

Oregon and SW Washington Crisis Continuity Coalition Meeting

Green-Wyatt Federal Building
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Rm 322, Portland, Oregon

April 30, 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
June Uson, FEMA Region X

Agency Updates

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

US Attorney's Office - educating employees across nine western states about COOP plans and resources available.

Federal Highway Admin., Vancouver - updating COOP plan with pandemic flu, coordinating workplace violence training with Steve Borgen, U.S. Attorney's Office.

Small Business Administration - conducting a COOP update. Denver SBA office found a white substance in mailroom.

BPA - finalizing a shelter-in-place and evacuation exercise at their Ross Complex on May 16th. Looking at getting antivirals from the State, considering where to store them.

NRCS – were asked to help FEMA in flood damaged areas in Oregon with flood assistance dollars. Much of their activity depends upon Congress and the passage of a new Farm Bill.

DHS, Citizenship & Immigration Services - working with Federal Protective Service to formalize an occupant emergency plan, also updating COOP. Establishing an employee health and safety committee. Recently bought new medical kits, distributed in office.

City of Gresham - conducting a lot of emergency preparedness education in the community. They are planning three health and safety fairs over the next three years -- the first one will be in Rockwood, some time in August. Also preparing for state Cascadia Peril earthquake exercise, scheduled for April 2009.

Internal Revenue Service - preparing for a June tabletop exercise, focusing on communication, letting employees know what to do. There was a bomb scare in the Seattle Federal Building recently; IRS is the lead agency there.

VA Medical Center - participating in the national level exercise next week. VHA-wide pandemic flu exercise is coming the last week of June (23 - 27). The VAMC Portland hospital is also preparing for a full evacuation exercise from their facility.

Department of Housing & Urban Development - Roy is now the regional COOP coordinator for HUD. National strategy is now that small HUD offices are to shut down in an emergency, devolve responsibilities to the regional headquarters. Local office updating COOP to reflect new strategy.

Federal Protective Service - participating in an earthquake tabletop exercise May 7-8 with U.S. Marshals. FPS is closing their Vancouver office. Looking at mental health support issues after FPS officer recently took his own life outside of GSA bldg.



Oregon and SW Washington Crisis Continuity Coalition Meeting

FEMA/GSA Issues

June Uson of FEMA Region 10 reported the following:

- A reminder of the COOP Planning Workshop to be held in Portland May 20 - 22.
- FEMA will support the national level exercise "Eagle Horizon" next week by all deploying to an alternate facility.
- FEMA has released a new continuity assessment tool that June will send to us.
- FEMA Director Paulson just approved a new Continuity Master Practitioner course series.
- New role as FEMA reservist has been created, calls for service a couple months out of the year.

Federal Continuity Directives 1 and 2

June presented a summary of FCD 1. Primary features of the directive include:

- It supersedes FPCs 60 and 65. Directive is a "must," while circulars were a "should."
- Continuity is to be integrated into all aspects of daily operations.
- New continuity communications requirements have been established.
- COOP, COG and ECG and all integrated under one overarching concept of continuity.
- Primary Essential Functions, Mission Essential Functions are prioritized.
- Depts./Agencies must identify and provide continuity funding, use risk management to allocate resources.
- Coordination between and amongst federal, state, local and tribal governments is emphasized.
- The need to annually certify the organization's readiness of their continuity capability.
- Elements of a viable continuity capability and requirements of a continuity plan.

It was noted that FCD 2 just establishes a process with which to identify essential functions.

Crisis Continuity Coalition Issues

Regional Transportation Plan

Steve Borgen, U.S. Attorney's Office and Co-Chair of the C3, distributed the Oregon Department of Transportation's Emergency Preparedness in Transportation Planning Case Study, the City of Portland's Evacuation Annex, and a Federal Highway Administration document that contained examples of planning processes from other metropolitan areas around the country. These were provided to raise awareness of the need for effective emergency transportation planning.

The question was raised as to whether federal employees could shelter in place at other agencies in the event of an emergency, or work there if the location was closer to them than their post of duty. Would a mutual aid agreement be needed between agencies for this? An attendee mentioned that in the event of an emergency, OPM generally issues an order that agencies must accommodate other federal employees if necessary.

Executive Forum: Workplace Violence Preparedness and Prevention

Jeff Sargent referenced the Executive Forum breakfast that the Oregon FEB will host on June 3, 2008. The featured subject is workplace violence preparedness and prevention. Invitations will be sent soon to all local federal emergency managers, agency directors, and other key personnel. The cost to attend is only \$20.

A document was also in the meeting packet outlining the National Level Exercise "Eagle Horizon," to take place May 1 - 8. The bulk of the exercise activity will occur in the D.C. area, but a portion will test the response to an accidental chemical agent release at the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot in Oregon.

Next Meeting: Not established, but will be proposed for late July. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Accompanying Files: FCD 1 Overview_FEMA (PPT); Continuity_Evaluation_Tool_Final_Version6 (DOC); NCS Directive 3-10_Continuity Communications 7-07 (PDF); COOP excellence series (PDF)

