



Have you heard the latest buzz word?

COOP

What is that?



“Chit Chat around the Water Cooler”

The word is out - COOP - but what does it mean?

COOP stands for “Continuity of Operations Plan”

Why should we have a COOP plan?

Basically, a COOP is a method of planning for a broad spectrum of emergencies or operational interruptions that an organization might experience, in order to continue its essential functions. The most significant benefit to the creation and adoption of a COOP plan is its unique way of tearing down walls between different departments, divisions, and sections of an organization. This way everyone can more easily help each other when things are at their worst.



I don't think my job would be essential during a major emergency!?

No matter which division you work for, or position you fill, **you are important** in ensuring the county's ability to perform essential functions during an emergency under all circumstances. While certain divisions and agencies will most certainly be tasked more than others during emergencies, your particular skills and knowledge may be called upon to assist others. The more we help each other, the faster the county recovers as a whole.



When co-workers ask me what the COOP will do for them and the public, what should I tell them?

Here are the objectives of the COOP:

Ensure the continuous performance of a department or agency's essential functions during an emergency.

Ensure the safety of employees.

Protect essential equipment, records and other assets.

Minimize damage & losses.

Achieve an orderly recovery from emergency operations.

Identify relocation sites and ensure operational & managerial requirements are met before an emergency occurs.

All of which are focused on the primary goal — “Provide Continued Service to the county residents”

Ok, so where can I find out more information about the COOP?

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management has an informative site located on the Infoweb where you can learn all about the [COOP and the COOP Planning and Oversight Committee](#). The COOP Planning and Oversight Committee was established December 2005 and is chaired by Teri Flynn, Risk Management Division. Currently the COOP planning process is approaching the end of its first phase of development. Through positive communication and cooperation, the four planning teams are diligently moving forward.