“You learn the most during the toughest times.”

- Mark Andersen, Bay County SOE-
“One Day Better Than You Were Yesterday!”

Attitude and Confidence Greatly affects your success or short fall.

“The Only Easy Day was Yesterday!”
Challenges/Opportunity

**Personnel**
- Staff and Staff families with total loss of Homes....
- Precinct Election Officials (Poll Workers)

**Infrastructure**
- Roof off of the Main Office Building
  - Flooded from 2\textsuperscript{nd} Floor
- 70\% + of the planned Polling Locations Damaged beyond use or were used for recovery efforts.
Challenges/Opportunity

**Communication**
- Emergency Off Site Systems unavailable due to physical Fiber damage
- Zero Communication for 3 Days

**Equipment**
- 3 Servers/Multiple Switches Flooded

**Security**
- Security Patrols
- Curfews affecting travel of staff and election personnel.
System Damage/Impact to Election

Every single area was affected by Category 4 PLUS Hurricane Michael. The office was like a rain forest (8,000 sqft.)

- Limited Impact due to the quick response and actions of those on site during the first two days using plastic covers, shifting equipment, and physically monitoring.
- Utilized 151 out of 600 Precinct Election Officials (Poll Workers) that were available to work.
- Organized 6 Mega Voting Sites for 11 days and 4 Mini Mega Sites for one day.
Mitigation Process/Impact

Address Five Main Topics Uniformly

- Personnel
- Infrastructure
- Communication
- Equipment
- Security

- Analyze each area for non-conformances
- Provide a Corrective Action to perform and monitor success
- Review accomplishments and shortfalls and repeat list until fully functional.
Long Term Mitigation Process/Impact

- Method of Precinct Voting were not available due to the massive damage in our county. (MEGA Voting Sites will be the voting format in emergency conditions)

- Displaced Voters that will not be in their homes for extended time.

- Number of available election workers available for future elections.
Helpful Partnerships

✓ State and Other County Supervisor’s of Election proved to be the best and most productive with quick response.

✓ Federal level was only used for staff housing and emergency food supplies.

**Warning**

✓ It is not FEMA’s role to support elections, they support people and life conditions, not elections.
Helpful Assistance in the Future

Any back-up systems
Communication Capabilities
One example is our new: Mobile Communications System, with multiple phones and cradle capabilities to multiple cell phone vendors.

This removes the single cell phone provider failure.
Helpful Assistance in the Future

***Establish Emergency Inventory Between Counties for use in an emergency.

- Power Cords
- Portable Lights
- Portable Generators
- Election Equipment
- Short Term Staffing
Advise to Others Facing a Similar Situation

- **Have a Quality Management Program in place!**
  - *Bay County is ISO 9001:2015 certified, it requires uniform procedures and an annual audit by an outside auditor to enforce proper use and existence. It was proven very important in recovery.*

- **No sole source individuals should exist in your office.**

- **From this experience I would never recommend a single method of voting, if we would have had only Vote By Mail the outcome of the election may have been very different, if even possible.**
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<th>Category</th>
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Example 90 – 61 Days Away from Election Day Emergency Recovery

Election Day 90-61 Days Away
Effective Date/*Time:_____/_____/____  * ___:____  ___a.m.  ___p.m.
Without uniformity in correction, it is more difficult to measure success or need for improvement.

- Document
- Analyze
- Improve
- Write Procedure for repeatability

Recovery is just one clear need and procedure away!

The End