



Town of Ocean City, Maryland
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ocean City
ALL HAZARDS
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

May 23, 2012

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Emergency Management

NATURAL AND MAN-MADE HAZARDS

Ocean City Emergency Services:

- Public Awareness and Education
- Lessons Learned
- Emergency Operations Plan
- Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Emergency Operations Center

The Public's Emergency Plan forms the *partnership!*

- WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS?
- WHAT ARE THE REALITIES?
- WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR YOURSELVES?
- WHAT IF AN EVACUATION ORDER IS ISSUED?

Awareness

- Lack a thorough knowledge of the event.
- Perceive a low level of risk potential.
- Believe you are well prepared (the reality is your are not!).
- Believe protective actions too expensive.
- No actions taken to protect family and property.
- Effective decision making depends on *preparedness and coordination with the public*.
- Comprehensive Public Education and Awareness Program improves government response and public survival.

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Communications

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Electronic Services

[Home Page](#)[Advisory Radio Station](#)[Radio System](#)[Scanner Frequencies](#)

Contact Department:

Town of Ocean City
Emergency Services

Emergency Management

Town of Ocean City now has Emergency Advisory Radio Station

To improve communication and enhance the safety of those living, working and visiting in Ocean City, the Town of Ocean City has installed an AM emergency advisory radio station. The frequency of the station is **1670 KHz on the AM dial** and is received throughout the Ocean City area. Every AM radio will be able to receive this frequency.

The primary use of this station is to inform the public of emergency conditions in the area and how to respond to them. An emergency could consist of severe weather or any other condition that could affect the well being of the public in the Ocean City area.

This non-commercial radio station is monitored by the Town of Ocean City, and in non-emergency situations, the station broadcasts community information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Messages that play on a 15- to 20-minute cycle include emergency preparedness information. Having a non-commercial FCC license does not allow any commercial broadcasting.

The portable alert AM radio station was acquired by the Town with a Homeland Security grant.

Be sure to keep your radio dial tuned to 1670 AM for WQKF 629 Ocean City, MD for additional emergency preparedness information or emergency advisories.



Emergency Operations Center



Emergency Operations Center Staffing

- Ocean City Mayor and City Council
- Ocean City Manager
- Ocean City Emergency Services Director
- Ocean City Departmental Representatives
- Federal, State and County Allied Agencies
- Support Organizations (Delmarva Power-HMRA-Verizon-Eastern Shore Gas- DCMA-Montego Bay Assoc., Media)

Emergency Operations Center Capabilities

- Full City Radio System capability
- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Internet Access and Government Web Site
- Hurricane tracking software (Hurricanevac-Hurricane-trak-WebEOC-EMnet and EAS System)
- Government Access Channel and Comcast Cable System override
- Ocean City Radio Station AM 1670
- Additional phone lines

CATEGORY 3 STORM SURGE

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi



PRE-EVENT

- Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Have extra cash on hand.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first-aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warning area of your evacuation plans.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by local officials.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Bring in light-weight objects such as garbage cans, or furniture.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. ***When ordered to evacuate, leave as soon as possible.***

PRE-EVENT

- Determine evacuation routes inland.
- Learn location of official shelters.
- Make emergency plans for pets.
- Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and cell phones.
- Buy food that will keep and store drinking water.
- Store plywood or other materials to protect your home.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Trim trees and shrubbery.
- Decide where to move your boat in an emergency.
- Review your insurance policy.

DEVELOP AN EMERGENCY PLAN

- Home Escape Routes (conduct an escape drill).
- Family Communications (how will YOU stay in contact?).
- Family Meeting Place (near-by and an alternate location).
- Know the location of your Utility shut-offs and how to safely turn them off.
- Where are your family's vital records, are they in a water and fire proof container?
- Special Needs Concerns (family member or neighbor).
- Caring for animals (most shelters do not allow pets).
- Preparedness Information, Internet, or contact your local or state Emergency Management agencies'.

Disaster Supplies Kit

- 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person, per day)
- Non-perishable food
- One change of clothing and shoes per person
- Prescription & non-prescription medicines
- One blanket or sleeping bag per person
- First-aid kit
- Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio
- Emergency tools
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Extra set of car keys and a credit card and cash
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members

POST EVENT

- Keep listening to radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio, and monitor government web sites for further information.
- Wait until advised the community is declared safe before returning.
- Watch for closed roads. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, turn around. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet.
- Stay on firm ground. Standing water may be electrically charged from power lines. Avoid electrocution by not walking in flooded areas.
- Once home, check gas, water and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Never use candles or other open flames indoors.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until officials say it is safe.
- If using a generator, avoid carbon monoxide poisoning by following manufacturer's instructions.







TSUNAMIS



T s u n a m i s

pronounced soo-ná-mees, also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called “tidal waves”), are a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or meteorite. A tsunami can move hundreds of miles per hour in the open ocean and smash into land with waves as high as 100 feet or more.

From the area where the tsunami originates, waves travel outward in all directions. Once the wave approaches the shore, it builds in height. The topography of the coastline and the ocean floor will influence the size of the wave. There may be more than one wave and the succeeding one may be larger than the one before. That is why a small tsunami at one beach can be a giant wave a few miles away.

All tsunamis are potentially dangerous, even though they may not damage every coastline they strike. A tsunami can strike anywhere along most of the U.S. coastline.

TSUNAMI WARNING

When information is received from the National Weather Service that our area is under a Tsunami Warning the general population should be aware and react to the following:

:

- Differentiate between a Tsunami Siren Alert and other siren alert.
- Proceed to at least the 2nd floor level of a structurally sound high rise building near-by. Remain in the building until conditions are safe to leave.
- Stay away from the beach. If you can see the wave you are too close to escape it.
- Tune into the Town of Ocean City’s AM Radio Station at 1670AM, for emergency information.
- Turn on your Television to any COMCAST Channel in Ocean City. Our Town’s Division of Emergency Management will make voice override announcements ,during the emergency over this system.

CAUTION - If there is noticeable recession in water away from the shoreline, and NO WARNING IS HEARD, this is nature’s tsunami warning and it should be heeded. You should move away immediately. The following are guidelines for the period following a tsunami:

- Stay away from flooded and damaged areas until officials say it is safe to return.
- Stay away from debris in the water; it may pose a safety hazard to boats and people.

Save yourself not your possessions!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WEB SITES

- www.ocmdemergency.com
- www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA
- www.dema.delaware.gov
- www.ready.nj.gov
- www.nhc.noaa.gov
- www.ready.gov

The Ocean City Continuity of Operations Plan

*Maintaining
the Services*



Continuity of Operations (COOP): The effort to assure that the capability exists to continue essential functions across a wide range of potential emergencies. Essentially, the process of maintaining the business of government.

OR

More simply, the ability of Government to conduct mission critical business.



Continuity of Operations..



- Ensures taxpayers get their services delivered
- Ensures the Towns infrastructure gets back in use
- Protects essential facilities, records, & equipment
- Establishes a chain of command
- Prepares employees for what could be an extended period of off-site duty with limited resources

All Hazards Approach to COOP Planning

		
NATURAL	BOTH	MAN-MADE
<p>Severe Winds</p> <p>Tornado</p> <p>Hurricane</p> <p>Ice Storm</p>	<p>Fire</p> <p>Flood</p> <p>Disease</p>	<p>Internet Virus</p> <p>Cyber Attack</p> <p>Agro-Terrorism</p> <p>Chemical Explosion</p> <p>Water Poisoning</p> <p>Aircraft Strike</p> <p>Radiological</p> <p>Bio-Terrorism</p> <p>Civil Disorder</p>

Continuity of Operations is achieved with --

Development of plans, procedures, and provisions for:

alternate facilities

personnel placement, substitution

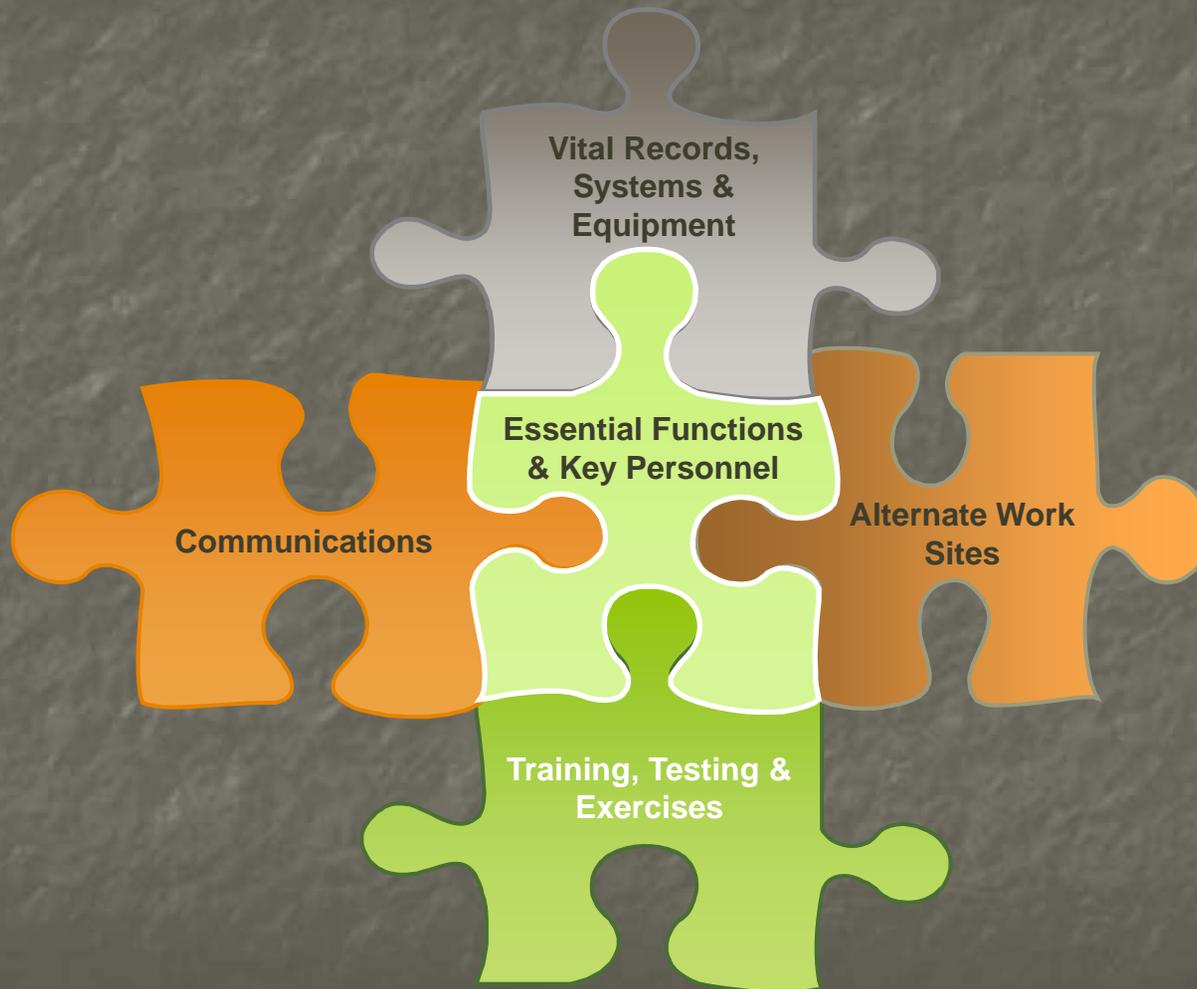
resources readily available

1. interoperable communications

vital records, systems, and databases.



Key Pieces of a COOP Plan



Seven Goals of COOP

- 1) Ensure continuous performance of essential functions and operations during an emergency;
- 2) Protect essential facilities, equipment, records, and other assets;
- 3) Reduce or mitigate disruptions to operations;
- 4) Minimize loss of life, injury, and property damage;
- 5) Timely and orderly recovery from an emergency; resumption of full service to customers.
- 6) Family Planning; and
- 7) Reconstitution



Continuity of Operations Importance

Must be maintained at a high level of readiness;

Must be capable of execution both with and without warning;

Must be operational no later than twelve hours after activation;

Must maintain sustained operations for at least fourteen days; and

Should take maximum advantage of existing field infrastructures



Establishes Succession of Leadership

Key Functions kept Accessible
Key Position/Person for that Function
Successors Known by Title



Establish an order of succession for *each position*



Considerations:

Qualifications required for positions

Geographical location of positions

Other positions proximal to the key position, both geographically and organizationally

Qualifications and skills of individuals who are potential successors

Circumstances Triggering Succession

- ▶ Emergency event
- ▶ Death
- ▶ Incapacitation through illness or serious injury
- ▶ Imprisonment
- ▶ Abduction
- ▶ Unexplained disappearance
- ▶ Filling the vacancy of another key position

Alternate Locations are Pre-Determined



Supervisor named for each location
Up and running within 12 hours
Prepare for 2+ week stay;
no returns to home



Ocean City Public Safety Building - 65th Street



Relocation Planning

- ▶ Arrange for provision of agency employees' physical and emotional requirements.
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Lodging
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Counseling
- ▶ Arrange for security and access controls at both primary and secondary facilities.
- ▶ Designate a relocation team



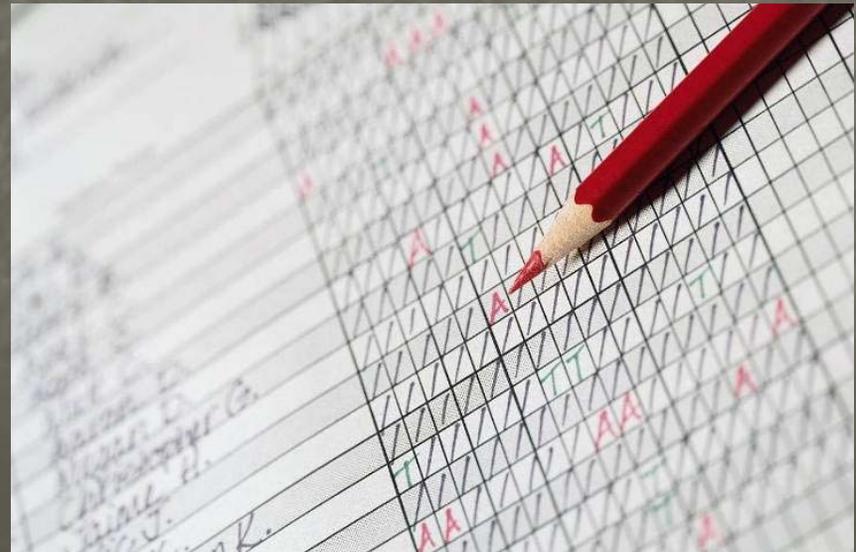
COOP "Go Kits"

Recommend buying tubs; fill with supplies, now
Store duplicates of what you would need in an emergency
Purchase order information
COOP Planning Documents
CD with Back Up Documents needed immediately
(replace your CD every 6 months)
Contact Lists
Copies of critical documents
Mutual Aid Agreements
Blank forms (receipts, logs, etc.)
Basic office supplies, computer equipment,
radios/batteries/cords
Bring the Kit with you to exercises



Personnel Contact Lists

- ▶ Develop a clear and organized plan for communication between key personnel, general staff and the public.
- ▶ Keep copies of contact lists at home and work. A disaster could strike at any time.
- ▶ Update contact lists on a regular basis.

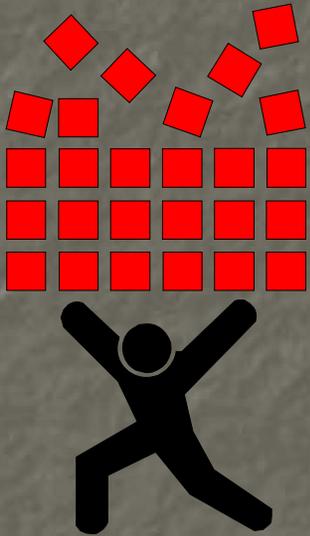


Family Support Planning



▶ Designed to ensure that an organization takes care of an employee and/or his or her family or pet's needs. When asked, inform your office's COOP designee of possible family issues that might affect your deployment.

▶ Why worry? Police, Fire and Medical workers during Katrina were forced to choose between their families and their jobs. Many didn't report to work and others reported to work and then couldn't locate or check on their families for days or weeks. Let us know your situation so we can consider your needs.



Questions?