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Our increasingly inter-connected economies no longer can afford the vast societal and economic costs of disasters. Natural disasters alone result in about \$50 billion in losses each year in the U.S. As a consequence, we have begun a nationwide effort called Project Impact, to strengthen the existing infrastructure to better withstand the impacts of disasters, to better educate the decision-makers, and construct new infrastructure to reduce vulnerabilities to future disasters. During the first five years of this effort, we have learned much about how the various levels of government and the many segments of our community infrastructure must tailor their thinking and operations to the new realities of our inter-connected world. This session will focus on many of these lessons learned as it describes the American experience of the last few years.

Important aspects include:

- 1) Need for an energetic proponent to push it at the local level;
- 2) Need for it to be a local effort led by locals;
- 3) Need for local political commitment;
- 4) Need for business buy-in and consideration for future funding;
- 5) Need to involve volunteer agencies;
- 6) Avoid projects that will split the community advocates;
- 7) Need for public recognition of participants, especially businesses; and
- 8) Importance of signing ceremonies and other public events to which the media is invited.

Keywords: commitment; costs; disaster; economy; funding; infrastructure; lessons; politics; Project Impact; strategies

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Bioterrorism: The Threat Posed by Smallpox, Anthrax, and Botulism*Dr. John Blatherwick*Medical Health Officer of the City of Vancouver,
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This presentation will provide an analysis of the threat posed by Smallpox, Anthrax and Botulism. An outline of the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board's plan for dealing with bioterrorism in the local area will be provided.

Keywords: anthrax; bioterrorism; planning; smallpox