Town of Danvers

Emergency Response to
November 22, 2006 Explosion
Lessons Learned
Seismograph from Weston Observatory

Danvers Chemical Plant Explosion
November 22, 2006 02:46:44 EST
Equivalent Earthquake Magnitude 0.5

Event Arrival Time at Weston Observatory
02:46:48 EST
November 22, 2006 Event

- 2:46 A.M.
- Explosion heard throughout Town and North Shore
- 100+ structures heavily damaged or destroyed
Immediate Response

- Evacuate 400+ residents
- Search for injured / dead
- Attack fire
- Set up shelter
Secondary Response

- Establish ISU
- Assess priorities and assign responsibilities
- Update meetings at 1 hour, 2 hour, etc. intervals
Initial Priorities

- Fire Control
- Public Health – Air and water quality
- Safety of structures
- Site security
- Shelter
- Establish EOC and designate PIO
Assigned Responsibilities

- Fire control - *Fire Chief & Deputy*
- Structural safety - *Building Inspector*
- Public Health - *Health Director / EPA*
- Site security - *Police Chief*
- Shelter - *Public Works/Health Director*
- Establish EOC & PIO - *Town Manager*
Lessons Learned

- Be prepared; have a plan.
- Take responsibility.
- Communicate at all levels
- Delegate – It’s a team effort.
Lessons Learned

- Stay calm.
- Take care of yourself & key staff.
  - Could have done better.
- Recognize peoples’ efforts.
- Critique what worked and what didn’t.
Lessons Learned

- Assign key staff roles in advance: DPW; Financial management; P/F; Health; Volunteer boards
- Fully utilize technology: Connect CTY; Twitter; Town website; Web EOC
- Public Safety Dispatch overloaded – working to modernize and regionalize
Lessons Learned

- Improve coordination with outside agencies: SFM; CSB; ATF; State Police

- Find a role for Board of Selectmen