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Modeling</td>
<td>Relief Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane/Severe Storm Center</td>
<td>Sheltering Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Outreach Plan</td>
<td>Towing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identifying Those Needing Assistance</td>
<td>Fueling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Securing Transportation</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Management Plan</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Objectives of the Evacuation Model

- Defining evacuation planning
- Defining Traffic Management Plan
- To test various evacuation scenarios
- To examine the tool for long term strategies to increase capacity or reduce vehicular demand
- Estimate traffic volumes and delays
Evacuation Analysis
Rita Evacuation Demands (Sept 20-22)
Evacuation Route and Destination

- Other Externals: 18%
- SH 146: 1%
- US-59N: 12%
- I-45N: 14%
- SH 105W: 2%
- SH 249: 2%
- SH 6: 5%
- Internal: 18%
- US-59S: 2%
- US 90A: 2%
- SH 36: 2%
- I-10W: 13%
- US 290: 9%
For More Info

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