DOE's Response to the 2004 Hurricanes

2004 Hurricanes

Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne exacted a severe toll on the Southeastern US — and especially Florida. The storms were responsible for:

- Over 80 US fatalities
- 11.8 million total customer power outages at the storms' respective peaks

DOE's Response to Help the Southeast Recover

Deployment of Energy Emergency Responders

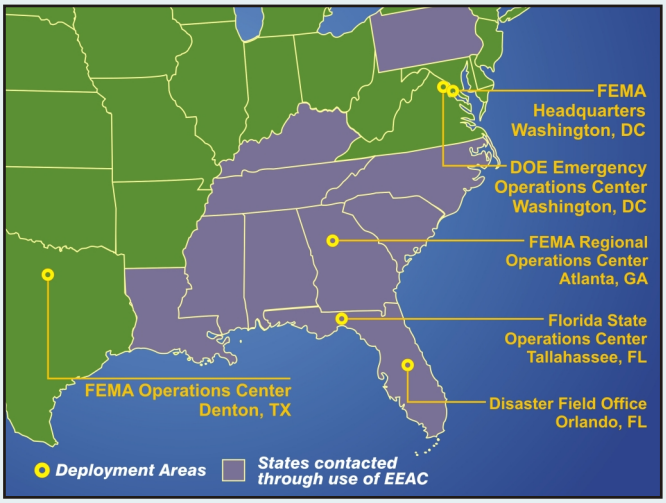
- DOE and its Office of Energy Assurance deployed over 30 energy emergency response experts from DOE HQ, the National Energy Technology Lab (NETL), DOE's HAMMER facility, and DOE's Richland Field Office to emergency facilities in FL, GA, TX, and DC (see map)

Coordination with States and Industry

- Used the Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators System (EEAC) to obtain and coordinate data on electricity outages. The EEAC was used to communicate with energy personnel in KY, PA, TN, FL, NC, SC, GA, AL, MS, and LA (see map); For more information on the EEAC, visit www.ea.doe.gov/o__projects.html
- Served as the single federal interface with industry and states for power outage and restoration information, which streamlined the flow of information and alleviated the reporting burden on utilities

Assistance with Fuel Distribution

- Assisted the FL Emergency Operations Center and FEMA in coordinating trucks and drivers to deliver fuel to first responders
- Worked with FL Governor's office to recommend that driver hour waivers be extended, so that fuel suppliers could use longer hours to drive farther distances in obtaining and delivering fuel



- Worked with US EPA to help them assess the fuel situation in FL so they could issue a waiver that allowed 1) noncompliant fuel to be used in counties that required specific summer grade fuel and 2) the use of high sulfur diesel for road use state wide; Also assisted in assessing the GA fuel situation

Allocation of Emergency Response Resources

- Developed power outage reports that were used by FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to target ice, food, and water distribution to the areas without power
- Provided guidance that helicopter assets were insufficient for Hurricane Charley recovery activities, thus minimizing wasted efforts

Assessments of Oil and Gas Sector Impacts

- Provided information on status of off-shore oil and gas rigs and impacts on the industry

DOE's Role in Energy Emergencies - Background

As part of its responsibilities under the National Response Plan and Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) 8, DOE and its Office of Energy Assurance maintain a pool of energy emergency responders ready to deploy. This team of infrastructure analysts, electrical and petroleum engineers, and other energy experts works together with FEMA, industry, States, and other federal groups to mitigate the impacts of energy emergencies.

DOE has the following Emergency Support Function (ESF-12) responsibilities based on the National Response Plan:

- Deploy DOE response teams to affected areas to assist in response and restoration efforts
- Monitor energy system damage and repair work and identify the supporting resources needed for their restoration
- Collect, assess, and provide information on energy supply, demand, and prices as well as contribute to situation and after-action reports
- Prioritize plans and actions for the restoration of energy during response and recovery operations
- Serve as the focal point for issues and policy decisions relating to energy in all response and restoration efforts

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October 2004