

Lesson 3: Resource Sharing in a Partnership

Lesson Overview

This lesson covers best practices for a major activity of many public–private partnerships, resource sharing.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Explain the value of sharing resources
- Discuss methods to share resources between partners

Best Practices in Resource Management and Sharing

Public-private partnerships can directly support all aspects of emergency management by sharing resources, which increases the efficiency of the partnership’s preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters.

However, shared resources cannot be efficiently managed without proper planning and coordination. The next section of this lesson will cover several tasks related to resource sharing, including:

- Identifying opportunities for resource sharing
- Writing resource-sharing plans
- Managing shared resources during an incident

The Value of Resource Sharing

As you learned earlier in this lesson, sharing resources in partnerships can help partners to better prepare for, respond to, and mitigate from incidents. Learn why two management professionals view resource sharing as valuable from both a private and public sector perspectives by reading the stories below.

Doug Selby

Store Safety and Loss Protection, Big Lots

As far as resource sharing, it’s definitely a two-way street for us. We made available to FEMA the location of our stores and distribution centers and that centered on a program called SAVER2 [Situational Awareness View for Emergency Response & Recovery]. And what that does, is it helps provide situational awareness so that in a disaster FEMA is able to see which of our stores or distribution centers would be open. And then it helps them better plan, so that FEMA makes the correct decisions and deploys the right resources to the right locations. There’s no reason for FEMA, for example, to be handing out water if our store’s open across the street. So I mean that’s kind of what it’s helped do for them. So they’re better able to allocate their resources.

Tom Moran

Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium

There is more untapped knowledge, wealth, and expertise in the private sector than government can even imagine. And I think what happens is that a few people in a minimalist philosophy say, “there’s

only so much to go around. There's only so much time. There's only so much money." In reality, the opposite is true. When you bring in true partners—and partnerships are negotiated, not mandated—you are amplifying the people and the resources and the knowledge. You are amplifying the money. You are amplifying everything.

Identifying Potential Resources

Partners bring unique resources to the table. In order to identify opportunities to share resources, each partner should be asked what resources they bring to the table upon joining the partnership. Resource sharing should be promoted to encourage more participants to consider sharing and utilizing partnership capabilities. For some partnerships, resource sharing may even be the primary goal.

Partners could provide a wide range of resources, from educational materials for the public to volunteers during the recovery phase of an incident. Potential public–private partnership resources could:

- Be a physical good or a service
- Be donated or provided for a cost
- Be available during any period of the emergency management system
- Support preparedness, response, recovery, and/or mitigation
- Be either public or private
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- Be local, State, national or international

Examples of Resource Sharing

As you learned on the previous screen, there are many types of resources partners have access to and can share with other members. These resources can include everything from tangible items, like food and water, to volunteers and technical assistance.

Explore some examples of resource sharing below.

Indian Health Program

The Indian Health Program is a public–private partnership in California between Indian Health Programs, Tribes, and local, State, and Federal emergency preparedness and response entities, as well as academic institutions and private nonprofit organizations.

The goal of the partnership is to expand and improve the ability of tribal health programs to respond to public health emergencies and disasters. Members of this partnership share the following resources with Indian Health Programs in meet this goal:

- Readiness packs for tribal clinics
- Educational materials including presentations, teaching and case-based tutorials, disaster plan templates, and virtual training tools
- Training and technical guidance for tribal clinic staff from specialized trainers

Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEEP)

Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEEP) is an organization aimed at bringing the private and public sector together for information sharing and emergency preparedness. CEEP includes a private sector resource registry, called CONNECT Colorado, which is a protected, voluntary and reimbursable

registry of private sector assets, resources and subject matter experts that can be activated by emergency management professionals during a disaster.

Providence, Rhode Island

The city of Providence, Rhode Island, formed a public–private partnership focused on the security of the Port of Providence. Before the partnership, there were several security communication and surveillance networks around the port, with varying capabilities. The partnership worked together to:

- Integrate all of the partners' surveillance sensor feeds
- Create a common fiber and wireless network system to facilitate emergency communication

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Providence-Public-Private-Partnerships.html>

Writing a Resource Sharing Plan

Resource sharing is most effective when available resources have been identified prior to an incident. This helps to ensure that the resources are available in the event of an emergency.

After identifying which resources could be shared among partners, a partnership should write a resource sharing plan. A resource sharing plan should answer the following questions:

What resources are available?

First, any resource sharing plan should outline what resources are available to the partnership. This information should also include the organization that will provide these resources.

Who can view the resources?

A plan should address the issue of who can view the resources. The resources of a public–private partnership could be visible to the public or all members, allowing anyone in need of a resource to see what resources could be requested. Conversely, resources could only be visible to the emergency manager in a partnership, which might give the manager greater control over how to disperse those resources.

What conditions should trigger resource sharing during an incident?

A resource sharing plan should identify conditions that will trigger the use of shared resources. This will let emergency managers know when which resources can be used. Establishing these conditions will help guarantee that resources will be available during an incident because it will allow those who provide the resources the ability to anticipate the needs of the partnership.

Who is liable for the resources?

Some partners may be reluctant to share resources because they are worried about liability. A resource sharing plan should address how to limit the liability of those who provide resources, in case of property damage or personal injury.

Creating a Resource Inventory

Based on the resource sharing plan, partnerships can create a resource inventory in order to manage available resources before an incident. A resource inventory should include all sharable resources partners maintain. This includes supplies and equipment, as well as personnel.

For example, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP) created a resource inventory that helps to share private sector resources to improve Iowa's preparedness. SIP developed a secure, Web-based catalog that identifies the volunteer and for-hire emergency assets of its private sector partners. SIP's catalog also includes a business resource registry, which organizes these assets according to location, availability, and quantity so that they can be procured easily.

Designing Resource Request Procedures

Partnerships should include standard procedures for partners to request resources from the inventory during an incident. Ideally, a partnership's resource inventory will be integrated into its information sharing network so that all partners have easy access. A resource inventory should identify the resource's location and the contact information for the individual or organization that can dispatch the resource during an incident.

If a partnership has a representative in an EOC or fusion center, that representative should have access to the resource inventory and be able to promise and manage resource requests from the EOC.

Finally, the partnership should establish rules for delivering, using, and returning resources. Having these policies in place before an incident will increase resource sharing efficiency during an emergency.

Lesson Summary

This lesson presented the following topics:

- The value of sharing resources
- How to share resources among partners

In the next lesson, you will learn techniques to sustain public-private partnerships.