

Preparedness and Resilience Efforts

Caribbean Area Office – Puerto Rico | FEMA Region 2

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FEMA Region 2 Caribbean Area Office

- On June 15, 1992, the Region 2 Caribbean Area Office (CAO) became the first legislatively authorized FEMA permanent facility to open outside of the continental United States to support Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, implementing and coordinating all FEMA emergency management programs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- For the last 31 years, CAO personnel has supported preparedness, response and recovery efforts across the country, including the Northridge earthquake, Hurricanes Andrew, Hugo, Marilyn, Georges, Jeanne, Irene, Katrina, Sandy, Irma, María, Ida, and Fiona; and served as testing ground for several FEMA HQs initiatives and projects, including training of several cadres, among others.



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Caribbean Area Office Priorities

- Support the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, through a whole community approach, on further developing their overall emergency management posture for all hazards.
- Assist the Puerto Rico Emergency Management Bureau (PREMB) and its components, with direct support on program coordination and plan development, leveraging emergency management effectively through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery initiatives.
- Ensure readiness and maximize a federal response in an integrated effort with all state and federal partners



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Energy Related Readiness Efforts

- Local Emergency Support Function 12 (ESF 12)
- Executive Tabletop Exercises
- Continuity of Operation readiness activities



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Local Emergency Support Function 12 (ESF 12)

- A local (ESF 12) working group was established to discuss and address issues regarding energy for Puerto Rico. This group coordinates power prioritization and restoration efforts related to generation, transmission, distribution, public messaging, fuel capabilities, and more.



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Executive Tabletop Exercises (TTX)

- On April 2021, Governor Pierluisi and key cabinet members participated of a focused hurricane preparedness TTX that FEMA coordinated.
- A similar event, to refresh FEMA knowledge was conducted on August 04, 2022.
- Black Start Exercises (Pt. 1 & Pt. 2)
- Next TTX - expected to be confirmed for July 2023.



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

Puerto Rico Continuity of Government

- October 2021 – Executive Order requiring the implementation of Continuity Program.
- Continuity of Operations is an effort within individual executive departments and agencies to ensure that Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents and technological or attack-related emergencies.



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Challenges / Areas of opportunity

- Continue fostering the ESF 12 working Group meetings and any other Power Task Force initiative that will ensure a collaborative effort and timely matter information during response activation.
- 2023 Hurricane Season Impacting Energy Critical Infrastructure
- Fuel Contingency Planning and Distribution



¡Gracias!



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