KILLER BEE ATTACKS
&
OLYMPIC PARK CENTENNIAL BOMBING

Disaster Case Study Presentation
Group Number and Names of Group Members
Date

University of Massachusetts Lowell
44.213 Emergency Management Fall 2015
KILLER BEE ATTACKS
2008 — Beginning March 25th — Texas/Southwest U.S.

Spread of Africanized honey bees
by year, by county
Updated July 2009

First found in southern Texas in 1990, Africanized honey bees are now found in much of the South.
Given the severity of killer bee attacks and the spread of killer bees in the US, local, state, and federal officials should come up with a plan to lower the risk of killer bee attacks and attempt to stop the spread of killer bees in the US. While a wide scale nation-wide solution is unrealistic, a localized Incident Command System would be ideal for organizing and executing plans to stop the spread of these bees.
KILLER BEE ATTACKS
PHASE 1 (con’t)

1) What should be the main priority initially?

- Ideally, the killer bee locations should be discovered with an attempt to contain them for further action. This includes helping those affected by the killer bees and their nests in their area by creating a plan that focuses on nest elimination.

2) What should be the communications plan for government officials and residents?

- The director of the operation should have open communication with local officials and animal control to determine killer bee activity location. In addition, agricultural structures should have direct communication, as they are at a higher risk of killer bee activity.

3) What resources will be required at this initial phase?

- The ability to confine the bees and the ability to terminate the bees will be required resources for the initial phase. Resources such as bee suits and sprays will be crucial.

4) What other agencies need to be contacted and coordinated with in contending with killer bees?

- Federal aid should be sought out for the elimination of killer bees. The damage they cause to agriculture and the economy are so widespread that it has become a national issue of concern. Local agencies dealing with beekeeping and agriculture as well as local officials and county officials should be coordinated with. Even the help of state universities and colleges with agriculture programs could be utilized to stop the killer bees.
APRIL 20TH INCIDENT:

On April 20, a second killer bee attack took place in San Antonio against a man who accidentally set his house on fire when attempting to drive the bees away (String Shield Insect Veil, 2008).
1) What is your plan of action?

- As a first response, the man will need to be rescued/treated, assuming he is still alive.
- House fire needs to be extinguished.
- These actions can be handled by first responders (Fire, EMS, and Police), as well as specialized killer bee teams/experts.
- As a secondary action, in efforts to stop the spread of the killer bees to other areas, any found should be killed/captured as appropriate.
- Transfers of any bees to/from the San Antonio area should be quarantined to prevent easy transport to and affliction of other locations.

2) What resources should you mobilize to the affected area of the state?

- Immediately, likely already dispatched through regular 9-1-1/first responder procedure, Fire, EMS, and Police should respond to the main scene to provide emergency medical care/evacuations as needed, and to extinguish the house fire.
- To assist first responders, experts in dealing with bees/killer bees, as well as exterminators should be called out to destroy killer bee nests that are found, as well as collect data/evidence that could provide crucial to responding to and researching killer bees.

3) What is your communication plan?

- Disaster relief and volunteer organizations, such as the American Red Cross, should be mobilized to assist victims and those affected by the disaster.
- A localized Incident Command Post (ICP) may or may not be needed, depending on circumstances, including growth/effect beyond the first household, etc.
- Assuming an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is already activated—likely at the state or regional level—detailed reports must be sent from the scene to update key personnel.

- Several aspects of communications must be covered.
- One of the most important aspects has to do with communicating with the public. The incident at-hand is a prime example of what not to do when faced with a swarm of killer bees.
- An effort should be made, via the Public Information Officer (PIO), to inform the general public about the proper way to act around killer bees, as well as the proper authority/agency to contact if a killer bee nest is found.
- Giving clear directions to the public about the do’s and don’ts of dealing with killer bees could have the potential to save lives even.
- Additionally, using the Incident Command System (ICS) will be vital in streamlining communication, information, and reports internally/amongst involved agencies.
• On April 29th, the Corpus Christi retirement home had literally thousands of bees swarming inside it (Sting Insect Veil, 2008).
1. What is your plan of action?

- If the initial response is ineffective at stopping the spread of killer bees then assistance from the federal government would be needed. Using a federal response, we can target populated areas and attempt to eliminate the bees.

2. What is your communication plan?

- Communication is key in this stage. The director needs to communicate with federal, city, and county officials. A liaison officer will be used to disseminate information to the affected populations.
The attack on the retirement home was actually from normal domestic honeybees. On May 26th, the killer bees claim the life of a 41-year-old victim who was attacked by hundreds of bees (Sting Shield Insect Veil, 2008).
KILLER BEE ATTACKS
PHASE 4 (con’t)

1. What is your plan of action?

- The director needs to be aggressive in preventing the bees from reaching more populated areas. Coordination with county and local officials will be needed as well as medical supplies to contend with killer bee attacks on hand in areas where the bees are.

2. What resources should you mobilize to the affected area of the state?

- Research about elimination of killer bees while protecting honey bees is needed in order to protect the affected areas and agriculture businesses.

3. What is your communication plan?

- The director should organize an effort of continued public information with special education on how to recognize killer bees and how to report killer bee activity.
KILLER BEE ATTACKS

CONCLUSIONS

- Overall the disaster was handled effectively.

- Response and recovery efforts could be improved. By acting more aggressively in response to killer bees, we could have destroyed the source of the hives and limited the spread of the bees. Recovery for the killer bee attacks were more of a preparation for future attack, by supplying medical supplies to areas that already dealt with the killer bees.

- The killer bees were more difficult to deal with because the affected areas were very spread out and we took a more reactionary response than an active prevention method.

- An all hazards plan would certainly be beneficial, but given that the killer bee attacks were multiple events, each attack should be treated as its own event.

- An incident command structure system would be ideal for the disaster.

- The incident commander would utilize the liaison officer to disseminate information the public regarding information about where killer bees are spotted and what the public should do.

- Logistics would provide the needed resources for the incidents, which as mentioned earlier would be a necessity.

- The incident command structure would be at a large-scale level, considering the size of the incident.
OLYMPIC PARK CENTENNIAL BOMBING
1996 Summer Olympic Games — July 27th — Atlanta, GA
A large scale public event is always a challenge for emergency managers. This is mainly due to the sheer number of potential victims of a possible disaster. A terrorist attack would be one of the most devastating disasters at such a large scale event like the Summer Olympics. The attack could target anything from the vendors, to the infrastructure, to the transportation system, or the people. Setting up an Incident Command System would be ideal for organizing and executing plans to contain a bombing attack, helping those injured, and finding those responsible.
OLYMPIC PARK CENTENNIAL BOMBING
PHASE 1 (con’t)

1) What is the plan to ensure security and safety for the sporting event?

- The athletes themselves would be at a greater security risk, so securing player quarters would be a must; especially since the Olympics bring people from all over the world and in great numbers. The venues that people will be attending should also receive extra security such as screening, to prevent any weapons or bombs from getting to concentrated areas. The Olympic areas are large and spread out, so the use of cameras, drones, and plain-clothed security guards would be necessary in maintaining security and upholding public safety.

2) What resources are needed for securing the event?

- The most important resource would be eyes on the ground. Police officers, security guards, and Olympic personnel would be the frontline of protection for an attack like a bombing. Specialized units such as bomb sniffing dogs, bomb squads, or SWAT teams should be on standby in case of an attack. In areas where there are simply not enough human security, cameras, barriers, and restricted areas should be employed to control the locations of people and minimize the risk of a security breach.

3) What is the coordination plan for other agencies?

- Local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies should all be in coordination especially for a global event like the Summer Olympics. Following NIMS, a clear, universal communication plan should be in effect as well as procedures for local, state, and federal law enforcement, as well as emergency responders that allow cooperation and easy communication. The use of a liaison officer may prove useful in coordinating with the various organizations at the event.
JULY 26TH INCIDENT:

On July 26, a concert is being held at the Centennial Olympic Park, which is expected to draw several thousand spectators to the nighttime event. At 12:30 a.m., a security guard points out an unattended green knapsack to law enforcement officers that are at the event (Noe, 2008).
OLYMPIC PARK CENTENNIAL BOMBING
PHASE 2 (con’t)

1) What is your plan of action?

- Based on the fact that the Incident Command System (ICS) is already in place, as this was a planned large-scale event, much of the response will be coordinated via this method.
- Immediately upon discovery of the knapsack, any event/performance that is occurring would be stopped.
- Security, law enforcement, event staff, and other personnel would begin the orderly yet rapid evacuation of all people in the complex, as well as in a perimeter designated by plans and the on-scene highest-ranking law enforcement and security personnel.
- Simultaneously, needed resources would be summoned, to include Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) teams, Bomb Squads, other specialized units, the fire department, and a large number of law enforcement/security personnel.
- Law enforcement and security personnel would secure a perimeter, move/disperse crowds as appropriate, look for additional suspicious packages/suspicious persons/suspicious circumstances, and begin investigating the situation.

2) What is your communication plan?

- An on-scene Incident Commander may need to be established.
- If needed, an Incident Command Post (ICP) near the incident may also need to be established and guarded.
- The Bomb Squad should be briefed on the nature of the incident, including a detailed description on what was found, when it was found, where it was found, and what has been done.
- It should be communicated to all law enforcement and security personnel to follow a previously-created/practiced plan and to secure a perimeter, secure any vulnerable/important locations, move/disperse crowds as appropriate, and look for additional suspicious packages/suspicious persons/suspicious circumstances, and begin investigating the situation.

- In regards to public information, the Incident Commander (IC) and Public Information Officer (PIO) should consider issuing a simple statement that gives the public basic information without revealing too much or giving out sensitive information.
- It should be communicated to all law enforcement and security personnel to follow a previously-created/practiced plan and to secure a perimeter, secure any vulnerable/important locations, move/disperse crowds as appropriate, and look for additional suspicious packages/suspicious persons/suspicious circumstances.
- In regards to public information, the Incident Commander (IC) and Public Information Officer (PIO) should consider issuing a simple statement that gives the public basic information without revealing too much or giving out sensitive information.

3) What resources should you mobilize at this point?

- Besides the previously mentioned resources (extra law enforcement/security personnel, bomb squad, etc.), it would be beneficial to mobilize any explosive detection canine teams to confirm/deny if the unattended knapsack contains explosive material, as well as to search remaining facilities and high-value areas.
- Law enforcement investigators should be mobilized to begin the investigation, including analyzing security camera footage for possible suspects.
- Assuming that there may be additional suspicious/unattended packages in the area, city, or elsewhere, appropriate numbers of law enforcement personnel and perhaps National Guard troops should be dispatched as appropriate.
The affected area is evacuated by local law enforcement and the bomb squad is called in to deal with a suspicious package. An anonymous call stated that a bomb would explode somewhere in the park in just 30 minutes. In addition, some people are refusing to leave as they had been consuming alcohol (Noe, 2008).
1. **What is your plan of action?**

- We should call in more local law enforcement to ensure everyone is evacuated in a timely fashion just in case the bomb was to go off before the 30 minute mark. Medical resources will be deployed near the event as a precaution.

2. **What is your communication plan?**

- Law enforcement should have open communication with one another as well as local government officials who could disseminate more information to the public.
OLYMPIC PARK CENTENNIAL BOMBING PHASE 4

• At 1:20 a.m. the bomb exploded, sending shards of metal in multiple directions. More than 111 people were injured and 2 people died due to the blast (one of a heart attack while running away) (Noe, 2008).
1. How will you contend with the medical needs?

- Security and law enforcement should attempt to provide immediate first aid. A triage of medical personnel should be formed so that patients in dire need can receive immediate help.

2. How will you ensure the rest of the patrons have evacuated safely?

- Security and law enforcement should patrol the evacuated area to make sure that all the wounded are accounted for and retreated. If other people are still in the area they will be escorted out by police and security.

3. How will you ensure that there are no other explosives in the arena?

- The bomb squad will sweep the area to ensure that the park is safe from other bombs. A dog sniffing dog team will be deployed to check the entire park area to ensure safety.
OLYMPIC PARK CENTENNIAL BOMBING CONCLUSIONS

- Overall the was handled effectively.

- Response and recovery efforts could be improved. The bombing’s response and recovery were pretty ideal with little to change.

- An all hazards plan would certainly be beneficial.

- An incident command structure system would be ideal for the disaster.

- The liaison officer would notify the public to stay away from the area and give details about any investigation or safety concerns.

- Logistics would provide the needed resources for the incident, which as mentioned earlier would be a necessity.

The incident command structure would be more centralized, or as needed for the bombing.
Sources

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