

A Local EMA Perspective



Communication:

- Receiving and disseminating information– as with any event, this is one of the key elements for successful preparation and response.
- The volume of forecast information was such that it proved challenging to manage the flow into the office and out to our local partners. However.....
- More IS better. We found that as is usual, the NWS FFC office effectively communicated the information through a variety of channels.



Preparation:

- We began preparing for a snow event.
- When the forecast changed to the potential for ice, the potential impacts and their severity increased.
- By considering worst-case scenarios, we avoided being blindsided.
- With the forecast change, our available resources and preparation didn't change a great deal; some of the associated hazards of an ice event can't be mitigated easily, if at all.



Response:

- The BOE made the decision to close schools two hours early on Friday.
- Our Road Department began 12 hour rotations of crews Friday evening with plans to continue as necessary. Pretreating began that afternoon.
- Our EOC maintained lowest activation level for monitoring.
- We were fortunate that ice accumulation remained minimal. Our public safety departments did not exceed average call volume for the duration of the event. All departments returned to normal operational status Saturday A.M.



Challenges:

- The forecast change and determining any adjustments in preparation and resource management.



Some related best practices:

- Prepare for the worst, to the level that you can justify.
- Awareness and communication are important in any event; changes in the forecast reinforced this point.
- Utilize as many tools as you can manage to maintain awareness and communicate the message.

