DISASTERS: BUILDING RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE
Session Overview

• Types & Nature of Disasters
• Response & Recovery Challenges
• Case Study: 2016 Alberta Wildfires
• Key Findings from the Wildfires
• Community Resilience
• Questions
TYPES & NATURE OF DISASTERS
Types of Disasters

- Types of Disasters:
  - Natural
  - Man-made
  - Technological
- Crises and disasters can damage your economy and scare businesses away. It can take years to recover.
Nature of Disasters: Development
## Nature of Disasters: Costs

### 10 Costliest Natural Disasters in Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOSS*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm/thunderstorm</td>
<td>Southern Alberta</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>$1.827M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icestorm</td>
<td>Southern Quebec/eastern Ontario</td>
<td>Jan. 1998</td>
<td>$1.574M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm/thunderstorm</td>
<td>Toronto, southern Ontario</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>$1.000M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Slave Lake, Alberta</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>$742M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm/rainstorm</td>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>Aug. 2005</td>
<td>$625M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm/thunderstorm</td>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>Aug. 2014</td>
<td>$569M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm/thunderstorm</td>
<td>Calgary and region</td>
<td>Aug. 2012</td>
<td>$562M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind/thunderstorm</td>
<td>Calgary/southern Alberta</td>
<td>July 2010</td>
<td>$530M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windstorm</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>Aug. 2009</td>
<td>$376M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hailstorm</td>
<td>Calgary</td>
<td>Sept. 1991</td>
<td>$363M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Loss and loss adjustment expense. Not adjusted for inflation.*

SOURCE: STANDARD AND POOR'S  
NATIONAL POST
Southern Alberta Floods
Nature of Disasters: Best Practices
RESPONSE & RECOVERY CHALLENGES
Response & Recovery Challenges

• Who’s on first?
• Communication
• Assessing impact
• Business retention (small and large)
• Provincial/Federal/Indigenous roles/rules
• Long-term blight/redevelopment
• Lack of local experience/capacity to manage complex recovery issues/projects
2016 ALBERTA WILDFIRES
A CASE STUDY
2016 Alberta Wildfires
Case Study: Alberta Wildfires

- Wildfire displaces over 80,000 residents, and destroys 1595 structures (2579 dwelling units)
- Costliest disaster in Canadian history ($3.58 billion)
- With the whole community evacuated, spread across the country, how can the community contact businesses to find out what their immediate needs are?
Case Study: Alberta Wildfires

- May 25, Council approves Business and Economic Recovery Plan
- May 30, Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) opens the Wood Buffalo Business Recovery Hotline in collaboration with the RMWB Economic Development Department
- Funded solely by the Canadian Red Cross
Case Study: Alberta Wildfires

• By August 31 the Hotline:
  • Handled over 15,000 calls, and registered 4,134 companies
  • Completed a needs survey and provided case management
  • Gave 3,296 companies each $1000 emergency grants
  • Implemented a social media campaign. More than 1200 unique website visits, reaching over 40,000 individuals in the region.
Case Study: Alberta Wildfires

- Back to Business Resource Centre:
  - YMM Welcome Walks
  - Ask an Expert Program/Learning Events
  - Back to Business Coaching Program
  - YMM Home Shows/Expos
  - BSN Events
  - Job Fair

- Canadian Red Cross Phase 2/3 Funding
- RMWB Small Business Workforce Support Program
Case Study: Alberta Wildfires

- EDA Technical Assistance Visit/Report:
  - 10 member team (including Indigenous/rural representation)
  - 1 week of stakeholder meetings
  - Over 200 interviews
  - Over 50 immediate, short, medium and long term business and economic recovery recommendations
Wildfire: Key Findings

• Business processes and governance
• Insurance
• Fire fighters- response, readiness
• Real estate
• Business supports
• Workforce
• Market access
• Social issues
• Economic issues
• Impacts will be felt for years to come
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
Building Resilience

• In terms of land and economic and development, communities that take steps to be resilient are better able to:
  • Withstand shocks
  • Recover quickly
  • Avoid shocks entirely
Pre-Disaster Planning Tips

- Think carefully about development
- Identify critical business functions
- Know your insurance
- Identify a backup location and data system
- Collect critical emergency contact info
- Help prepare your business community
- Build an Economic Response/Recovery Team
Closing Thoughts...

• A disaster can happen to you - be prepared
• Know who is on first
• Don’t reinvent the wheel
• Get started today!
Community Resilience - Investing in Tomorrow
QUESTIONS?
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