

COOP CONNECTION

EMI SIG Continuity of Operations Subcommittee Newsletter



Leadership, Staff, Facilities, and Communications

Emergency Management: There's an App for That

Thanks to smartphones and the apps made for them, emergency managers and the public they serve now have a wealth of help at their fingertips for almost any disaster scenario. They can look up the effects of toxic chemicals, brush up on first aid, find the nearest shelters or turn their phone into a flashlight. Apps filled with reference material and up-to-the-minute data can help them respond to an emergency.

"The goal is to get the right information in the right hands at the right time," said Scot Phelps, professor of disaster science at the Emergency Management Academy in New York. One example is a first aid app offered by the American Red Cross: "You can get some people to take a first aid class, but you can get millions of people to take one minute to install an app."

Apps have opened up new avenues for communicating with the public, said Bryan Koon, director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

"We're always trying to get information to people to help them prepare for disasters and to get them to understand real-time information: Here's the evacuation route, here's the shelter information, here's where the tornado is," said Koon. "Now if people are in their car evacuating, they can go to an app and find out where the shelter is. If they're at a store, they can pull up what should be in a disaster kit."

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

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Biodetection Product Guide Now an App

Suspected biological threats, like "white powder" incidents, require precise action and quick testing results. ["Biodetection Technologies for First Responders: 2014 Product Guide"](#) provides a summary of commercial technology available. The PDF report has been downloaded over 10,000 times since first being published.

The project is managed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, providing unbiased applied evaluations of biodetection technology and products currently available. Agencies looking to purchase such testing kits can use this document to help choose the best option for their needs.

The guide is also now available as a downloadable app from the Apple iTunes store; it is currently unavailable for Android. The new app features embedded videos showing use of some of the technology, access to tutorials, and quick browsing by category. The guide will also soon be available online.

WE'RE CONNECTED:

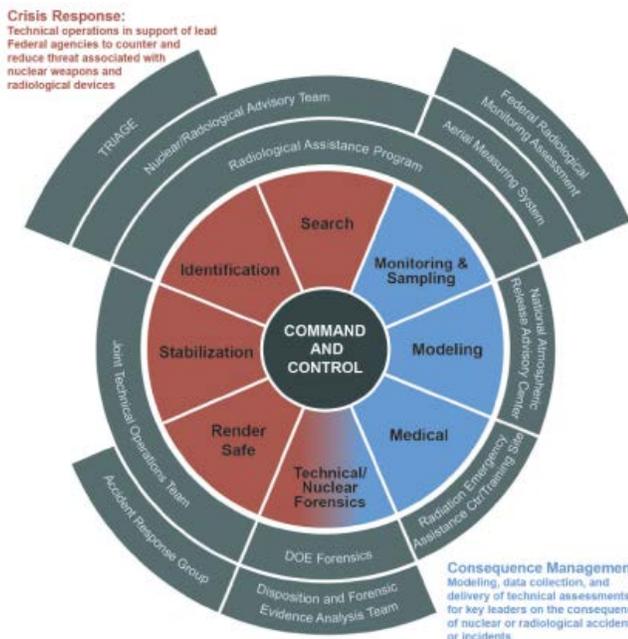


NNSA Releases Plan to Reduce Nuclear Threats

A Report to Congress: [Prevent, Counter, and Respond — A Strategic Plan to Reduce Global Nuclear Threats \(FY 2016 – FY 2020\)](#)

In March, NNSA released this document to provide a comprehensive overview of NNSA's "integrated strategy for preventing, countering, and responding to nuclear weapons proliferation and nuclear and radiological terrorism threats, now and in the future."

Chapter 4 focuses on NNSA's crisis operations and consequence management capabilities. It discusses planned FY 2015 accomplishments and program challenges in all of the key areas and identifies future plans for FY 2016 – FY 2020.



Six Tips to Prepare for Blackouts

From the National Preparedness Community:

[How do you prepare for blackouts?](#)

1. Follow energy conservation measures to reduce electricity usage, which can help power companies avoid imposing rolling blackouts.
2. Fill plastic containers with water and place them in the refrigerator and freezer. Leave about an inch of space inside each one to account for expansion. Chilled or frozen water will help keep food cold during a temporary power outage.
3. Be aware that most medication that requires refrigeration can be kept in a closed refrigerator for several hours without a problem. If unsure, check with your physician or pharmacist.
4. Keep your car tank at least half full because gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.
5. Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it. Garage doors can be heavy, so know that you may need help in lifting it.
6. Keep a key to your house with you if you regularly use the garage as the primary means of entering your home, in case the garage door will not open.

COOP Mentors

Congratulations to **Cheri Ashe**, NNSA Albuquerque Complex COOP Coordinator, for achieving Level I Professional Continuity Practitioner certification. If you want to join this mentor and receive certification, check out FEMA's Emergency Management Institute [Continuity Excellence Series](#). To sign up or to view a complete listing of courses, visit FEMA's [EMI Courses & Schedules](#) site.

Upcoming Conferences

[2015 Department of Energy Cybersecurity Training Conference](#)

April 21-25, 2015

Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center
Kansas City, MO

[2015 EMI SIG Annual Meeting](#)

July 6-10, 2015

National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, WV

*Please make lodging reservations as soon as possible. Making the lodging reservation does not commit any funds and can be cancelled without penalty if needed. The meeting will focus on the Implementation Plan for DNSFB recommendations, and revision of DOE O 151.1.

Training Opportunities

[FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Program Webinar Series – Session I](#)

In Emergency Response, Great Plans are a Smart Thing: Training is Everything!

April 23

[V-0046: Virtual Tabletop Exercise \(VTTX\) Series Cyber-Based Focus \(Planning Workshop & Exercise\)](#)

May 5, 6, and 7

Virtual Exercise (Noon to 4 p.m. ET)

[E0824 – Partner Coordination of Disaster Response & Recovery](#)

August 31 – September 3

Emergency Management Institute
Emmitsburg, MD

Training Guide – Gaining Leadership Buy-In for Continuity

The purpose of FEMA’s Training Guide — Gaining Senior Leadership Support for Continuity of Operations is to assist continuity program managers in their efforts to effectively convey the importance of, and need for, a viable and executable Continuity program that ensures the continued performance of an organization’s essential functions during an all-hazards emergency.

Click [here](#) to view a full version of FEMA’s PowerPoint presentation on this topic.

COOP Subcommittee Conference Calls

COOP Subcommittee conference calls typically occur on the second Thursday of each month from 3-4 p.m., Eastern.

The schedule for the next four calls is below.

- Thursday, May 14
- Thursday, June 11
- Thursday, July 9
- Thursday, August 13

Agendas are sent prior to each call. If you have questions about the COOP Subcommittee conference calls, please contact Becky Bullard at Becky.Bullard@orau.org or (865) 576-9623.

Want to Contribute to COOP Connection?

If you’d like to contribute continuity stories, calendar items, or any other news related to COOP, please send them to Becky Bullard at Becky.Bullard@orau.org or to Jeff Morrison at morrisjl@nv.doe.gov.

The deadline for submissions for the July issue is June 5, 2015.