

Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness

SUCCESS STORY

DELAWARE VALLEY

Boosting Private Sector Engagement & a Thirst for More Leadership Training

Contributor: Ed Wurster

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“Strengthening the level of engagement of the private sector has always been a top priority for the Task Force,” describes Ed Wurster, Training and Exercise Section Chief for Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force. The Task Force is responsible for regional cooperation for activities related to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters of any kind. Wurster, who is responsible for ensuring all partners - government, business, and non-profit organizations are trained and prepared for all hazards, credits the Delaware Valley Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness and Post Summit Activity specifically for helping to promote and encourage private sector involvement in community preparedness activities.

Meta-Leadership Brings a Boost in Business Participation

The Delaware Valley Meta-Leadership Summit, which was held in October 2010 coincided nicely with the resurged enthusiasm for a workgroup within the Task Force dedicated to critical infrastructure and private sector involvement in preparedness planning. Although the workgroup had previously hosted a successful “Business Summit,” one goal of the workgroup was to engage more partners. As Wurster describes, “The Meta-Leadership Summit provided the opportunity to network and partner with members of the private sector with whom we did not already have relationships. The Summit allowed us to connect with Vanguard, Siemens, the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP) and others.” Since the Summit, the Task Force continues to be remain engaged with these key partners. Also, following the Summit, the critical infrastructure/private sector workgroup has hosted two additional Business Summits, each one growing in size and participation. Furthermore, the workgroup has trainings and exercises specifically planned in conjunction with the private sector for 2012.

Meta-Leadership is the Beginning of Additional Training

In addition to encouraging and validating the need to continuously partner with the private sector, Wurster values the emphasis the Meta-Leadership Summit placed on leadership and the need to develop lines of succession within organizations. “The Summit wetted our appetite, but there is a need and thirst for additional leadership training,” described Wurster, who has been working to create a leadership training program that will be available to regional emergency management and homeland security leaders. The program will be offered starting in the fall of 2012.

Moving forward, the Task Force has established a priority to increase leadership capacity across the region and continue outreach and growth of the infrastructure/private sector workgroup.

The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness empowered business, government and nonprofit leaders to act together in times of crisis. The five-year initiative connected 5,000 business, government and nonprofit leaders in 36 communities. For resources and more information about Meta-Leadership visit the [CDC Foundation Meta-Leadership Website](#).



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