In the Mist of the Storm – Hurricane Irene
“ A Working Team”

Ann Keyes – Emergency Management Director
Washington County Emergency Management
Plymouth, North Carolina
Presentation Overview

- Washington County Geography
- Preplanning
- Emergency Protective Measures
- Response
- Recovery
1700 hours
Preplanning

- At this meeting, the attending agencies reviewed their duties and responsibilities in the plan, declaring a state of emergency and resource needs;
- County Receiving and Distribution Point was addressed and trained county staff and other volunteers were appointed to work at the CRDP;
- Points of Distribution (POD) were addressed;
- Emergency roadway clearance and flooding issues addressed;
- Special needs/non-english speaking populace addressed.
Washington County Emergency Protective Measures

- On August 26, 2011, Washington County fully activated the EOC at 0600 hours to coordinate response efforts in the county;
- CERT Teams members out in the county assisting the citizens with needs;
- Special needs populace contacted to identify any needs;
- CART TEAM activated;
- HAM Radio activated;
- Damage Assessment Teams placed on standby;
- Washington County Jail was evacuated and inmates transported to Edgecombe, Wilson and Nash counties.
Response

- Major flooding in the County (Creswell and some areas in Plymouth);
- Sustained high winds over an extended period of time;
- Damage to infrastructure caused power outages throughout the county;
- The rainfall and standing flood waters vastly increased the number of mosquito breeding sites thereby creating the possibility of mosquito borne illnesses;
- Washington County EMS & Law Enforcement prepared to respond in flooded areas.
Landfall and The Impacts – Flooding
Landfall and the Impacts – Flooding
Response – Briefing and Public Information

- Decision makers and agency representatives were briefed three times a day at the EOC;
- Fire departments, CERT Teams and the donations management teams briefed the EOC every three hours;
- Fire departments and CERT teams performed emergency debris clearance and conducted welfare checks;
- Media Representation was present at all briefings;
- First Call Alerting System was used to keep citizens informed.
Recovery – Debris Removal

- NC DOT’s Subcontractor - Crowder Gulf removed all vegetative debris on state maintained roadways for Washington County.
- Debris removal was handled by a local contractor for the Towns of Plymouth, Roper and Creswell.
- C & D debris was collected at the local landfill.
Recovery – Vector Control

- Washington County had an active mosquito control program already in place, therefore required data needed to complete the process to conduct aerial spraying for mosquito control was minimal.

- In some areas (Creswell) of the county the mosquito landing counts were in excess of 50 mosquitoes per minute. More than 47,000 acres were sprayed in the county.
Lessons Learned/Opportunities to Improve

- Choose Damage Assessment Team Leaders wisely;
- Delegation of duties;
- Plan C for Plan B;
- Expect the unexpected.
Questions?