

Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness

SUCCESS STORY

COASTAL GEORGIA

The Meta-Leadership Summit Leads to a More Thorough Plan for Recovery

Contributor: Jay Wiggins

"{The Summit} highlighted the need to take a microscope to the short and long-term recovery aspect of emergency planning."

"The Summit was a wakeup call," describes Jay Wiggins. "It highlighted the need to take a microscope to the short and long-term recovery aspect of emergency planning." Wiggins is describing the Coastal Georgia Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness held on St. Simons Island in December 2009. Following the Summit, Wiggins, along with other leaders, made a concerted effort to continue the discussion started at the Summit about their community recovery following a massive hurricane. They made "recovery" the focus of their annual hurricane table-top exercise in Glynn County.

Planning for a Hurricane – After it has passed

The hurricane exercise was held shortly after the Summit in May 2010 and included the usual participants in an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) such as police, fire and public works. The influence of the Summit led to the inclusion of a broader audience, however. Wiggins encouraged additional community members such as those representing the legal and faith-based community to participate and noted that it was essential to bring many different types of community members together – not just traditional responders - to tackle issues of recovery long after a hurricane has passed. Issues that can affect the whole community in the days, weeks, and months following an event include ensuring the community has access to food, clean drinking water, sanitation services, and the re-opening of schools and other essential services.

Community Re-Entry Plans

Following the exercise, Emergency Management worked closely with public works and businesses such as Georgia Power to pull together a comprehensive plan for re-entry into the community. The information has been made accessible to the public and can be found on the Glynn County Emergency Management Agency homepage: <http://glynncounty.org/index.aspx?NID=557>.

The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness empowered business, government and nonprofit leaders to act together in times of crisis. The five-year initiative connected 5,000 business, government and nonprofit leaders in 36 communities. For resources and more information about Meta-Leadership visit the [CDC Foundation Meta-Leadership Website](#).



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention