

Gaston County Emergency Management Program

OCTOBER 2019





Overview

- County conducted an in-depth study of its Emergency Management program
- Importance of future planning as department transitions under new leadership
- Areas to address
 - Planning
 - Early Warning & Notification
 - Operational Coordination



Planning

Concern

- ▶ County's preparedness for events other than nuclear threats

Current State

- ▶ Nuclear drills have been primary focus
 - Required by FEMA every 2 years
 - Involve planning, expertise, and collaboration that translate to any threat
- ▶ Need to update Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation plans

Work In-Progress

- ▶ County public safety agencies have been planning and training for RNC since May
- ▶ Final inspection and training for County's Storm Ready recognition held on 9/26
- ▶ Staff is training for internal Incident Management Team (IMT)



Early Warning & Notification

Concern

- ▶ County's early warning and notification system

Current State

- ▶ County has a limited system where residents must "opt-in" for notifications
- ▶ IT has been working on new notification system since May
- ▶ IT is currently providing separate network for EOC

Work In-Progress

- ▶ IT has identified a preferred vendor that currently contracts with DHHS
 - Will have voice, text, hard line, wireless, and subscription notifications
- ▶ County contracting with Spectrum to install internet in the EOC



Operational Coordination

Concern

- ▶ County's operational coordination with partner agencies

Current State

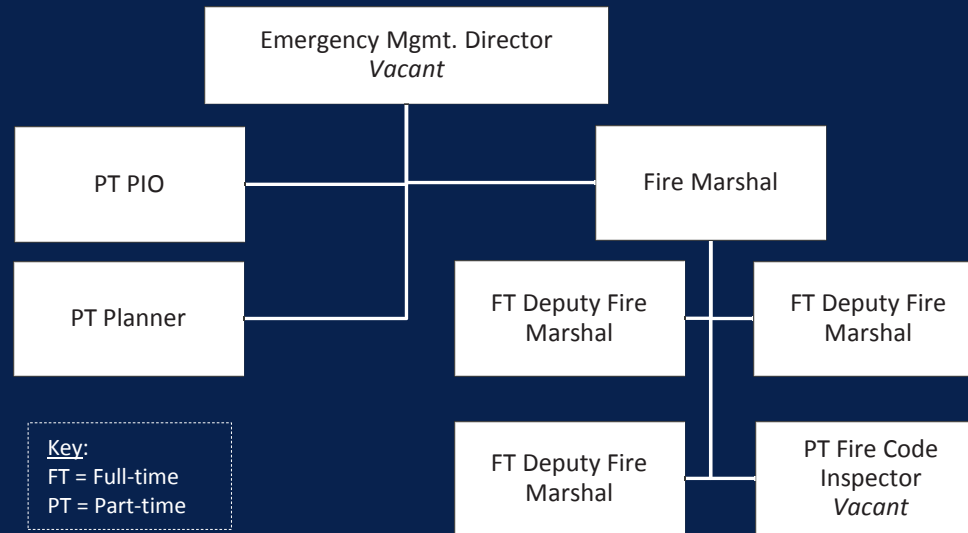
- ▶ Nuclear drills have been primary focus as discussed earlier
- ▶ Completed in June:
 - Active shooter training at Stanley Middle
 - Tabletop exercise with dam giving way scenario
- ▶ Need viable Incident Management Team (IMT)

Work In-Progress

- ▶ In beginning stages of planning tabletop exercises in the EOC
- ▶ Internal IMT:
 - Deputy FM's have filled 3 roles
 - PIO has filled 4th role and begun required training and credentialing



Organizational Structure & Staffing



Recommendations

- Continue to operate as standalone agency reporting directly to County Manager
- Hire Emergency Management Director



Immediate Next Steps

- Develop a comprehensive training plan
- Develop and begin tabletop exercises
- Purchase and implement new emergency notification system
- Evaluate workload demands and current staffing levels
- Review Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) attendance and work with BOC to fill any vacancies

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