"I didn't know what I DID NOT KNOW!"

Mark Diedrich St. Louis County OEM

Agenda

Importance of being prepared

Lessons learned from my experience

 Things you probably haven't thought about (yet!)

The Importance of Being Prepared

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

² And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

³ They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

⁴ But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

⁵ While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

⁷ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

¹² But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

¹³ Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

The Importance of Being Prepared

I never really understood the importance of being prepared for disasters...until one happened to my family."

Surfers don't *plan* for waves, they *prepare* to ride them.

Lesson Learned/Experience

How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out that splinter in your eye," when you cannot see the great log in your own? Hypocrite! Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter in your brother's eyes.

Lesson Learned/Experience

Take care of yourself first

- Make Contact with your EM Director
- Make Contact with the Red Cross
- Make Contact with your COAD
- Make Contact with your LTRC

Lesson Learned/Experience

- On't rely on one person
- Have a written plan
- Practice your plan

Length of a disaster

- Response time
- Police/Fire/EMS are committed to help!

Length of a disaster

- "Great" Flood of 1993
 - book" closed in 2003
- Good Friday tornado (4/22/11)
 - Long Term Recovery still on going

Response Time

Be prepared to be on your own for at least 96 hours

(4 days!)

Police/Fire/EMS are committed to help!

- Who knows your congregation best?
- How can you help the responders help your congregation?

Next Steps?

Make a plan
Practice your plan (prepare!)
Ask your team, staff, and members to prepare
Look specifically at your 'vulnerable populations' and help plan for their safety in an emergency "I'm not exactly sure I understand everything I know about what it is I thought I knew..." ...but at least you know where to start.

Questions?

Mark Diedrich St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management <u>mdiedrich@stlouisco.com</u>