

## Oregon Interagency COOP Partnership/ Oregon FEB Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting

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

April 26, 2007 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

### Meeting Summary

#### Hosts:

June Uson, National Security Program Coordinator, FEMA Region X  
Jeff Sargent, Management Analyst, Oregon Federal Executive Board (OFEB)

#### Oregon Interagency COOP Partnership (OICP)

##### *FEMA Update*

June Uson presented mentioned that the OICP is now three years old, and much has been shared in that time. She thanked those who have organized and participated in the group.

FEMA will offer a three-day course entitled “L-156 Building Design for Homeland Security for COOP” in Portland on July 10-12. There are only 40 slots available, so you are encouraged to register early. The flyer and registration form were provided.

As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a “new” FEMA. The organization is once again independent from the Department of Homeland Security. The Preparedness Division and state/local responsibilities are back in FEMA. June’s office is now part of National Continuity Programs.

Vital records protection is becoming critical. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has two new courses, one federal and one state oriented. The Council of State Archivists is concerned that records are not part of the National Response Plan, and that state archivists are not involved in emergency preparedness. Many records were lost in Hurricane Katrina; FEMA is trying to help recover them. June distributed a copy of the Council of State Archivists’ Emergency Preparedness Initiative Executive Summary. To find it, go to [www.statearchivists.org/prepare](http://www.statearchivists.org/prepare).

The “Determined Accord” Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise that was held here in Portland this past January will be conducted this year in Spokane, WA and Anchorage, AK. However, no dates have been set yet. June distributed a summary of pan flu COOP major planning themes and follow-up issues that have been raised from exercises conducted thus far. Jeff Sargent of the OFEB also quickly summarized and distributed a handout featuring the primary planning assumptions identified at the Portland exercise, issues raised, exercise benefits and opportunities for improvement.

##### *GSA Update*

Ray Robins of GSA gave a brief update of the latest COOP-related developments at GSA. One in particular is that the Federal Acquisitions Regulations have been updated to include some flexibilities, which Ray will send to the OFEB for distribution electronically.

##### *Human Resources Flexibilities*

June provided a video on the latest HR flexibilities that OPM has designed for federal agencies in the event of an emergency. The segment shown was about 25 minutes long; the entire video is about 45 minutes long. A copy of the DVD can be obtained from the Oregon Federal Executive Board.



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### *TOPOFF 4 Update*

While a COOP exercise is not a formal part of TOPOFF 4, FEMA encourages local federal government agencies to exercise their COOP plans during TOPOFF 4. Some agencies have done so during past TOPOFF exercises. One tool that will make it easier to tap into the TOPOFF exercise, even if an agency is not directly “playing,” is VNN. The Virtual News Network is a resource produced by the Dept. of Homeland Security which serves as the official “mock media” news network for the TOPOFF series.

The producers have offered to allow local federal agencies to have access to VNN.com via a secure website and VNN Live via satellite. This can allow you to follow the reporting of the TOPOFF 4 incident and apply it to the exercise of your agency’s COOP. VNN.com will be live from Oct. 1-31, 2007, and VNN Live will air from Oct. 16-20. VNN.com can only be accessed through the Lessons Learned Information Sharing Network website, at [www.llis.dhs.gov](http://www.llis.dhs.gov). Users must register and be approved for access. A FOUO document with further details was distributed, and can be obtained from the OFEB.

### OFEB Emergency Preparedness Committee

#### *Oregon Emergency Management Association*

Jeff introduced Rose Gentry, Emergency Manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation and President of the Oregon Emergency Management Association. She gave an overview of the organization, which is made up of local, state and federal government emergency managers. Current federal members which have also been active in the EPC include: Gail Dreckman (BPA), Les Miller (USACE), Larry Raaf (BPA) and Jeff Sargent (OFEB). However, the group would like to see more federal members.

OEMA meets quarterly to network and share ideas/best practices with respect to local emergency planning, mitigation and response. Its mission is to minimize the impact of disasters on communities throughout Oregon. The group is also actively involved in influencing state legislation which impacts disaster preparedness and response. Rose distributed a copy of the latest emergency management issues currently being considered by the Oregon legislature. OEMA’s annual conference will be held May 7-10 at the Salishan Spa and Resort in Gleneden Beach, Oregon, and non-members are welcome to attend.

#### *Incident Command System (ICS) Job Shadow Opportunity*

The U.S. Forest Service and BLM are once again offering this year for emergency managers to join them in learning how the Incident Command System is truly applied in the field. Participants can accompany one of their teams on an incident response this summer, most likely a wildfire, and observe how ICS is applied. Firefighters initially developed the system, and are among the best at using it effectively. A description of the program and application are included with this summary.

Next Meeting: Thurs., July 19th, 1- 3 p.m. @ the ODS Building, 601 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., 20<sup>th</sup> floor, Portland, OR 97204.

Accompanying Files: FAR Part 18 Acquisitions Flexibilities (PDF); ICS Job Shadow Description and Application form (MS Word)

