Navigating Public Assistance

October 30, 2020
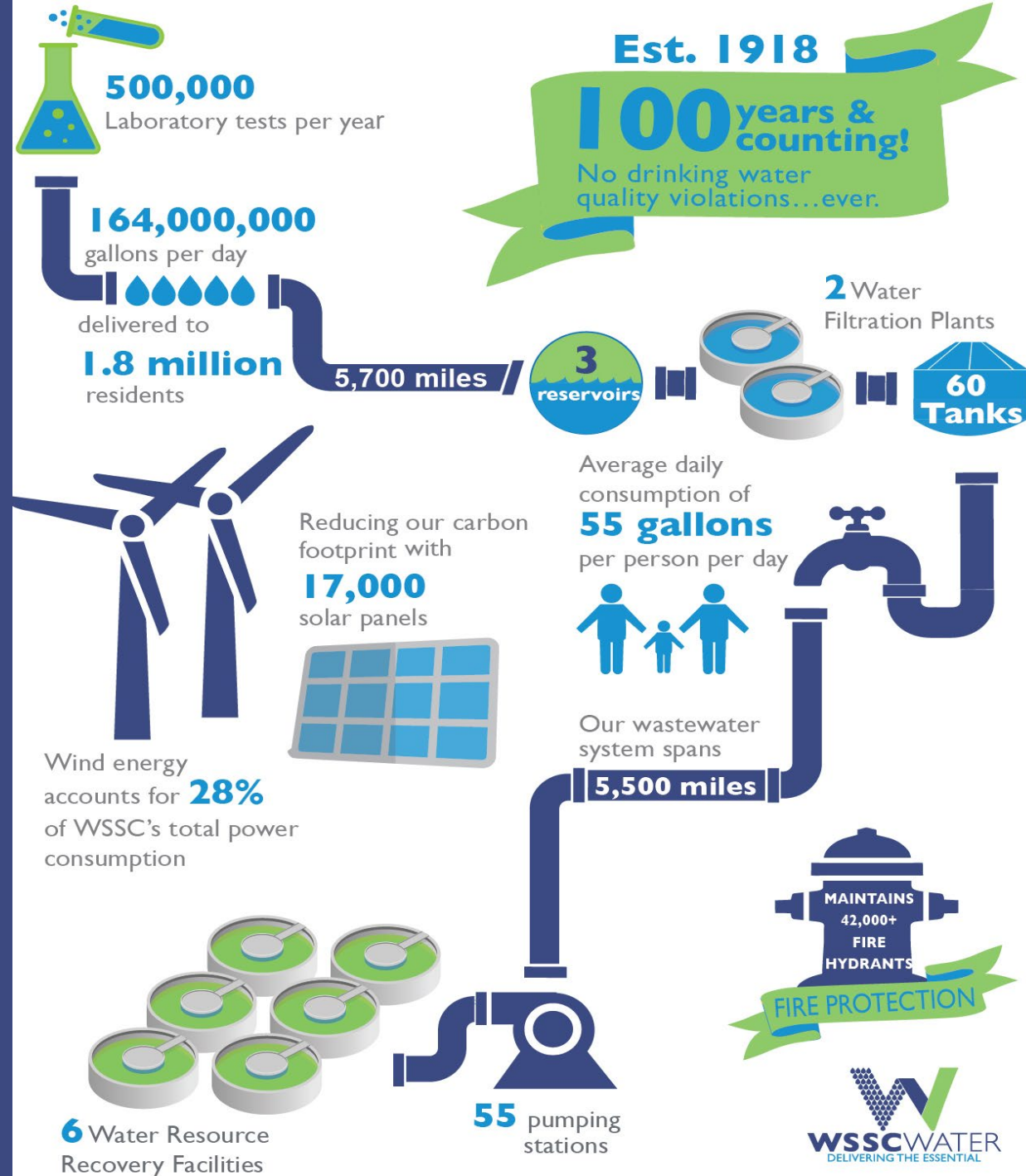
David McDonough, J.D.

Director of Police & Homeland Security

WSSCWATER
DELIVERING THE ESSENTIAL

WSSC Water At-A-Glance

- 1.8 million people = 480,000 customer accounts

- 1,700 #H20 People (employees)

- 11,200 miles of pipeline

- 2 watersheds

- 2 Water Filtration Plants

- 6 Water Resource Recovery Facilities

500,000 Laboratory tests per year

Est. 1918
WSSC 100 years & counting!
No drinking water quality violations…ever.

164,000,000 gallons per day
delivered to
1.8 million residents

5,700 miles

3 reservoirs

2 Water Filtration Plants

60 Tanks

Average daily consumption of **55 gallons** per person per day

Reducing our carbon footprint with **17,000** solar panels

Wind energy accounts for **28%** of WSSC's total power consumption

Our wastewater system spans **5,500 miles**

MAINTAINS **42,000+ FIRE HYDRANTS**
FIRE PROTECTION

6 Water Resource Recovery Facilities

55 pumping stations

WSSCWATER
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Who we serve

- Spans nearly 1,000 square miles

- Serving 1.8 million residents

- 480K customer accounts

- Critical Customers include:
  - National Institutes of Health
  - 12 Hospitals
  - Pharmaceutical and Vaccine Manufacturing hub
  - FDA
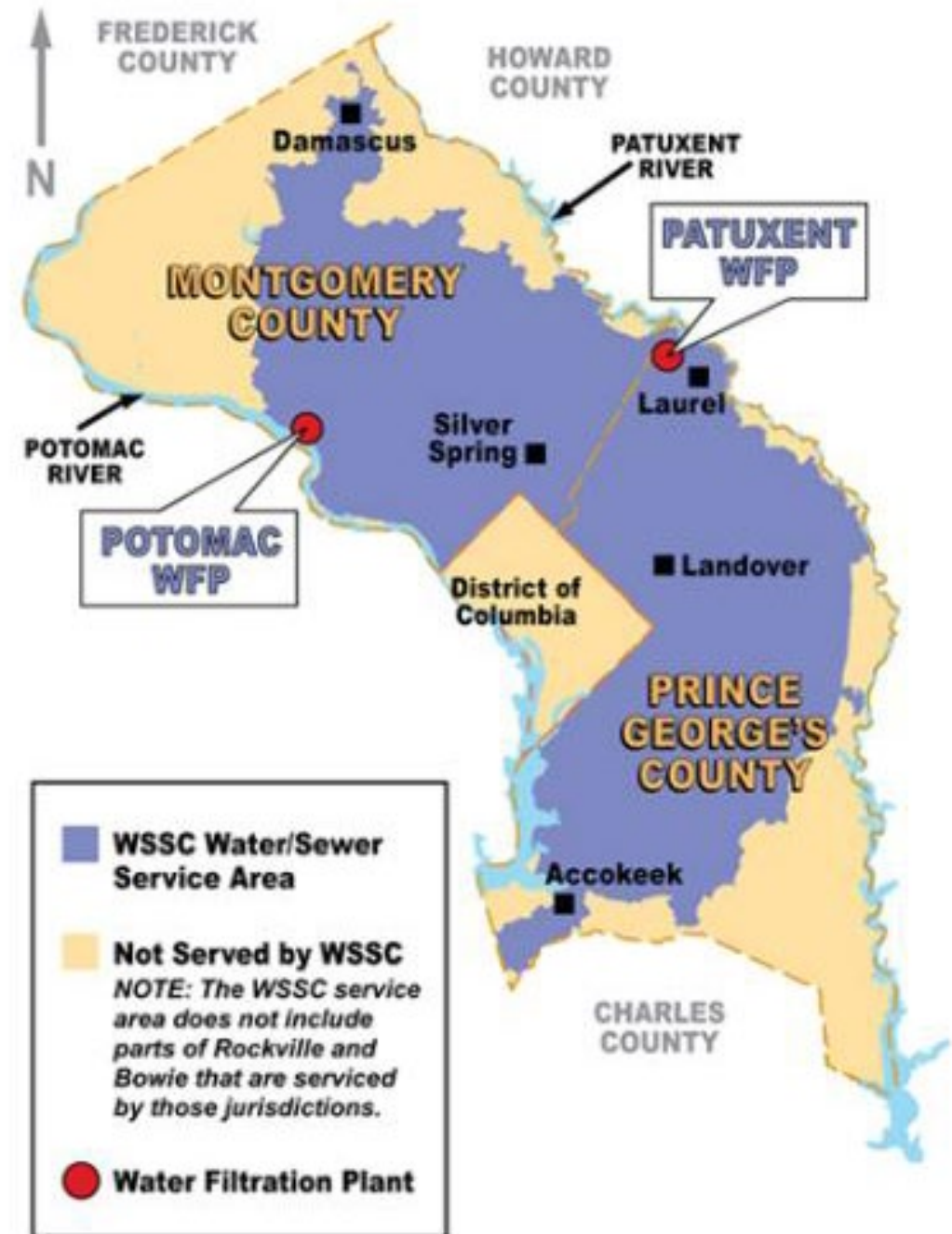
Who am I?

Current
- Director of Police & Homeland Security
- COVID-19 Incident Commander

Previous
- Director of Administration at MEMA
- Director of Strategy & Policy at MEMA
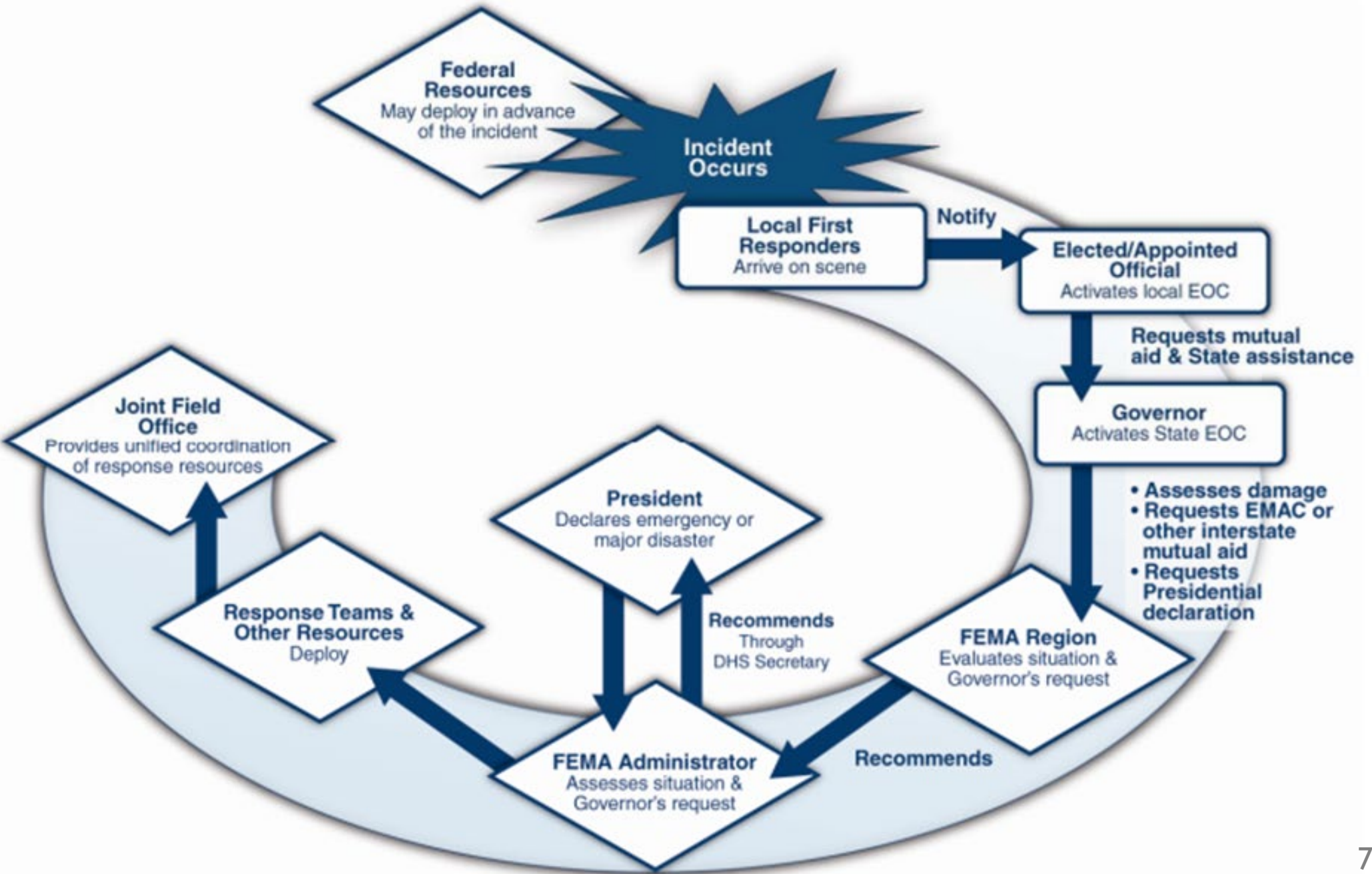- SEOC Commander
- Deputy in Governor's Office of Homeland Security

3 Takeaways

- Start Early and Support your Community

- Be Engaged with Incident Command and/or your Emergency Manager
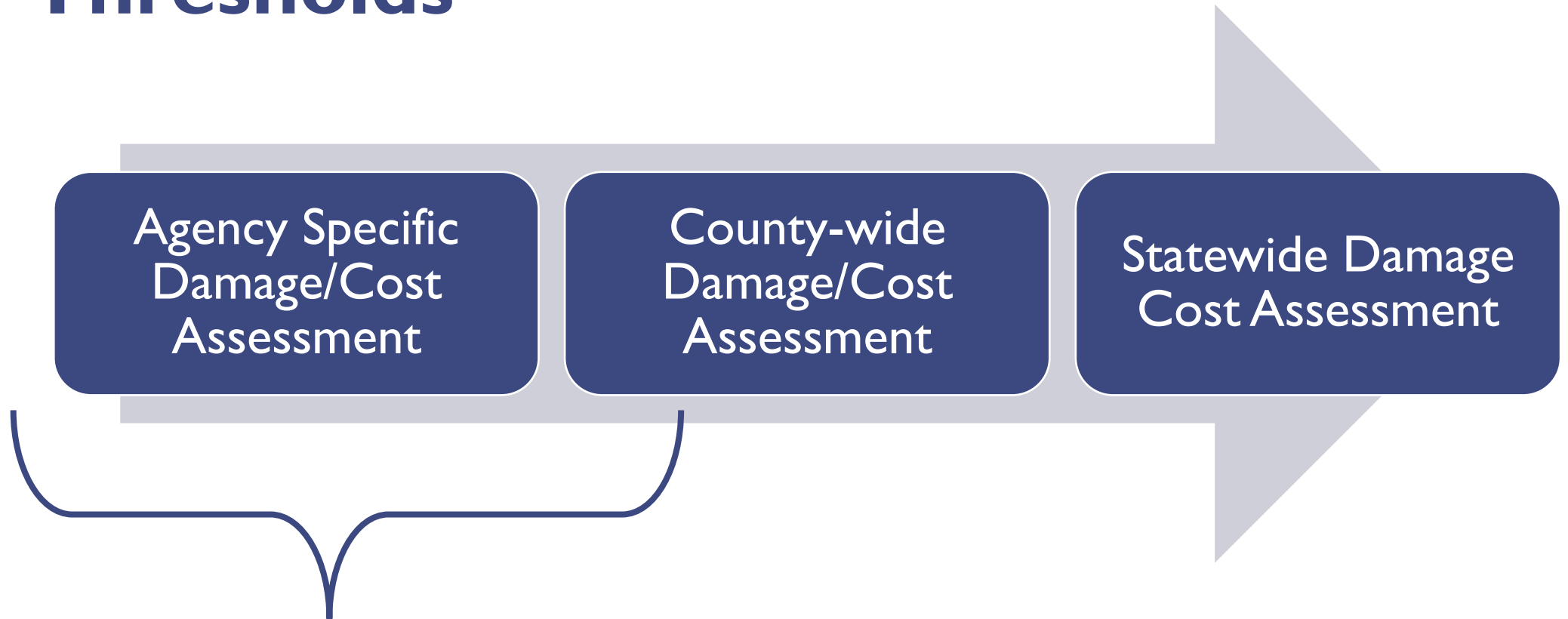
- Avoid a "Second Disaster"

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Start Early and Support your Community

Federal Disaster Declaration Process

Gathering Verifiable Cost Data Quickly Helps Community and State Meet Thresholds

Agency Specific Damage/Cost Assessment

County-wide Damage/Cost Assessment

Statewide Damage Cost Assessment
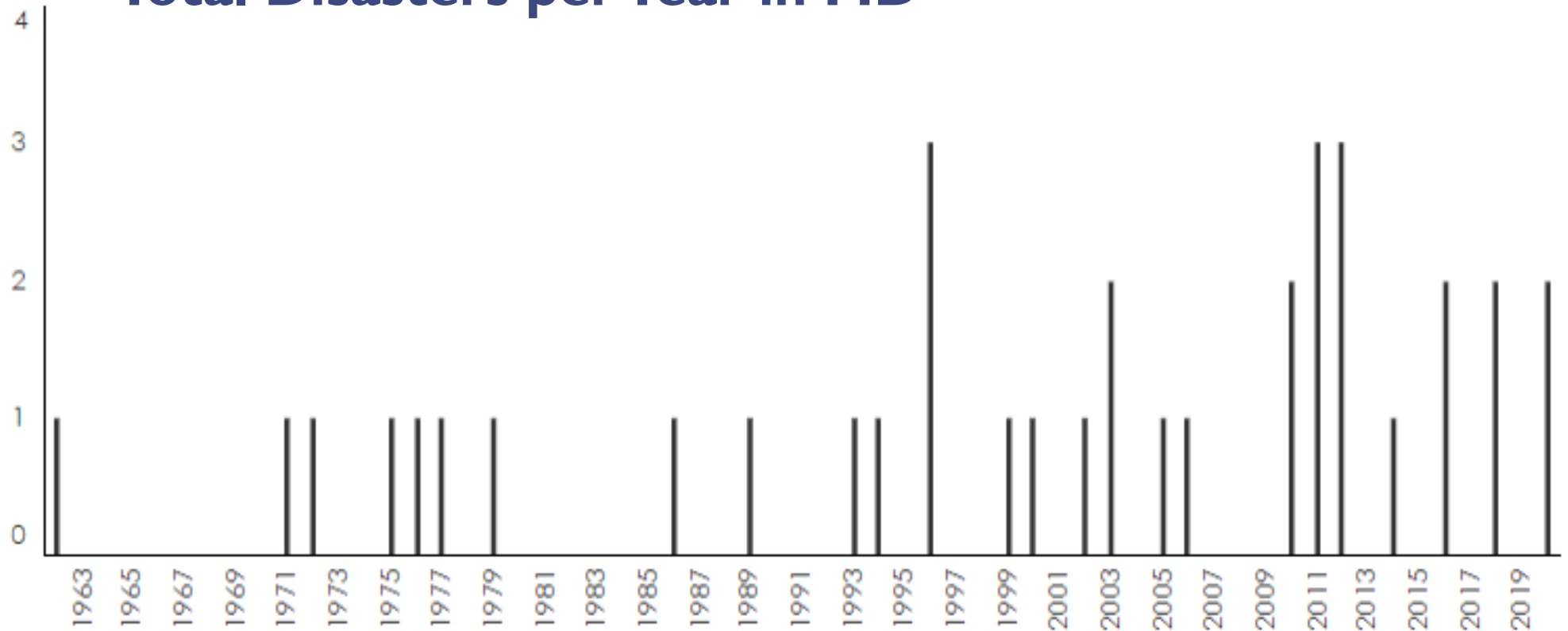
Your Costs Support both County and State threshold requirements

- $1.50 per capita statewide
- $3.78 per capita in each county

Disasters are Increasing in Number and Impact

Total Disasters per Year Nationwide
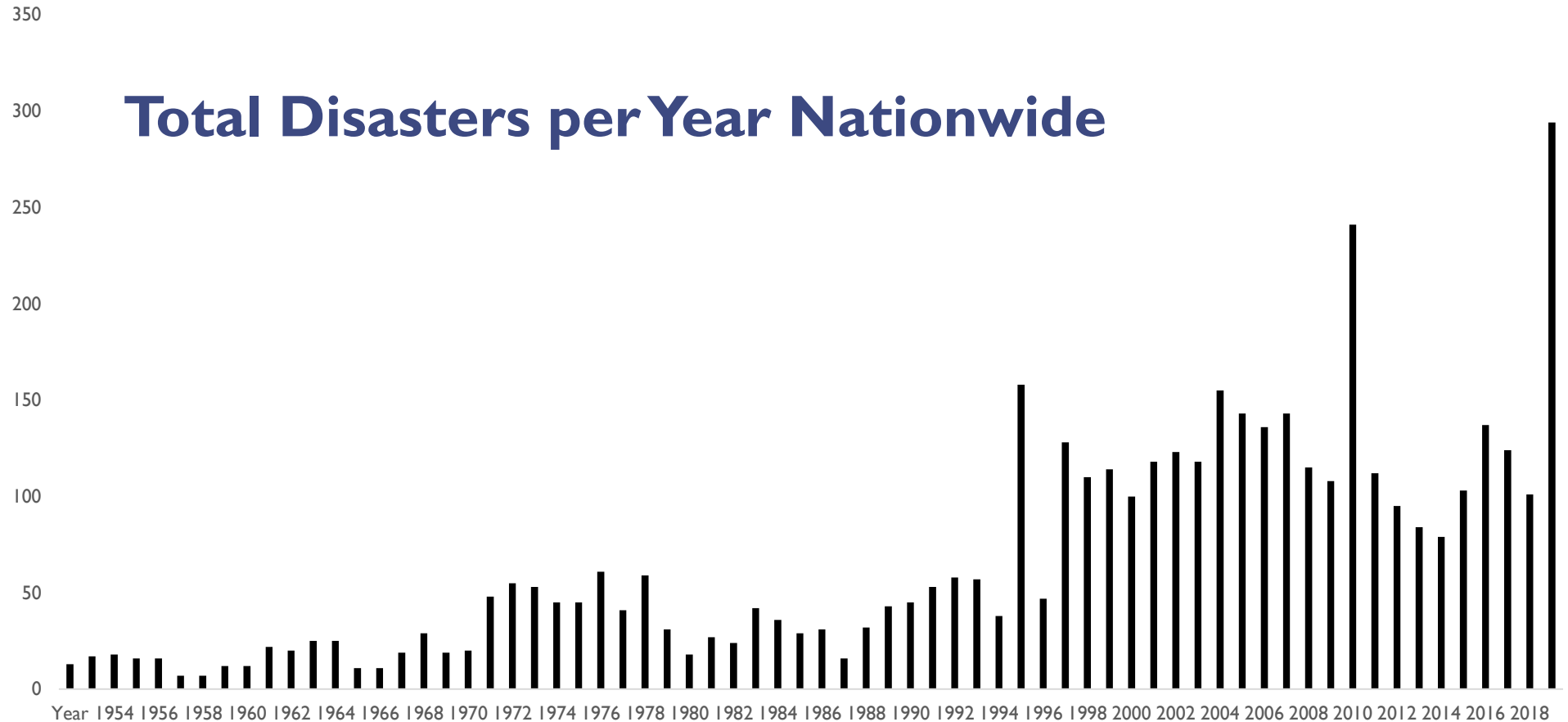
Disasters are Increasing in Number and Impact

Total Disasters per Year in MD

Cost Tracking Best Practices

- Assign a job or other code to all time, purchases, and other activities related to the emergency

- Designate a point-person for gathering this information and for answering employee questions on how to appropriately code

- Ensure all employees are documenting and retaining documentation related to their activities

Engage with Incident Command and/or Emergency Management

Incident Command System (ICS)
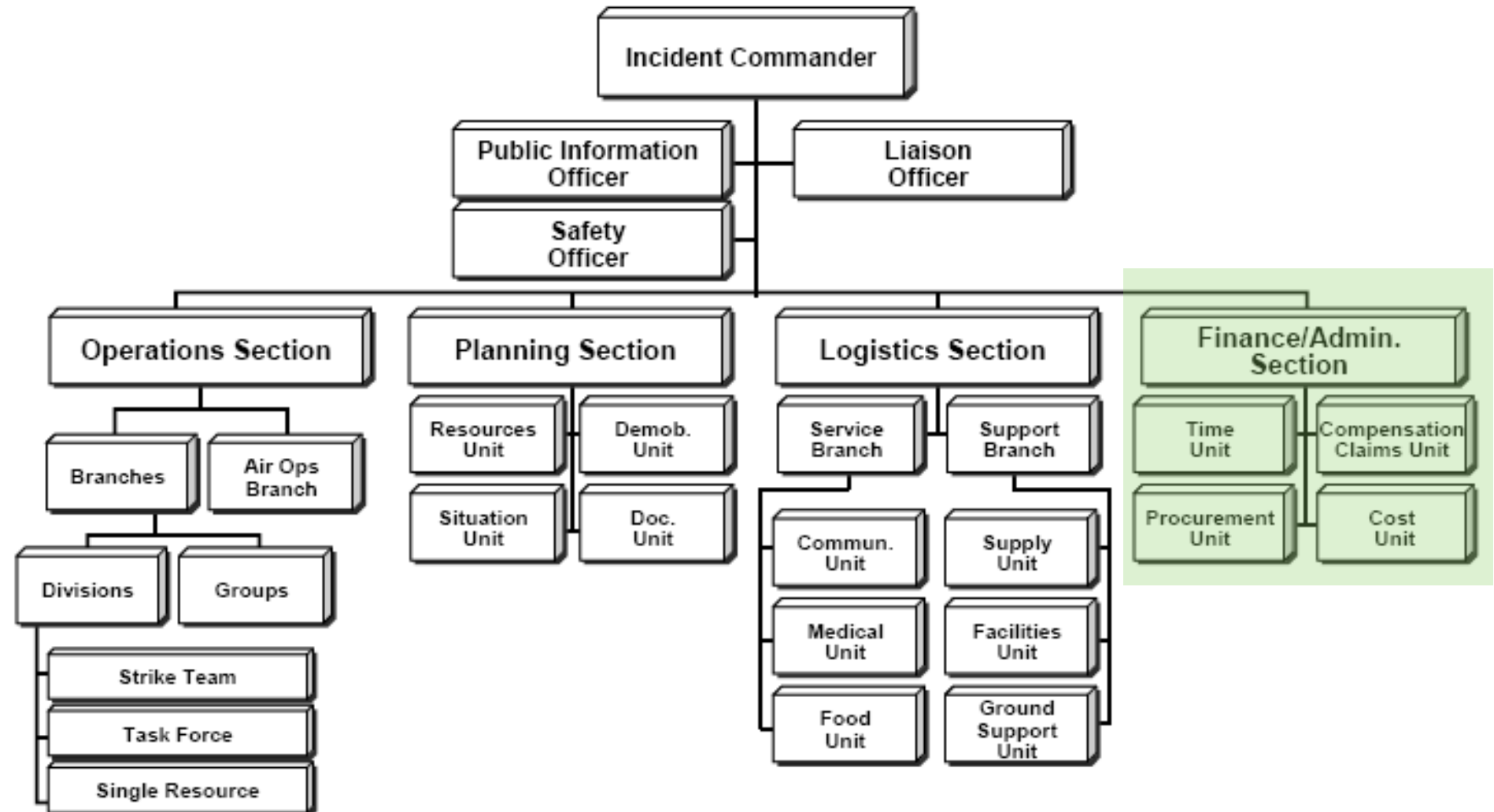
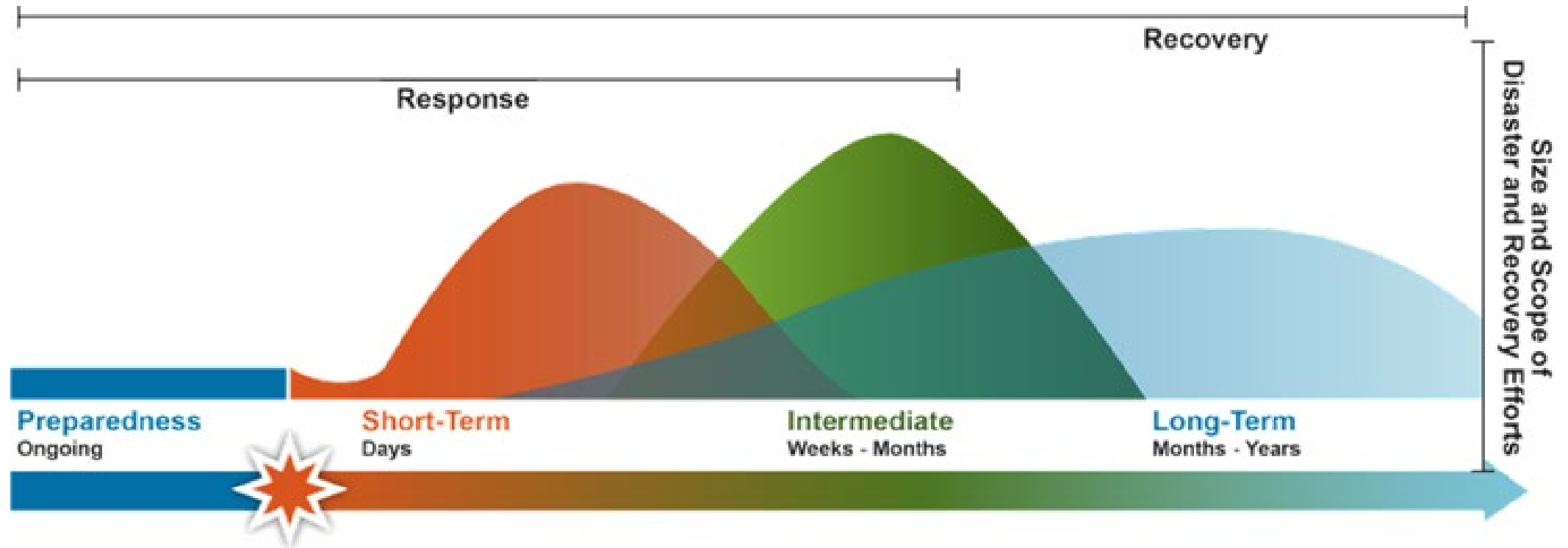# Early Active Engagement by Finance in Incident Command Helps Maximize Recovery

- Incident Command System (ICS) is the way your county manages emergencies

- ICS includes a Finance Branch that is:

  - Responsible for financial, administrative and cost analysis aspects of an emergency
  - Maintains contact with agency administrative and finance staff during response
  - Provides advice to the Incident Commander on financial matters

Engaging with Incident Command Helps Support…

- County or agency communications on the impact of an emergency to the public, State and Federal Officials

- May support or inform the Governor's request letter to the President seeking a disaster declaration

- Ensures financial managers are aware of the costs being incurred and the reasoning for expenditures to respond to the disaster

- Ensures your agency or county is thinking ahead towards the next phase of emergency response - recovery

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DELIVERING THE ESSENTIAL

Disaster Recovery

Avoid a second disaster…

WSSC WATER
DELIVERING THE ESSENTIAL

Avoid a Second Disaster

Crisis & Emergency Management and physical restoration **+** Grant application and financial management **=** Successful Disaster Recovery
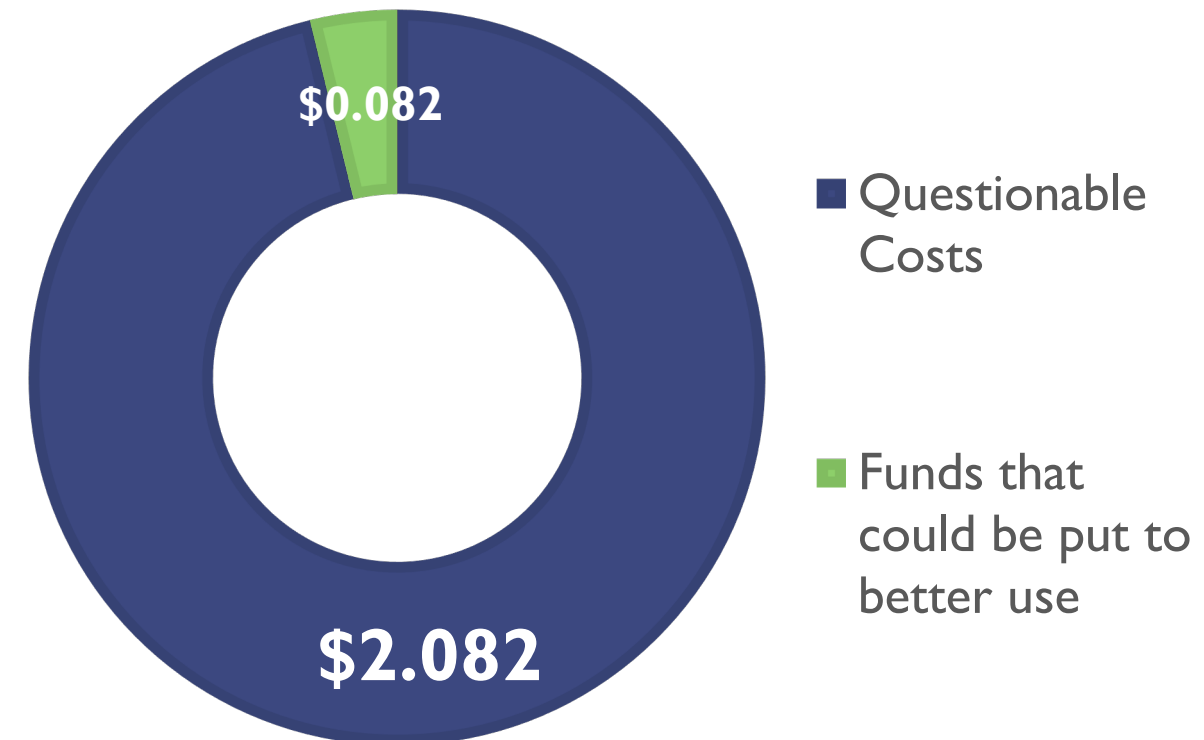
$2.082[1] Billion in Disaster Funds Subject to Potential Deobligation

- Non-compliant contracting practices
- Lack of supporting documentation

OIG IDENTIFIED COSTS
($ IN BILLIONS)

$0.082

$2.082

- Questionable Costs
- Funds that could be put to better use

A second disaster…

- Deobligation of funding
- Temporary withholding of cash payments
- Large amounts of recovery work not reimbursed
- Suspension or debarment proceedings
- Negative reputational consequences
- State/Federal investigations

Preventing a Second Disaster

- Ensure compliance with the most strict procurement regulations in force for the agency/jurisdiction
- Train people in finance offices on public assistance and other federal requirements like cost reasonableness
- Proactively engage early with any sub-recipients on documentation and compliance
- Consider outside assistance using allowable management costs

Questions?