Alaska Food Policy Council

health.
self-reliance.
prosperity.

Inaugural Alaska Food Festival and Conference
November 7-9, 2014
Community Emergency Food Preparedness

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AFPC Goals targeted

- Food is safe, protected and supplies are secure throughout Alaska.
- Alaska’s food system is more sustainable.
- Alaskans are engaged in our food system
Why Emergency Preparedness?

Because accidents happen, we need to have plans for successful outcomes.
“Accidents” can be human-caused or nature-caused or both

Major earthquake - war/conflict - pandemic

Depending on severity they can result in disruptions in the normal supply chain functions
Why not do nothing?

**Risk**- because even if there's a low probability for a major, catastrophic disaster causing the disruption of food shipments, there would be a very high consequence!
Why Community Preparedness?

• Humans are social and we need each others help to thrive.
• Truly prepared individuals are prepared to act to help others.
• During a major disaster, communities may not be able to rely on outside sources for help.
Brace yourself!
How prepared are we?
It depends; what, where, how big.

- **LEPC’s** (Local Emergency Planning Committee)
- **AK State Emergency Operations Plan**
- **DHS and EM** (Div. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management)
- **VOAD’s** (Volunteer Organizations Aiding in Disaster)
- **FEMA, APHIS** (Federal Emerg. Mngmnt & Animal/Plant Health Serv.)
- **National Response Framework (NRF), Emergency Support Functions (ESF)**
So…Where’s the Food?!

- Food Banks
- Alaska’s Federal Food Programs
- Stores (retail, commercial, etc.)
- VOAD’s
- Alaska’s Catastrophic Food Reserve
- Wild/Cultivated Harvestable
Our Food System
During a multi-week supply disruption, my community would:

1. experience what impacts?
2. have what responses?
3. have what unmet needs?

(consider elements of the Food System)
How can we prepare our communities?

By planning and creating a “culture of preparedness”.

1. Community Food Emergency and Resilience Plan (using the “Template”)
2. Alaska Community Emergency Food Cache System (ACEFCS)
Essential elements of the Template

• Provides a framework for a community to engage, discuss and make steps towards self-reliance

• Community outlines procedures and resources available in the event of a food emergency.
The Template helps the community to;

- identify transportation system strengths and vulnerabilities
- develop food storage and distribution capabilities
The Template helps community develop plans for Wild and Cultivated Harvests

- Emergency Hunts, Fishing, Gathering (laws, authorization, protocols, shared resources for harvest/processing/distribution)
- Compensation agreements for resources used (fuel, crops, supplies)
How can emergency food storage really work on a community scale?

ACEFCS!
The Alaska Community Emergency Food Cache System

The Big Idea;
Minimum levels of culturally appropriate, nutritionally qualified foods are determined, stocked and rotated as part of normal business operations in public-private partnerships with food vendors.
ACEFCS: some of the details

• A Local Food Vendor (LFV) maintains an Emergency Food Cache (EFC)

• LFV employees are trained as Emergency Food Responders (EFR)
• During food emergency- EFR’s implement Food Security and Distribution Protocols including 1) securing and 2) distributing food reserves in pre-planned manner (to individuals or VOADs)
ACEFCS: an essential detail

- Employee Self and Family Plans are developed including 1) vehicle, 2) home and 3) workplace emergency response kits, plans and supplies for the employee and family.

- Allows first responders (EFRs) to stay on post during emergency
ACEFCS creates the opportunity to strengthen our food system and its abilities to weather emergencies.

1. Businesses maintain continuity of operations at least and even better – they grow!
2. Employees know they are taken care of
3. Communities are food secure in emergencies
Thank you for sharing in the Alaska Food Policy Council’s Vision:
A healthy, secure food system that feeds all Alaskans.

Questions? Thoughts? Ideas? Help? contact; darren.snyder@alaska.edu