

Mid-Atlantic Private-Public Sector Coordination

Supply Chain Resilience Workshop #2 Summary of Conclusions

The private-public sector coordination effort in the Mid-Atlantic region continued on Thursday, April 25th, with a second workshop between representatives from grocery, power, transportation, and emergency management industries at the local and state level, in Washington DC. The purpose of this workshop was to continue unresolved discussions from Workshop #1 and help participants understand one another's operational priorities, as well as information and resource needs. Key findings below are organized by focus areas specific to this workshop iteration.

Workshop #2 Key Themes:

- Pre-incident Coordination
- Restoration Prioritization
- Information Needs
- Grocery as Critical Infrastructure
- Waivers



Transportation Infrastructure

- Transportation representatives described the processes for closing roads and prioritization of activating debris management operations.
- Participants discussed ownership of various types of transportation infrastructure, including bridges and overpasses. Pre-identifying owners allows for clearer lines of communication around varying restrictions.
- The private sector communicated the importance of receiving up-to-date information on transportation infrastructure status and constraints in place immediately before and during an emergency. This information directly impacts food movement and access for the community.



Fuel Access

- The private sector noted that many groceries also contain a fuel service station; a critical component to supporting evacuations and other emergency orders. Fuel is required for the movement of food and personnel. These orders can create cascading impacts that lead to greater confusion amongst the private sector.
- Participants requested clear direction on which facilities are required to close and how employees at locations that remain open will be supported.

Workshop #1 Follow-up Successes:

- Following the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore City on March 26th an email communication chain was established between private and public sector partners to share information and impacts. This was an effective and appreciated method of coordination between the private and public sectors.
- One of the grocery representatives highlighted that a connection made in Workshop #1 provided a point of contact for information on a water outage in a grocery store. Private and public sector partners agreed this follow-through is continuing to build trust in the program.



Power Restoration

- Power representatives from the utility present provided insights into preparedness and response activities, which provided context for both public and private sector participants.
- When discussing restoration, the utility described that restoration priority is given to areas with the greatest number of customers affected. There is a process in place for local and state government to submit appeals on behalf of other customers, in order to restore power to critical customers faster.
 - This process was a new discovery for some private and public sector partners.
- The private sector highlighted that sometimes power is restored much faster than the estimated time of restoration (ETR) Though this expedited restoration is appreciated, the grocery stores make generator allocations and executive-level decisions based on the ETR.
 - The power utility noted that this feedback would be brought to their executive leadership. The ETR calculation process is regularly updated, and times shared with the public are the actual times the utility assumes restoration will occur.

The public sector was surprised to learn that the private sector must have power restored or alternative in place for refrigerated/frozen products within 4 hrs for food safety compliance.

Additional power utilities will be invited to Workshop #3 to provide input into this discussion, specific to their unique operations and jurisdictions.

Coordination

- The private sector provided key pre-incident information needs and context for how they use that information to inform business decisions and operations.
- The public sector discussed where various pieces of information are gathered from and opportunities to streamline coordination.
 - State participants update and maintain dashboards that can be useful, but multiple dashboards in multiple states becomes unmanageable for the private sector. FEMA observers noted they may be able to collect and share various state resources with the region.
- The discussion of waivers and declarations of emergency continued, with additional context on the owners of various waivers. The private sector described how and when various waivers are useful to sustaining and restoring operations.
- There was discussion on various platforms for coordination, though the group agreed that strong relationships and consistent points of contact are far more important than a technology platform.
- Grocers need to understand when they are deemed infrastructure versus businesses and economic recovery.



Workshop #3

Who: Local, State and Federal Agencies, Grocery Partners, Power Partners

When: July 16, 2024

Where: Philadelphia, PA

Key Areas of Focus for Future Workshops

- Mechanism and expectations for coordination
- SNAP/WIC
- Roles of the local, state, and federal partners
- Restoration over replacement



Workshop #2 Success

Resulting Action Item

Key state players were able to network work new private sector contacts. Existing partnerships were strengthened.

At Workshop #3 dedicated networking opportunities will be built into the agenda.

A new traffic monitoring tool was shared that could be a potential solution to sharing real-time traffic information.

Public sector participants have contacted the traffic tool to determine the possibility and process for allowing private sector access to the tool.

Public and private sector learned about one power utility companies restoration priorities and the process for submitting appeals for expedited restoration.

The project will continue to work with other Mid-Atlantic utilities to clarify these processes for all major companies.

HSEMA identified an opportunity to reorganize their Business Emergency Management Operations Center (BEMOC) to better coordinate with the private sector.

HSEMA will continue to build out resources and BEMOC processes and keep private sector informed of changes.

State and local organizations recognized the value in identifying and documenting the ownership of various pieces of transportation infrastructure.

Participants will continue to identify the owners and determine impacts of declarations, waivers, and emergencies.

Mass care plans and other emergency plans do not adequately integrate supply chain restoration.

Language in plans will acknowledge government efforts to stabilize the food, shelter, and hydration lifeline through restoring the food supply chain.