

COOP CONNECTION

EMI SIG Continuity of Operations Subcommittee Newsletter



Leadership, Staff, Facilities, and Communications

Eagle Horizon 2014

The Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) participated in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-sponsored interagency Continuity of Operations Exercise, Eagle Horizon 2014 (EH 2014).

The exercise was designed to evaluate the Department's continuity preparedness in executing essential functions when confronted with a threat of a biological agent attack involving cascading effects on critical infrastructure. More specifically, it tested the alert and notifications, continuity communications, and reconstitution procedures of the Department. In accordance with the National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan, Federal Continuity Directive 1, and DOE O 150.1A, *Continuity Programs*, DOE/NNSA Program Secretarial/Staff Offices (PSOs) participated in EH 2014.

EH 2014 was an evolution of Eagle Horizon 2011, 2012, and 2013. The prior exercises included evaluation and/or discussion of devolution operations; reconstitution from the alternate and the devolution sites; and resiliency against a cybersecurity threat. EH 2014 provided opportunity for the Department to test our ability to continue essential function operations from an alternate operating facility, and included key elements such as notification, command and control, and reconstitution planning.

On June 19, 2014, approximately 200 DOE exercise participants (players, controllers, evaluators and control cell players) from the various headquarters PSOs were engaged in exercise activities.

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The NNSA Administrator performed the duties of the Secretary of Energy, followed by the Secretary of Energy Chief of Staff. Senior executives representing each of the PSOs participated at the alternate operating location. PSOs implemented their succession plans to ensure continued staffing of support and leadership positions. Exercise-related tasks were received and processed using WebEOC®. The Department demonstrated its ability to perform Essential Functions and focused on reconstitution planning.

Overall, Departmental personnel demonstrated their ability to solve problems and responded to challenges related to reconstitution, accountability, and the performance of mission essential functions. DOE demonstrated applicable Departmental exercise objectives. In accordance with exercise guidance, the Department evaluated its own performance and, as a result, identified a number of areas that require attention to ensure continuous improvement of the Department's ability to respond to a Continuity event.

WE'RE CONNECTED:



DOE O 150.1A *Continuity Programs*



By Al Cerrone
Continuity Program Manager
U.S. DOE/NNSA NA-41

The need for a strong continuity program is vital to safeguard the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) program offices' and facilities' continuing ability to perform essential functions in adverse conditions resulting from natural phenomena hazards and operational events. Continuity of operations is just what the name indicates—operations that must be continued because they are critical and therefore deemed essential.

The most compelling continuity tool within the Department is the recently revised DOE O 150.1A, *Continuity Programs*. The objective of DOE O 150.1A is to “ensure that the Department is ready to respond promptly, efficiently, and effectively” to any emergency involving DOE/NNSA facilities, activities, or operations, or requiring DOE/NNSA assistance. This is an unnerving task that has the potential for undesirable results, originating from the failure to identify and prepare for the suite of plausible scenarios.

Like all government agencies, we must face the growing challenges that may threaten our ability to execute our functions. Over the year, DOE has been taking the needed steps to face these challenges by updating our Continuity of Operations Order. The revised Order creates a solid foundation for continuity across the Department that allows for additional analysis of the things that may challenge our functions, encouraging a culture of preventative initiative.

The impetus to update the Order was born from the release of the new Federal Continuity Directive 1 in October 2012. The update of the Directive emphasizes the applicability of continuity planning to all levels of the Executive Branch, including regional and field locations. The Directive also stresses the need to include resiliency as a technique to manage organizational risks to a reasonable level. These two changes, in combination with comments that we received throughout the time of the previous order, created the blueprint for the DOE O 150.1A. In addition to the mentioned changes, the updated Order provides the following:

- Strengthens the emphasis for all departmental elements to have a COOP plan that aligns with DOE and national policy.
- Provides additional flexibility to referencing plan elements in other documents/programs as opposed to recreating them within a separate plan.
- Dependence by other federal departments and agencies on DOE through work-for-others arrangements.
- Increases backing of teleworking and other inventive methods to continue the essential functions.

DOE O 150.1A, affectionately called “1A” within the office, aims to create an even more comprehensive, yet clearer picture of the aspects of continuity. We believe that straight-forward policies are important, especially when the world of continuity is advancing at an ever quickening pace. We want the Order to be proactive. We recognize that growing pains may occur when it comes to meeting the requirements of this Order, but the Continuity Program Office is here to assist in any way we can.

COOP Mentors

Congratulations to **Joseph Kirts** of Argonne National Laboratory 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](#).

Richards Receives EMI SIG Presentation Award



John Richards, of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), received the Meeting Presentation Award from Robert Gee, EMI SIG Steering Committee Chair, at the 2014 EMI SIG Annual Meeting in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

This award is presented for the most outstanding presentation made at the EMI SIG Annual Meeting. John's presentation on "Establishing a Volunteer Employee Disaster Response Team at LLNL" included identifying the need for a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), benchmarking with other laboratories, and setting a goal of having one percent of the employee population to receive training as CERT members.

Interested in developing a CERT? Check out these CERT Resources:

[FEMA Community Emergency Response Teams](#)

[CERT Los Angeles](#)

Petty Elected as COOPSC Co-Chair



At the EMI SIG Annual Meeting, Tonya Petty was elected as COOPSC Co-Chair. Tonya graciously accepted the position and wants to thank the membership for their support and trust. Tonya (Protective Services) is the Emergency Manager for

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, as well as a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers and Professional Continuity Practitioner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She has a master's degree in business administration from West Texas A&M University and served as the President for the Texas Panhandle Chapter Association of Contingency Planners. She has more than 20 years of experience at a DOE/NNSA operations site and two DOE national research laboratories. Specific to the field of emergency management and continuity of operations, Tonya was previously the Emergency Management and Continuity Programs Manager for the DOE's Pantex Plant and the Deputy Emergency Management Officer at Argonne National Laboratory.

In her spare time, Tonya hangs out with her favorite pet, Rowdy Shane Pickle.

Tsunami Evacuation App Developed for Pacific States

Washington and Oregon residents and emergency managers have a new tool in their arsenal when dealing with tsunamis. [TsunamiEvac-NW](#) is a new smartphone app that shows users evacuation zones where they live, work, or go to school; helps people plan evacuation routes; and maps important locations, buildings, and landmarks nearby. These features also make this an excellent app for tourists. The website and the app both show active warnings and watches, list the signs of tsunamis, and explain evacuation and sheltering best practices. There are also printable community brochures available which map the local coastline, give contact information, explain the difference between distant and local tsunamis, and give instructions on what to do and what not to do.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Continuity Insights, Regional Business Continuity Conference

October 7-8, 2014

Wyndham New Yorker Hotel

New York, NY

www.cieast.com

IAEM 62nd Annual Conference & EMEX 2014

November 14-19, 2014

Grand Hyatt & Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

San Antonio, TX

www.iaem.com

Continuity Program Office Offering FEMA Course

The Continuity Program Office is offering FEMA's L-262 Instructional Delivery for Subject Matter Experts course on November 3-6, 2014 in A-410 of the Germantown Facility. The deadline to apply for this course is October 15, 2014. Please contact Avery Church at avery.church@nnsa.doe.gov or Matthew Mahar at matthew.mahar@nnsa.doe.gov to register.

Fifteen slots are available so seating is limited. This course is a requirement for the FEMA Level II Master Continuity Practitioner certificate.

New FEMA Course: IS-156 Building Design for Homeland Security for Continuity of Operations

The purpose of this [course](#) is to provide guidance to the building sciences community working for public and private institutions, including Continuity of Operations (COOP) planners/managers, building officials, etc. It presents tools to help decision-makers assess the performance of their buildings against terrorist threats and to rank recommendations. It is up to the decision-makers to decide which types of threats they wish to protect against and to determine their level of risk against each threat. Those decision makers who consider their buildings to be at high risk can use this guidance as necessary.

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, August 14
- Thursday, September 11
- Thursday, October 9
- Thursday, November 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 morrisj@nv.doe.gov. The deadline for submissions for the October issue is September 5, 2014.