

# Effective Regional Disaster Recovery: It Takes an Entire Community to Recover Well



# Presentation Overview

- Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COADs)
- Effective Collaboration: the Key to Successful Recovery
- Lessons Learned from Irene
- 2013 Slayton Hill Flood Event
- How You Can Get Involved

# Upper Valley Strong

- Former Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)
- Community Organization Active in Disasters (COAD)
  - Team of non-profit agencies, churches, schools, municipalities, and local branches of State government
  - Work together to help regional communities rebuild disasters
- Upper Valley Strong *coordinates*; clean-up, repair, technical support, food access, **counseling**, housing and financial support.

# COADs Increase Resilience

“Resilience is the capacity to adapt to changing conditions and to maintain or regain functionality and vitality in the face of stress or disturbance. It is the capacity to bounce back after a disturbance or interruption of some sort.”

Alex Wilson

<http://www.resilientdesign.org/>

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# COAD Guiding Principles

- All disasters are local events
- The best time to develop networks is prior to an event
- Recovery organizations should serve as role models
- Strong partnerships are essential
- During disaster recovery, all community leadership should be networked for effective
  - Planning
  - Directing
  - Implementation



# Primary Purpose of COADs

- Fill the immediate gap after emergency response ends
- Continue the long-term recovery to get community back on their feet after disasters
- Work with current emergency management systems to coordinate efforts, avoid duplication of services, and increase efficiency of resources

# Effective Collaboration: The Secret to Success

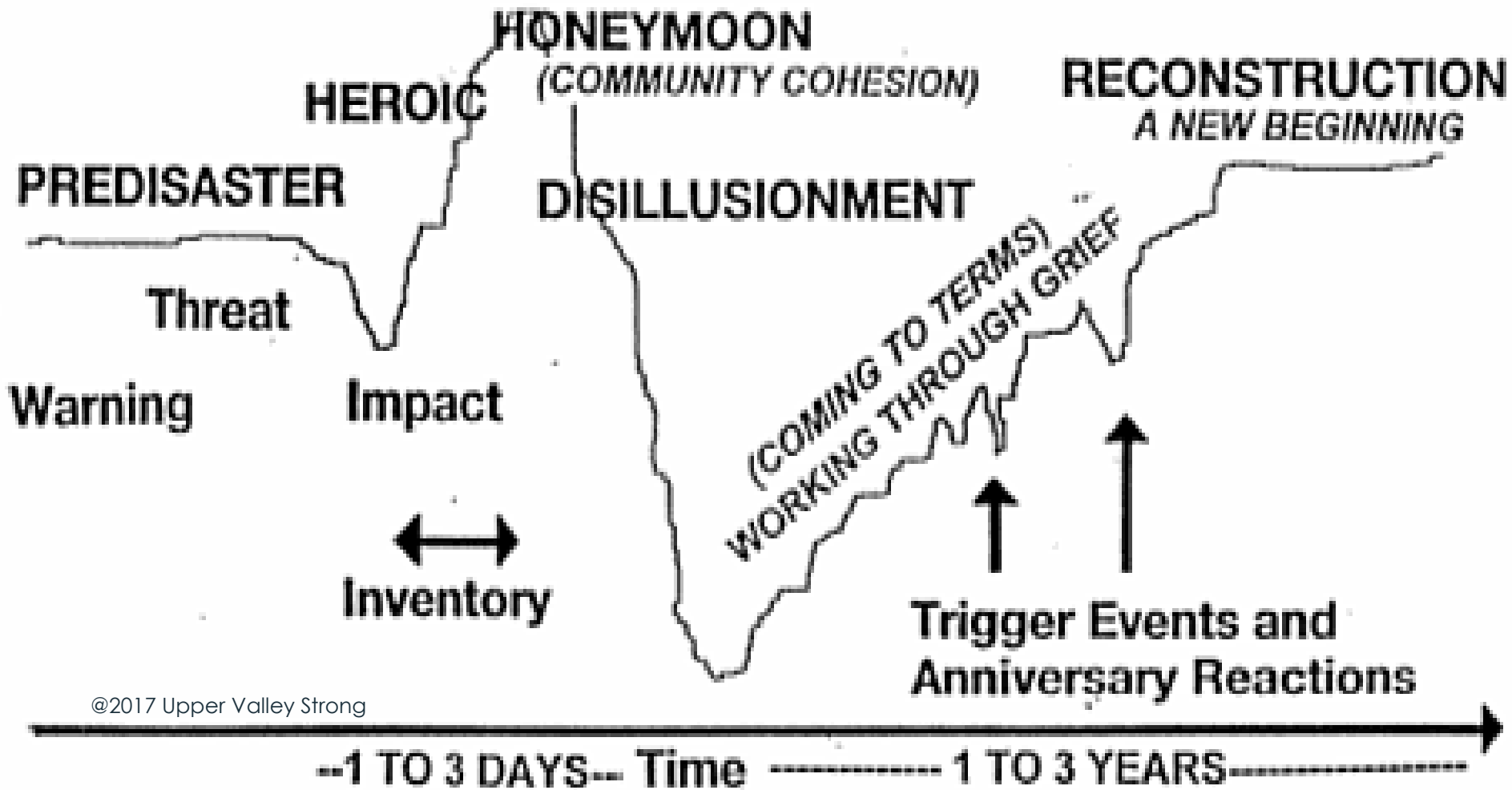


# Lessons We Learned From Irene

- Determining regions of responsibility took far too long
- Interaction between Response and Recovery organizations almost non-existent
- Disaster recovery groups were not well synchronized
- Difficulty accessing disaster damage information
- COADs needed to find a way to remain a sustainable, viable, long-term disaster recovery presence



# Phases of Disaster



# Working with Current Long Term Recovery Structure



# 2013 SLAYTON HILL FLOODING

- Microburst storm strikes Lebanon on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend
- Flooded basements, flood debris on properties, washed-out driveways, hot/humid weather
- Clothing, food, some relocated to temporary housing, financial assistance, appliances, flood debris removed and transported to landfill; all provided at no cost to residents
- Over 80 local, untrained volunteers showed up to help out

# Community Resources Involved

Longacre's Nursery

The Little Store

COVER Home Repair

Casella Waste Management

Lebanon Fire Department

The Upper Valley Haven

Pathways Consulting

Upper Valley Housing Coalition

BJ's Superstore

Numerous Private Donors





# Irene Recovery vs. Slayton Hill Recovery

## FEMA Funds vs Private Funds

- Same accountability standards
- Restrictions vs Latitude

## Geographic Areas Impacted

- Large, indistinct region vs concise & defined

## Severity of Damage

- Numerous total rebuilds vs flood debris and some structural

## Number of Cases

- Approximately 700 vs 40

## Timeframes

- Approximately 4 years vs 4 months

# HOW YOU GET INVOLVED

- Invite UV Strong to conduct a volunteer training at your work, church, or social organization
- Donate to our organization online:  
[www.uvstrong.org](http://www.uvstrong.org)
- Contact UV Strong to network your organization with ours



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