

Preparedness in the Southwest Course

Module 9: Continuity of Operations

Continuity of Operations (COOP) is a Federal initiative that requires all agencies to plan accordingly to ensure that they are able to continue to provide services in the event of an emergency. Today's threat filled atmosphere makes it crucial for agencies to have a COOP plan to ensure their capability in continuing their essential functions among a wide range of circumstances. This module will provide an introduction to the planning and implementation of a cohesive agency Continuity of Operations Plan with special attention for Public Health Departments. It will present and discuss important planning considerations as well as crucial elements that will illustrate the effectiveness of a sound plan throughout the following phases of a disaster: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe Continuity of Operations.
2. Identify why a COOP Plan is necessary for an organization.
3. Describe the purpose and function of a COOP Plan.
4. Identify the nine Elements of a COOP Plan.
5. Identify pre-planning activities that need to be conducted.
6. Outline and describe the critical COOP elements that need to be implemented during the Preparedness stage of a disaster.
7. Outline and describe the critical COOP elements that need to be implemented during the Response stage of a disaster.
8. Outline and describe the critical COOP elements that need to be implemented during the Recovery stage of a disaster.

Core competencies addressed:

Competency 1: Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise.

Competency 3: Identify and locate the agency emergency response plan (or the pertinent portion of the plan).

Competency 4: Describe his/her functional role(s) in emergency response and demonstrate his/her role in regular drills.

Competency 6: Describe communication role(s) in emergency response.

Peripheral Competencies--

Competency 7: Identify limits to own knowledge/skill/authority and identify key system resources for referring matters that exceed these limits.

Competency 8: Recognize unusual events that might indicate an emergency and describe appropriate action.

Target Capabilities:

Planning (Pg. 31 TCLv2)

Interoperable Communications (ESF#2, Pf. 34 TCLv2)