NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEMS

WELDING THE BEST PLAYERS INTO THE BEST TEAM FOR THE BEST RESULTS; POLITICIANS, HAZARD EXPERTS, DISASTER AUTHORITIES, MEDIA, COMMUNITY LEADERS

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NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEMS

BUILDING THE
‘A’ TEAM
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

To cover this topic in 10 minutes -

Some Lessons We Have Learnt about Major Elements Of Building Team
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

- Major Elements of Building the Team
  - Leadership
  - Coordination
  - Inclusiveness
  - Credibility and Trust
BUILDING THE A TEAM

Leadership
Who will lead the process?
Some agency/organization/person must take the responsibility of leadership and all that goes with it.

Ultimately the quality of this leadership may well decide the success of the team...
BUILDING THE A TEAM

Coordination – Since alerts from monitoring and forecasting of multiple hazards will come from multiple sources the system must be well coordinated with a single focal point responsible for translating science and threat into advice for public safety.
BUILDING THE A TEAM - Coordination

Scientists / Experts
Monitor Hazards, Threats

Coordinating Point
Interprets, Translates

Public
BUILDING THE A TEAM -
Inclusiveness

Inclusiveness - all players must feel a part of the system – roles discussed, clearly defined and respected. Include two players sometimes seen as “troublesome” – media and politicians.

But they can be powerful allies if included and given defined roles.
BUILDING THE A TEAM - Inclusiveness

Media
Need best available information in good time

Availability – Some designated member of the system must be available to give accurate, timely information when needed. If we don’t give it they’ll get it elsewhere.
BUILDING THE A TEAM - Inclusion

Media –
In return they must pass official information, warning and alerts to the public at the right time and alert EMs to changing situations.

Media can be effective part of warning system.
BUILDING THE A TEAM - Inclusiveness

Media

Include them outside of crises and emergencies - This will increase their understanding of hazard management and its methodologies, objectives
Politicians - formal role (Jamaica)

- Mayors chair local Disaster Committees
- Elected officials provide information through their network
Politicians - formal role (Jamaica)

- Assist in identification and provision of resources
- Reinforce the Emergency Managers’ message
BUILDING THE A TEAM – The Community

Bring the community leaders on board – Don’t manufacture your own

This will engage the community, build trust and ensure sustainability of intervention.
Integrate their knowledge and experience in solutions.
Credibility – all parties must perceive the system as being credible. Building credibility goes beyond getting a warning “right”. It is built on trust.
BUILDING TRUST

Professionalism - when things go wrong, the disaster manager, who will inevitably get blamed, must act professionally – analyse situation, ensure corrective measures are taken.

Don’t get into the blame game
BUILDING TRUST

Independence – This is part of being professional – ensuring no discrimination or bias or favoritism

Courage - State the facts regardless of who does not want to hear them

Consistency - Take the correct action every time, even in the face of pressure not to
BUILDING THE A TEAM
Mission Impossible?

No, but it takes perseverance and courage.

Stick-to-it-ivity absolute prerequisite.