

Mid-Atlantic Private-Public Sector Coordination Group

Supply Chain Resilience Workshop Summary of Conclusions

On Wednesday, January 24th, representatives from the largest grocery and food distribution centers in the Mid-Atlantic region met in Arlington, VA with emergency managers from the Cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, and the District of Columbia. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss opportunities for coordination in order to promote supply chain resilience following a catastrophic incident impacting the region's food and water supply. This document summarizes the feedback provided, the key takeaways, and next steps.

Key Themes:

- Efficient Coordination
- Waste Management
- Facility Security
- Map Sharing
- Direct Points of Contact
- Pausing E-Commerce

Objective 1: Identify essential elements of information needed, by the private sector from the public sector, and by the public sector from the private sector.

- The private sector identified the needs for clear and proactive information regarding government imposed restrictions in order to understand the implications for operations. Examples of this information include:
 - Time, location, and duration of road closures.
 - Definition of essential personnel (inclusion or exclusion of grocery associates).
- Both the private and public sectors emphasized the importance of sharing maps and other geospatial data.
 - Maps allow the private sector to visualize and adjust operations both locally and regionally.
 - Data and information allow the public sector to advocate on behalf of the private sector before and during response operations.
- It was noted that early notification on the location of CPOD sites allows the private sector to adjust store reopening plans to equitably serve the community and provide support to the sites, when possible.

Objective 2: Identify methods for streamlining coordination.

- Coordination was identified as an area for continued discussion. It was noted that:
 - The private sector cannot manage individual WebEOC logins for each jurisdiction where they do business.
 - The private sector relies heavily on information coming from the National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC) organized by FEMA.
- There are models the Mid-Atlantic region can look at for future coordination such as the P4 program that FEMA Region X is piloting.

Workshop Success: In Module 3, DC Water heard that private sector representatives face challenges in receiving information about potable water and boil water advisories in some locations. This discovery led to the inclusion of the appropriate regional grocery representatives in future critical customer notification lists to ensure they are informed of outages.



Objective 3: Identify priority methods of communication and points of contact.

- Private sector partners noted that though they are likely experiencing similar impacts during emergencies, they cannot communicate about response activities with competitors.
- The group began identifying points of contact in their individual organizations. The points of contact during emergencies are often based in the business emergency operations centers.
 - DC HSEMA utilizes the Business Emergency Management Operations Center (BEMOC) to coordinate with the private sector both locally and regionally.
 - City of Baltimore relies on the Maryland Business Emergency Operations Center (MBEOC).
 - City of Philadelphia engages through the Pennsylvania Business Emergency Operations Center (PABEOC).

This objective is an area for continued focus throughout this effort. The project team will continue to explore different platforms and mechanisms for coordination.

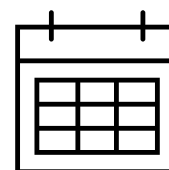
In the upcoming state and federal workshops this will be a focus area.

Objective 4: Identify opportunities for public sector support of food supply chain flow to the community.

- The private sector has found it challenging to identify their position as critical infrastructure. Opportunities for clarity on where the public sector can support include:
 - Review options for identifying store associates as essential personnel.
 - Support relationship building and coordination between other critical infrastructure partners that allow grocers to open, such as power companies.
- The public sector noted that they likely share generator contracts with some private sector businesses. If the private sector can share a list of contracts, the public sector will avoid activating the same contracts and limit competition for resources.
- Waivers are an opportunity for public sector support. In future workshops the group will continue to identify the level of government, agency, and points of contact for activating those waivers.

Key Areas of Focus for Future Workshops

- Partnership and coordination with power partners
- Mechanism and platform for coordination
- Fuel access and prioritization
- Security support
- Waste management
- Waivers
- SNAP/WIC
- Roles of the local, state, and federal partners



Up Next:

Workshop #2: Local and State
Emergency Management Agencies,
Private Sector Partners, and Power
Companies
When: Spring 2024

