

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Program Update

Multnomah County is getting COOPed up!

One year ago Multnomah County Emergency Management launched a revamp of our Continuity of Operations of Planning (COOP) Program. Initially met with some hesitation and doubt due to a variety of challenges and budgetary obstacles, the program is now in full swing with a large number of stakeholders positively engaged. Now everyone is excited about getting "COOPed Up Together," which has become the theme for the new COOP Program.

So, how did we get everyone excited about COOP?

The most important thing that we did at the beginning of the new program period was to meet with past program stakeholders. The objective of these meetings was to initiate an open and engaging dialogue about their past COOP experience, what worked well, what did not, and what they wanted to see going forward that they thought would help create a more successful program. These interviews revealed that there were very specific topics we should focus on:

- Education and training on COOP
- Increased collaboration between departments and divisions
- Providing more support on the development of plans
- Providing a more user-friendly, easier-to-access method for developing and maintaining plans

With these focus areas in mind, we created a simple, defendable and operational COOP Program that brought stakeholders together in collaborative workshops and training seminars to reintroduce and educate the teams on what continuity of operations means and why it is important to everyone.

Here are the highlights of the COOP Program to date:

- Stakeholder re-engagement kick-off meeting
- Distribution of COOP Program Handbooks
- Creation of a COOP Program Team website (internal Google site)
- Completed the draft Base Plan
- Developing a draft Multi-Year Strategic Program Management Plan
- Drafting a COOP Program Administration Guide
- 7 Mission Essential Function Workshops held over two months
- 21 individual work sessions held to provide additional support to departments and divisions/offices.

We are enjoying being "COOPed up together" and are excited for what the future of the program holds!

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Rasmussen (amy.rasmussen@multco.us).