IRMA AND THE FLORIDA KEYS

An Island Community and its Emergency Management Challenges
Population 79,000 - Daily Tourism surges population to 150,000

- 87% of the County landmass is on the mainland, but represents only six households

- 35,000 Households - 20,000+ additional Second Homes

- Median Household income $42,283
- US 1 is our only means of vehicle transportation
- 90% of potable water delivered by a pipeline from mainland to Key West
- Three hospitals – One each in Upper, Middle, and Lower Keys
- Closest Trauma Center is in Miami
- Two Electrical Utilities
- Population is equally distributed between Upper, Middle, and Lower Keys
- No shelters!
- New Emergency Management Team arrived in 2016
HURRICANE REALITY

- 32 Hurricane Strikes from 1900-2010
- 15 Major Strikes from 1900-2010
What would a Hurricane Response look like without US 1?

Bridge Failure Reality of the Florida Keys

TOP: RAILROAD WASHOUT 1935
ISLAMORADA

BOTTOM: BRIDGE WASHOUT- 1960
HURRICANE DONNA- MARATHON
HURRICANE IRMA 2017

Note: The cone contains the probable path of the storm center but does not show the size of the storm. Hazardous conditions can occur outside of the cone.
PREPARING FOR THE STORM

▶ Time Equals Safety!
▶ Reliance on our Partners at Key West Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center
HARD DECISIONS

EVACUATION OF THE KEYS
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 06 AT 0700 HRS
72 HOURS BEFORE STORM ARRIVAL
DECISION TO EVACUATE THE EOC
SEPTEMBER 09, 2017
HURRICANE IRMA 2017
WIND ARRIVAL SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10- NOON
EYE ARRIVAL SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11 – 0800 HRS
DEVASTATION
AN EOC WORKER...ON HIS DAY OFF

4 OF OUR 6 HOMES WERE UNLIVABLE
SOUTH OF KEY WEST
SEPTEMBER 11 2017
USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN
OCTOBER 01, 2017 - KEYS REOPEN FOR BUSINESS
FINAL THOUGHTS…

PLANNING

RELATIONSHIPS

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE