

What A Difference A Week Makes

Lessons Learned And Applied From MRSE To Real World Incidents

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PREPAREDNESS AND
RESPONSE

Introductions

- John Hodges – HPP Section Lead
- Jacquie Saldana – Region 2 Preparedness Coordinator
- David Merritt - Region 3 and 4 Preparedness Coordinator



A Little Bit of Background

- Statewide Coalition with 4 regions.
- 2 Regional Preparedness Coordinators
- 33 Counties, 23 Tribes, and 19 Pueblos covering 121,000 square miles.
- 40 Hospitals
- 1 Level One Trauma Center
- 1 Frontier Hospital
- 5 National Forests.



What is the MRSE?

The Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE) is an annual Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Cooperative Agreement requirement and officially replaces both the Coalition Surge Test (CST) and the Hospital Surge Test (HST). As of HPP Budget Period 3 (starting on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022), HCCs must complete the MRSE annually. (ASPR)



'22 MRSE Challenges and Objectives

- Test communications, response plans, and transport patterns from a major burn/multi-system trauma mass casualty event
- Done In Parallel with a full-scale exercise at Holloman AFB that afternoon
- Hybrid Functional and Full-Scale Exercise
- Exercise Director at Preparedness Summit in Atlanta
- Closest Burn / Trauma Center Over 150 Miles Away
- No Burn Center in New Mexico capable of handling anything over 20% burns.



Scenario

Approximately 2 hours into an airshow at Holloman AFB, an F-35 fighter jet crashes and slides into airshow crowd on fire. JP-8 jet fuel is also spilled onto the crowd from ruptured fuel tank on aircraft. Initial triage complete and indicates the following data:

87 total patients

15 Critical (Red) With some having 80 to 90% burns and other life-threatening injuries.

25 Yellows (delayed): smoke inhalation, Minor burns, and contamination from jet fuel

47 Greens (Minor): ranging from minor injuries, and light contamination

10 Pediatric Patients:

2 Reds with trauma and 20% burns to hands and torso

3 Yellows with contaminate Inhalation and respiratory issues

5 Greens Needing Gross Decontamination and minor injuries

15 Blacks (Descendent)



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Key Feedback From MRSE

- Regional Facilities provided key updates on how many patients they could take throughout the exercise.
- Main receiving hospital began contacting out of state specialty facilities immediately to determine resources available to assist with decompression and patient transfers.
- Established transfer patterns and agreements were utilized throughout the exercise
- EMResource Banner was never used to communicate the exercise to not only region 2, but also the rest of the state.
- Pre-existing communications protocols and platforms played key role in bringing key stakeholders into the exercise environment.



Key Feedback

Holloman AFB decided to have their full-scale exercise at the same time as the MRSE instead of later in the day as originally planned. This caused the closest hospital to scramble to do both exercises.

Availability of MPVs limited due to the AMBus from BORDERRAC being down for maintenance.

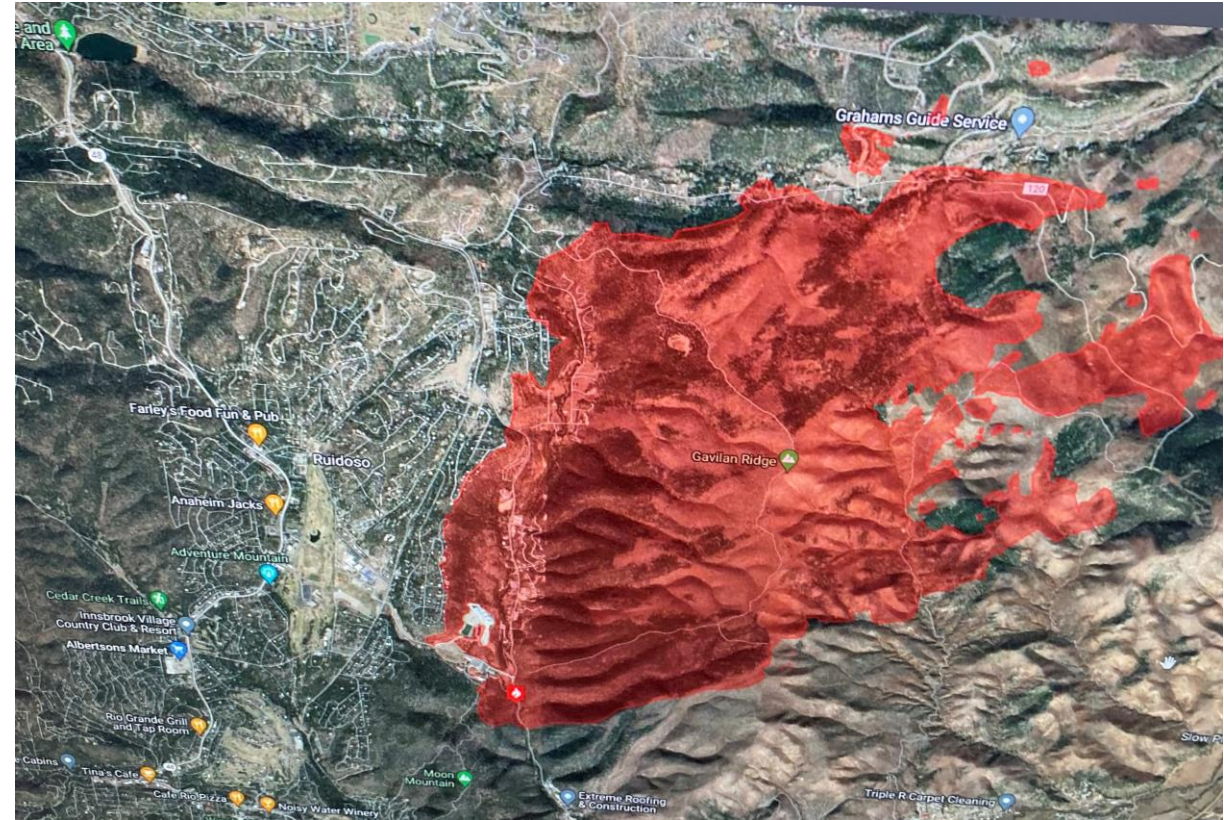
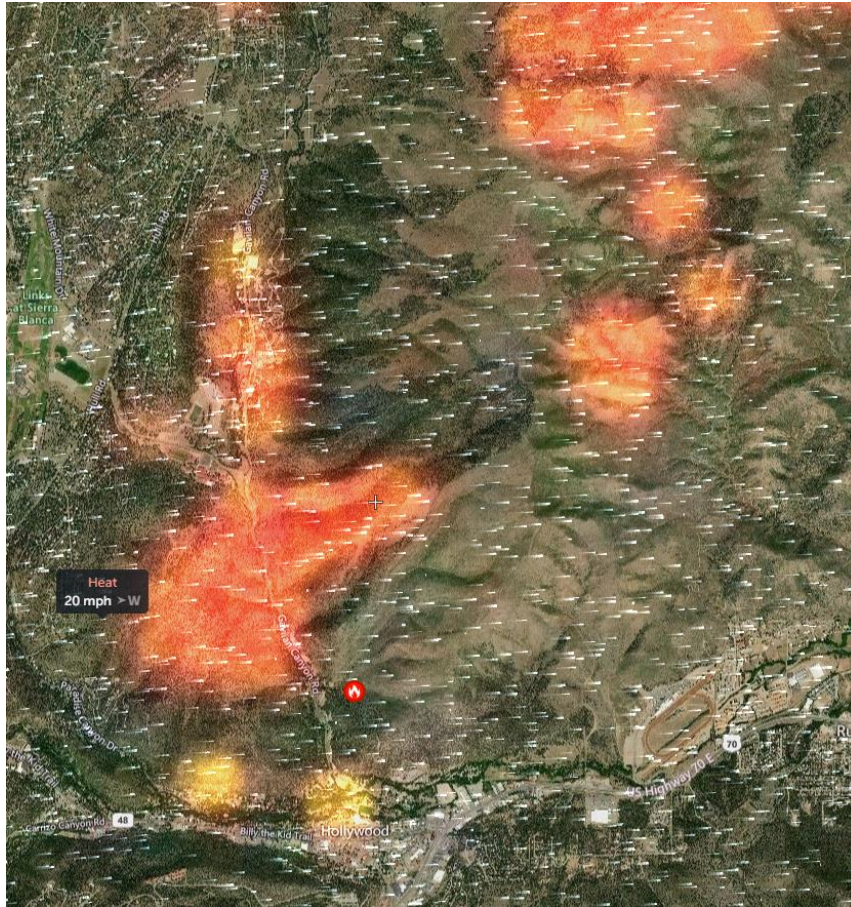


McBride Fire Starts

- On April 12, 2022 (one week to the day after the MRSE), the McBride Fire started at around 2:30 pm on Warrior Drive in Ruidoso, NM
- The fire quickly spread into neighboring residential areas and continued to move northeast.
- At approximately 1500, the NM-HCC Region 3 Preparedness Coordinator called an emergency teleconference with NMDOH, ARCH-P Region, and Region 2 to coordinate resources.
- Lincoln County Medical in Ruidoso has three critical burn patients that needed transport to the burn center in Lubbock. Air assets grounded in the area due to the fire and high winds. Fire at the time was not threatening the facility.
- AT 1600, the State EOC was activated. All ESF Reps were to report immediately.



Initial Fire Spread (courtesy of NMDHSEM)



Operational Timeline

- 1630 - ESF-8 Representative calls CEO of Lincoln Co. Medical Center for a current update. CEO advises that EMS from Roswell (90mins. Away) is coming to pick up the burn patients to meet fixed wings at Roswell Intl. Air Center. Inpatient census was 14 at that time, and staff were working clear med-surg floor.
- 1645 – Region 2 Regional Preparedness Coordinator contacted to ascertain availability patient transport resources, and to double check on the BORDERAC AMBus status from previous week.
- 1650 – Region 3 Regional Preparedness Coordinator contacted for an update on Region 3 and Region 4 resources.
- 1700 – EMResource Banner was put up with bed and resource poll for entire state.
- 1730 – Region 2 Preparedness Coordinator called back to advise AMBus is still down for maintenance, but there was one available from BRAC in Lubbock.
- Hospital in Alamogordo (main receiving Hospital for MRSE) could take 11 of Lincoln Co. Medical Center’s patients.



Continuing Operations 04/13

- Updates From Lincoln County as of 0900
 - He advised that fire was moving toward facility after wind shift overnight.
 - Emergency C-Section patient transferred overnight to Alamogordo
- At 1600:
 - Received call from CEO to advise the fire was directly across from facility. ED would remain open, but all other patient areas had been evacuated.
- Elderly couple reported missing in fire area.



Continuing Operations



0900 04/13



1600 04/13



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Key Learning Points

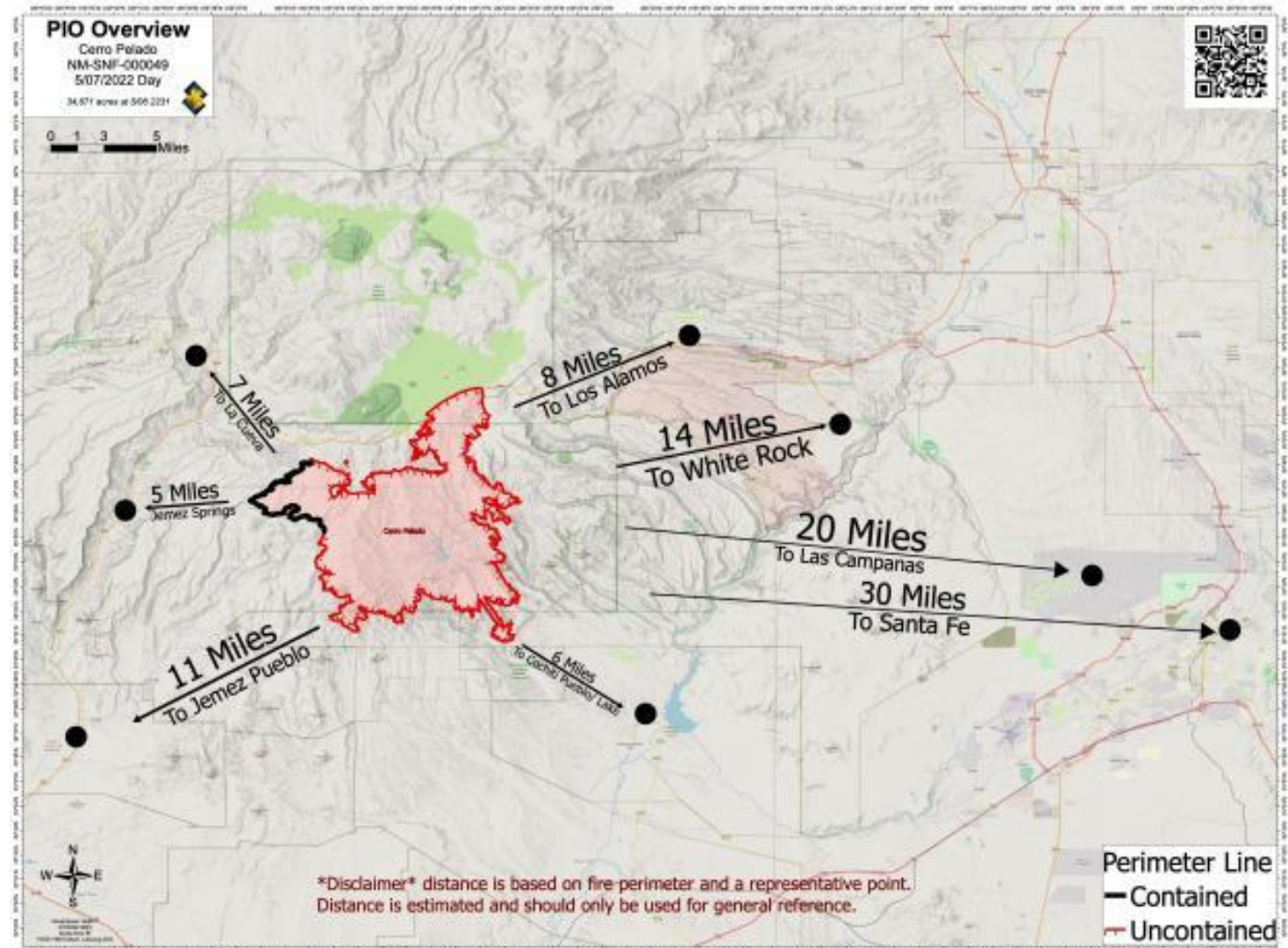
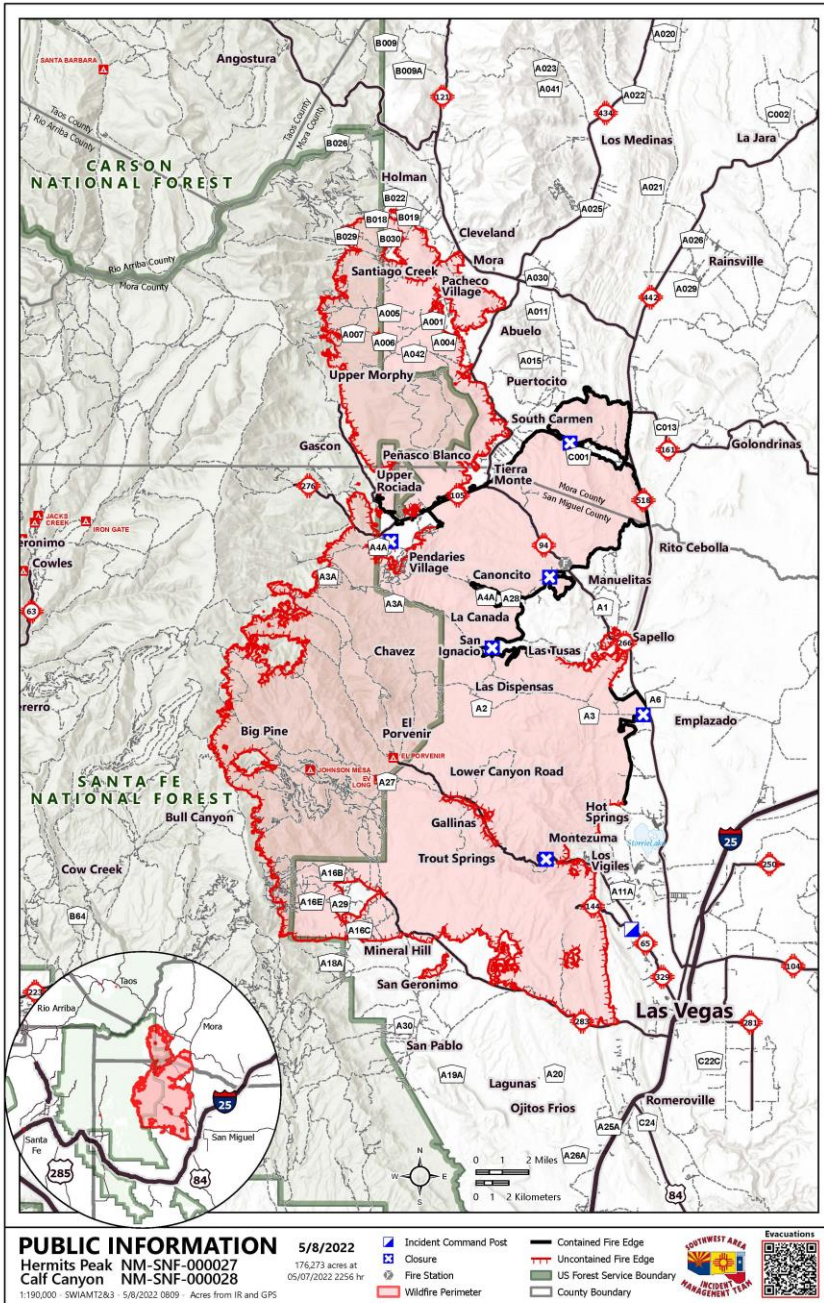
- Pre-established communications and contacts were key in this response
- Encouraging further discussion on regional boundaries based on transport patterns.
- Further involvement and planning with hospitals in the state.
- Interregional planning is key for responses that cross regional boundaries.



The First Domino

The McBride fire was the first incident in a very busy New Mexico Fire Season. Little did we know at the time that our lessons learned would be applied numerous times over the next three months.





Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak Fire

Due to this fire encroaching on the outskirts of Las Vegas, NM the New Mexico Behavioral Institute was ordered evacuated. This facility houses variety of patient types:

- Forensic (needing correctional busses and escorts)
- Pediatric
- Geriatric
- Bedridden

- Additionally, (las Vegas hospital) closed their med surge floor briefly and remained with only their ED open for critical cases
- (nursing Facility) Moved Patients as a precaution due to wind shift and encroachment



Cerro Pelado Fire

With multiple other fires burning across the state, the wind driven Cerro Pelado fire started and began moving west towards Los Alamos, NM.

- A conference call was initiated by the ARCH-P Regional Preparedness Coordinator involving the Region 1 Preparedness Coordinator, Los Alamos County OEM, NMDOH, and Los Alamos Medical Center
- The decision was made to evacuate inpatients and residents their skilled nursing facility but leave their ED open.
- Evacuation lasted for a week.
- Los Alamos, NM is home to Los Alamos National Laboratory.



What It All Amounted To

- In total, nearly 1 million acres burned from April to July 2022
- Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak and The Black Fire became the 2 largest fires in NM history.
- 8 healthcare facilities were fully or partially evacuated. 250 patients were evacuated during the 2022 Fire Season
- All evacuations involved the communication and coordination of all NM Healthcare Regions.
- Teleconferences in both the MRSE and Real-World incidents helped communications and coordination immensely.
- Inter-regional planning during the MRSE vastly improved real-world response.
- Daily operational Briefings Kept Key Stakeholders updated to enhance situational awareness



New Mexico Fires As of 9/11/22

As of 09/11/22, New Mexico has had the 2nd largest amount of acreage burned in the US According to the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)



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Questions?

Thank You!

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