

Oregon and SW Washington Crisis Continuity Coalition Meeting

Green-Wyatt Federal Building
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Rm 315, Portland, Oregon

February 21, 2008 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Summary

Hosts:

Steve Borgen, U.S. Attorney's Office, Portland
Gail Dreckman, Bonneville Power Administration

Agency Updates

Emergency managers from the following agencies gave updates on current issues they are facing:

Indian Health Service - during TOPOFF 4 they decided to simulate the closure of their office and an evacuation. They discussed the relocation with one of their field offices, but it wasn't clear or prepared; an issue to resolve. They've also been working with FEMA on the winter storms in Washington state.

VA Medical Center - recently underwent review by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which has more stringent performance measures. Preparing for a VA nationwide pandemic flu exercise, to be held sometime in mid-June. Also working on evacuation plans for entire building; would send patients to VA Community Based Outreach Clinics or partner regional hospitals.

BPA – recently updated pandemic flu plan, went through a checklist for different leadership groups, what actions need to be taken by each. Also developed communications plan within it. Version two of the new pandemic plan will now begin with identifying essential jobs.

Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District - working on COOP and pandemic flu planning. TOPOFF 4 encouraged them to broaden range of COOP sites, develop better way to account for employees by creating a centralized calling system. Pan flu planning starting with identifying essential personnel.

NRCS – distributed information pertaining to their new Emergency Watershed Protection program. It provides technical and financial assistance for watersheds ravaged by natural disasters, including funding for clearing debris from waterways, restoring vegetation and stabilizing riverbanks. For more information or copies of the handouts, go to www.or.nrcs.usda.gov or contact Alan Takayama at alan.takayama@or.usda.gov.

Customs & Border Protection - Greg Fiorentino introduced Terrie Murdock, who will be transitioning into the COOP role as Greg will be retiring soon. They are developing a new COOP template, as they recently discovered theirs was outdated.

BLM - Ann Krake introduced as new Oregon/Washington State Safety Manager. She was previously with the CDC as a Public Health Officer; is on detail at BLM. They would like a pan flu tabletop. Also trying to decide on whether to buy antivirals from the State of Oregon.

GSA - responding to the winter storms in Washington. They are also redesigning their COOP template. Rewriting national pan flu plan, have developed online training for employees.

Federal Protective Service - GAO report recently cited shortfalls in FPS budget. Target is 70% security assessments, 30% law enforcement, but reality is about 50/50%. Trying to get local law enforcement to take bigger role, but not easy. Also interested in pandemic flu.

Small Business Administration - scheduled to test COOP plan in Oct. 2008.



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US Attorney's Office - looking at post T4 lessons learned. Steve has joined a new victims/witnesses of mass casualties group, sponsored by Oregon Emergency Management. He encouraged others in local emergency management groups to inform Jeff, as we want to catalog the groups with whom to collaborate.

FEMA/GSA Issues

June Uson of FEMA Region 10 was unable to attend due to an illness, but her office arranged for our special guest to present the latest developments in citizen preparedness.

Citizen Preparedness

Cathy Harrington, Emergency Management Coordinator with the City of Gresham, is a passionate champion of citizen readiness. She distributed several informative pieces that the city, state and/or the American Red Cross have produced to help the public get informed and motivated to be prepared for an emergency. Those documents included:

- American Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Checklist Brochure
- American Red Cross Family Disaster Plan Brochure
- "Prepare Your Pets Now" Reminder Card
- "Map Your Neighborhood" Booklet
- Annual Preparedness Calendar Flyer
- Emergency Readiness and National Security Wheel

She emphasized the importance of having a 72-hour survival kit at home and at least a 24-hour kit at work. Her message was that if our employees and their families aren't prepared, then the employee won't be able to work effectively. Family will always be a priority.

Cathy is on the state Citizen Corps Advisory Board. She summarized the programs promoted and supported by Citizen Corps: Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, and Neighborhood Watch.

Cathy agreed to be our liaison for citizen preparedness issues, and is eager to work with the local federal community.

Crisis Continuity Coalition Issues

FEB Network Emergency Preparedness Strategic Plan

Jeff Sargent of the Oregon FEB presented a summary of the work recently done between the national Federal Executive Board Network and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management on a 2008-2012 Strategic Plan for FEBs. Emergency Preparedness, Security and Employee Safety is one of two primary lines of business (LOB). Every FEB will be asked to meet specific strategic goals and performance measures with respect to these LOBs. Fortunately, much of the work already started by the C3 group meets many of these goals.

C3 Work Plan Education and Training Proposal

Steve Borgen, U.S. Attorney's Office and Co-Chair of the C3, presented a new education and training proposal to the membership for feedback. The proposal was already submitted to the Oregon FEB's Chair and Vice-Chair, and was met with strong approval. The proposal includes defining training, education and resource needs, and then a plan to develop and distribute the resources.

In conjunction with the proposal, a feedback form was distributed, which featured 21 potential education and training topics. Members were asked to prioritize their needs, or indicate whether a topic was not needed. The form will also be distributed electronically so that feedback can be gained from those who were not in attendance.



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Following analysis of the priorities, the proposal will be presented to the Oregon FEB's Policy Committee on March 13th for final approval.

Executive Forum Proposal

Jeff Sargent presented a proposal for the FEB to host an Executive Forum breakfast on May 20th, in conjunction with the scheduled COOP Planner's Workshop. The topic of the forum will be a summary of the new National Response Framework and the Emergency Support Functions that support it. It will be targeted towards federal emergency managers and their directors or senior management. The timing is intended to allow emergency managers to attend both the forum and the workshop, if they wish.

The concept was supported by those members in attendance. The Oregon FEB is waiting for approval from FEMA for the concept before proceeding.

Next Meeting: Not established, but will be proposed for Thursday, April 17th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Accompanying Files: EmergencyPrepCalendarFlyer (PDF); FY08 FEB Network EP Direction (PPT); FY08 Workplan Proposal_EdTraining_r1 (PPT); C3 Ed and Training Tally (DOC).

