

COOP CONNECTION

EMI SIG Continuity of Operations Subcommittee Newsletter



Leadership, Staff, Facilities, and Communications

New Report Warns of Failures Caused by Climate Change

Scientists at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory have released new reports warning that climate-fueled storms, flooding, and droughts could cause "cascading system failures" unless changes are made to minimize those effects.

Thomas Wilbanks, a research fellow at Oak Ridge and the lead author and editor of the reports, said this is the first attempt to look at climate implications across all sectors and regions. Rather than isolating specific types of infrastructure, Wilbanks said, the reports looks at how "one impact can have impacts on the others."

The report, focusing on energy, exposes vulnerabilities in the system. It points to recent cases where heat waves caused massive spikes in energy use for cooling buildings, putting strain on the power grid. It also highlights instances where power plants were at risk of flooding, or had to shut down or scale back operations due to high temperatures and droughts. You can continue reading a summary article of the reports at the [Huffington Post](#).

The U.S. Global Change Research Program expects to release its climate assessment report in April, and draft versions for public comment can be found [here](#). The report includes chapters on water resources, energy supply and use, human health, and takes a closer look at each individual geographic region of the United States and the potential climate impacts specific to those regions.

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2014 EMI SIG Conference

The EMI SIG Annual Meeting will be held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, April 22-25, 2014 at the [National Conservation Training Center](#). The meeting theme is "Severe Events: Planning and Preparedness."

The primary purpose of the 2014 Meeting is to address outcomes of the second Departmental Nuclear Safety Workshop (September 2012), and the resulting DOE Office of Health, Safety, and Security's Operating Experience Level One Report (April 2013), specifically Action 1, which states: "All Program Offices, in coordination with responsible contractors, shall evaluate their site emergency management programs' response to severe accidents/events (including Beyond Design Basis Events) that could have a site-wide impact, using the guidance in Attachment 1, and make appropriate enhancements. This review and appropriate enhancements, if not already accomplished, shall be completed by the end of Calendar Year (CY) 2014." The focus of the meeting will be on how contractors and field elements are implementing Action 1.

Additional information on meeting registration, lodging, transportation, and fees can be found [here](#).

WE'RE CONNECTED:



Building Continuity of Operations and Management Credibility



By Diane Senutovitch
Los Alamos National Laboratory
COOPSC Co-Chair

I am currently in an online Emergency Management Degree Program and we are now studying NIMS. From time to time someone (a classmate or instructor) will discover relevant information to share. Recently, one of my classmates, Richard De Long, who is currently serving overseas in the U.S. Air Force, shared with us [The Air Force Emergency Manager, Newsletter, Volume 5, Issue 1, February 2014](#). Several of the articles were relevant and interesting, particularly one, by SMSgt. Joseph Trenholm, HQ PACAF A4/7ZS, titled “Building Emergency Management Credibility,” hence the topic of this article.

SMSgt. Trenholm states, “Effective knowledge is gained by doing the research ourselves and not relying on others for the answers. Credibility is attained by demonstrating a professional commitment to developing and practicing the processes that rely on individual effort and team accomplishments. By taking the initiative to do our own research, we become the experts in the subject and build credibility with our leadership, partners, and peers.”

When I look back on the EMI-SIG 2008 in Reston, Virginia, the meeting theme was “Elect to Perfect.” DOE O 150.1 was presented to us by Al Cerrone at our first slotted COOP session. That week the order was signed, and we all returned to our labs and had to explain to our leadership what contract

requirements we were going to be inheriting. I had no doubt then that we had come together and elected to perfect and build the COOP Programs we needed, wanted, and have achieved. We were given approval for a COOP Working Group, and, in record time, we were approved to be a subcommittee. We never lacked realism in our vision. We collaborate, share, and encourage each other. We have taken the initiative, done the research, written the plans and instructions, and put in the individual and team efforts. We have built credibility with DOE, NNSA, our site leadership, partners, and with each other—our peers!

I am truly proud of what the EMI SIG COOP Working Group/Subcommittee has accomplished. We need to maintain our credibility and build upon our knowledge and integrity by continuing to focus on perfecting our COOP and EM program integration and evolution.

The upcoming EMI SIG Annual Meeting and “Severe Events” theme is right up our ally. This is what’s next for COOP! It’s true—Emergency Management wholesales preparedness, mitigation, and saving lives through risk reduction.

We are the COOP Sales Team! We trade and sell the value of continuity, sustainability, and the future. This is our mission. The way we carry on this mission and successfully integrate our collaboration with our sites’ business and disaster recovery programs and emergency and security programs will enhance our credibility. It will also sustain the work and programs in which we, together, continue to be motivated and energized to participate.

COOP Mentors

Congratulations to **Jeff Morrison** of National Security Technologies (NsTec) and Chair of the COOP Subcommittee for achieving Level I Professional Continuity Practitioner certification.

If you want to join this mentor and receive certification as a Professional Continuity Practitioner, 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.

Action Steps to Keep Your Federal Workforce Healthy

Regardless of the size or type of your government operation, planning and taking action now can help ensure continuity of operations and help protect your employees from the flu.

PLAN NOW

- Update employee emergency contact information.
- Review your current emergency plans or develop a new plan to ensure continuity of operations. Share the plan and policies with your employees to make sure they understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Review relevant agency and [Government-wide human resource policies](#) and practices.
- Develop human resource management strategies to deal with circumstances that may arise if flu conditions become more severe.
- Review your respective collective bargaining agreement and specific policies about leave options, telework, and other flexible work plans that may be available to employees. Consult with human resource offices as needed.
- Add a “widget” or “button” to your agency’s web page or employee web site so employees can access the latest information on flu:
 - [CDC Widgets](#)
 - [CDC Social Media](#)
 - [HHS Flu Widgets](#)

TAKE STEPS NOW

Take steps now and continue during the flu season to help protect the health of your employees.

- Promote hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes. Provide tissues, no-touch trash cans and hand soap. Also provide alcohol-based hand rubs for use if soap and water are not available. Offer education on hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes in an easy-to-understand format and in appropriate languages. Visit www.flu.gov for more information.

- Clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact with cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas.
- Encourage all employees who want protection from flu to get vaccinated for seasonal flu.
- Encourage sick employees at higher risk of complications from flu to contact their health care provider as soon as possible. People at higher risk for flu complications include pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions.
- Provide information to employees overseas about what to do if they become sick.
- Employees who are sick should request leave from their supervisors and once approved, stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever.
- Employees who get sick at work should request leave from their supervisors and once approved, go home as soon as possible.
- Prepare for school dismissal or closure of early childhood development programs. School dismissals and closure of early childhood development programs. Are more likely when flu conditions are more severe.

This information provided courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mobile Apps for Emergency and Continuity Responders

As emergency and continuity responders, we like to have information at our finger tips.

Click [here](#) to research and install useful disaster applications and tools from the Disaster Information Management Research Center.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Continuity Insights 2014 Management Conference

April 28-30, 2014
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
500 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

CPM East- Contingency Planning & Management

May 13-14, 2014
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
801 Mount Vernon Place NW
Washington, DC 20001

Gartner Security & Risk Management Summit

June 23-26, 2014
Gaylord National Hotel
201 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, MD 20745

IAEM 62nd Annual Conference & EMEX 2014 – International Association of Emergency Managers

November 14-19, 2014
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
200 E. Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205

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 in 2014 is below.

- Thursday, May 8
- Thursday, June 12
- Thursday, July 10
- Thursday, August 14

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 August issue is July 7, 2014.