

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

Wildfires Crown across Idaho

The 2013 fire season turned into a disastrous one in the central mountains of Idaho. The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) is reporting there were 1,451 wildland fires that burned 742,050 acres in Idaho this year. Up until August 7, the fires had been burning mainly in wilderness and there was not much threat to structures and infrastructure. On August 7, the Beaver Creek (Blaine County) and McCan (Camas County) fires started. Then on August 8, the Pony Fire and the Elk Complex started in Elmore County. These were all lightning caused fires.

These four fires quickly caused concern as livestock were caught and many structures were endangered. On August 12, Governor Otter declared a State Disaster for the fires burning throughout the state and the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) activated the Idaho Emergency Operations Center (IDEOC) to coordinate the state response to these fires in support of the efforts of the county and the wildland firefighter's incident command. In order to coordinate the state's efforts, a daily Situation Report and Incident Action Plan were created to inform staff of what was occurring around the state and what management's goals and objectives were.

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Photo: Kari Greer, Boise National Forest



Meridian Medical Arts Charter School Embraces CERT

Educational institutions are critical partners in the whole community approach to emergency management. Teaching youth the concepts of awareness, planning, preparation, mitigation and response engages them at a time when they can then apply these ideas throughout all of adulthood. These concepts have value not only as emergency management principles, but also as critical thinking capabilities that will be applied to many areas of their lives. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training contains all of these elements. Most importantly, CERT mixes elements of lecture, tabletop and functional exercise to help students learn and demonstrate thorough subject matter knowledge of disaster, personal preparedness, fire safety, planning, search and rescue, triage, emergency medical operations, disaster psychology and the Incident Command System. These are life skills that benefit both the individual and the community.

Meridian Medical Arts Charter School was first introduced to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training when staff from Ada City-County Emergency Management (ACCCEM) started recruiting students from the school to act as "volunteer victims"

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Greetings,

Late in September I requested the Walla Walla District of the US Army Corps of Engineers come to Elmore and Blaine Counties to assess the risk of flooding in recently burned areas. Over the past 2 fire seasons we have burned 2.5 million acres of forest and rangeland throughout our state. Experience has shown us that these burned areas can be highly susceptible to flash floods and debris flows. Given the amount of land that has burned and the risks it presents, I want to make sure we have a good picture of that risk and identify any mitigating actions we can take to prevent damage.

There are some things that can be done to mitigate and prepare for risk from flooding in recently burned areas; some of them are actions by federal organizations, state agencies, local jurisdictions or by individual citizens. As we saw with the major flooding that happened in Colorado, the risk we face also is highly impacted by forces out of our control such as rainfall and snowpack.

For those of us in emergency management, I encourage jurisdictions to look at their All-Hazard Mitigation Plans, and update them based on hazards that may be different than when those plans were written. The people we serve, the citizens of Idaho, also have a role in emergency management and we will see benefits if we speak with a coordinated voice in encouraging them to take action by protecting their homes, considering insurance coverage and developing their individual and family preparedness plans.

I want to reinforce that my office is always open for business to support whatever incident we may be facing in Idaho. Sometimes those incidents fall into the natural hazard category of fires and floods, but sometimes we have the opportunity to work together on unique incidents such as the manhunt and rescue in Valley County or the search for missing persons in the Craters of the Moon National Monument. If state assistance is to be requested in support of an incident I ask that BHS be the first call you make. We can then immediately begin the coordination and marshaling of resources to get help on the way as fast as possible.

My final thought is to compliment the cadre of emergency managers who work daily in making Idaho safe. Their Local Emergency Planning Committees and Emergency Management Workshops bring together the stakeholders to address the complex issues of preparedness, protection, response, mitigation and recovery. The partnerships they maintain directly increases our collective resilience, and I tip my hat to them and say thank you.

Respectfully,
Brad

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This newsletter is the official newsletter of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. This quarterly publication is intended for the use of the State of Idaho's emergency management community, legislators, government officials and others who are interested in learning about Idaho's emergency management techniques and procedures.

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IDAHO CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER'S ROLE IN COMBATING CRIME AND TERRORISM



The Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center [IC]² is Idaho's designated Fusion Center. [IC]² is responsible for integrating, analyzing, producing and disseminating actionable criminal intelligence in combating criminal activity and terrorism through an all crimes approach. Idaho's [IC]² provides a variety of services to local, state and federal law enforcement including Idaho's Drug Tip Hotline, case de-confliction and watch center, threat

assessments, suspicious activity reports, timelines, flowcharts and maps of criminal activities, phone toll analysis, narcotics intelligence, photo line-ups, general case support and training for over 200 fusion center liaison officers.

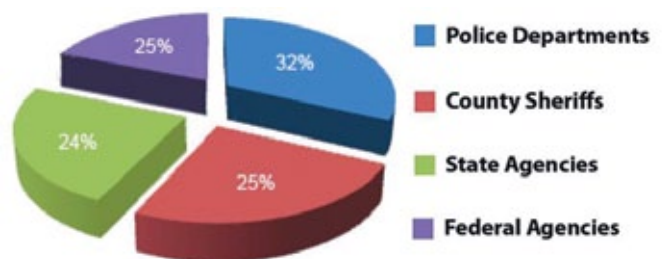
Beyond serving as a focal point for criminal case work, the [IC]² provides a state and local context to help enhance the national threat picture. The federal government relies on critical state and local information it receives from fusion centers like Idaho's. The continual integration of the information received creates a national capacity to gather, process, analyze, and share intelligence in support of efforts to protect the country.

The [IC]² is the result of the collaborative efforts of federal, state and local agencies and began operations in 2009. The members that provide support for the Fusion Center include the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, the Idaho National Guard, the Idaho Department of Corrections, the Idaho Attorney General's Office, the Ada and Canyon County Sheriff's Offices and the Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Nampa and Pocatello Police Departments, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI), and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. ISP is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Center and a multi-jurisdictional board is responsible for governance.

[IC]² has historically been funded by federal grant dollars through the Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS) with the exception of the personnel provided by partner agencies. The services provided to Idaho's 44 county sheriff's offices and over 80 city and tribal police departments are free of charge. During the FY2012, [IC]² responded to over 4,000 requests from agencies ranging from criminal case support and de-confliction to intelligence and officer safety bulletins and training.

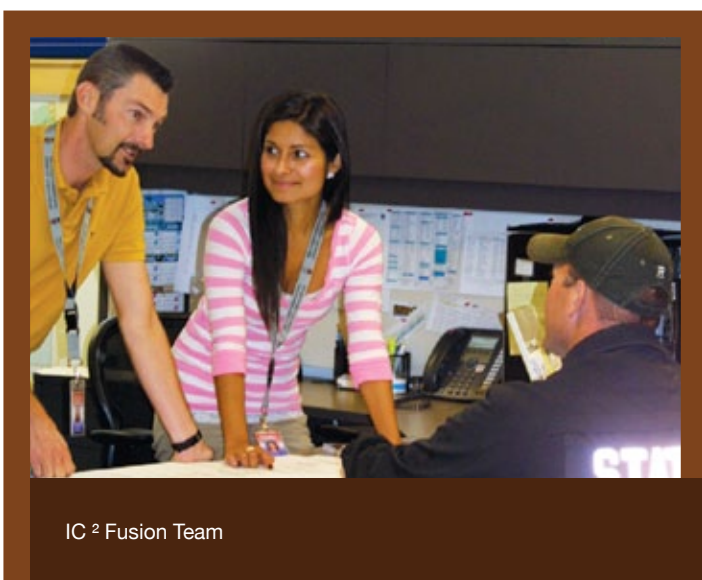
Agency types using the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center
7/01/12 - 06/30/13



A recent example of the work provided by the analysts in the [IC]² was demonstrated during the Amber Alert for San Diego kidnapping victim Hannah Anderson whose abductor took her over 1,200 miles to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area in Valley County. During the three days after it was reported to ISP and the [IC]² that the suspect and victim had been spotted in the wilderness, the [IC]² began 24 hour operations to vet all the tips and leads received on the case in Idaho and coordinate the information with investigators in California and law enforcement on the ground and in the air in Idaho. The resourcefulness of the analysts and their ability to collaborate with partner agencies led to the quick rescue of the victim.

[IC]² is committed to maintaining the civil rights, liberties and privacy of our citizens. The Center abides by a comprehensive privacy policy consistent with the U.S. Constitution, the Idaho Constitution and all federal and state statutes governing the collection and dissemination of criminal intelligence.

Teresa Baker, PIO
Idaho State Police



IC² Fusion Team

Autumn Roberts is BHS Employee of the Quarter

Autumn is a bright, dedicated, and ambitious member of the BHS planning team. Since her arrival in the Plans Section, she has accepted not only every task given to her, but deftly taken on several other major functions. Her capacity for multi-echelon planning is simply amazing and her attention to detail is without peer.



The following accomplishments attest to her contributions:

- She managed the CY 2013 completion of the Idaho Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). This process spanned a six month period and entailed not only multiple subject matter expert (SME) committee meetings, but the input of every county and tribal emergency manager in Idaho. This THIRA is central to the Bureau's ability to prioritize its planning, budgeting and programmatic effort across all mission areas and core capabilities.
- Autumn has assumed administrator responsibility for the Bureau's Emergency Operations Planning Template (EOPT) system. In this capacity, she rapidly not only learned the nuances of the tool, but discovered myriad issues with the plans that were archived. Not willing to accept the appearance of an unprofessional library of plans, she has personally worked to reload and reconfigure all county emergency operations plans in the system.
- She has steered the cyber security planning effort to generate an initial Cyber Security Incident Annex for the Idaho Emergency Operations Plan. Her ability to bring a diverse planning team together and lead them through a deliberate planning process has been inspiring and productive.
- She has assumed the lead in compiling this year's State Preparedness Report (SPR). To this end, she has already identified and notified SMEs that will be involved with the completion of the report, and is managing the completion of each detailed assessment.
- She routinely produces exceptionally professional briefing materials that are used throughout the Bureau, and also submitted to FEMA Region X counterparts.
- She is a voracious reader whose capacity for comprehending vast quantities of information is unmatched. She has become a subject matter expert in not only every National Framework, but also the National Preparedness System, the National Incident Management System, strategic planning concepts, and Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning.
- She rapidly learned and performed as the EOC Operations Section Chief during the recent Wildfire EOC activation. In this key role she furnished the EOC Manager with recommended course of action solutions for optimal support to the fire impacted counties and state and federal partner agencies.

Autumn's current and ever increasing value to this organization cannot be overstated. She has become indispensable to most of the functions performed not only by the Plans Section, but the Preparedness and Protection Branch as well.

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With the impending danger to the residences in the Elk Complex, on August 13 the FEMA granted a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG). The FMAG provides funding after the fire to help with the costs of the structure firefighters that were needed to protect the residences from immediate destruction. This fire was the most destructive to structures of all of the fires that occurred this summer. In the end it destroyed 38 residences in two drainages.

On August 16, the Beaver Creek fire also received an FMAG due to impending destruction of residences. The wildland and structure firefighters were able to keep the fire from destroying all but one residence on this fire. Although the fire burned down to the roads and backyards of many residences in the Hailey-Sun Valley corridor, the firefighting efforts were very successful.

The Pony Fire destroyed some structures but the majority of the damage was the destruction of livestock that were grazing in the area of the fire. The McCan fire had 11 structures destroyed as well as many livestock. There were over 300 cattle and sheep lost due to these four fires.

The fire activity continued with the State fire down on the Utah border (Oneida County), the Incendiary fire (Clearwater County) and the Weiser Complex (Washington County). These fires were closely monitored by the IDEOC due to their proximity to urban areas. As the fires threatening urban areas were contained, it was determined to transition the IDEOC from response to recovery on August 30. At this time, all documentation was turned over to the BHS Recovery Section to process the costs from these devastating fires. The IDEOC staff returned to their daily

tasks and the IDEOC was cleaned up and made ready for the next event that causes a threat or harm to the citizens of Idaho.

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during the closing exercise of CERT classes held in the community. Soon after, teachers from MMACHS started coordinating with ACCEM to determine the feasibility of incorporating CERT training into the school program. Three instructors from MMACHS attended a Campus CERT train-the-trainer



course. After completing the course, they met with the Principal to plan how, when and where to incorporate CERT into the school's already scholastically advanced curriculum. The curriculum team decided to incorporate the CERT modules into an eight week period during the junior year in the Health Applications class.

2013 marks the fourth year of this program. Most of the students at MMACHS are also members of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). This organization promotes careers in health care at both the state and national levels. Annually there are state and national HOSA competitions that challenge the students to test their subject matter expertise along with practical exercises. CERT is one of the included categories. MMACHS students do well at national competitions yearly.

The program at MMACHS is a great example of inter-agency coordination with schools. In the first year of the program, classroom instruction was conducted by MMACHS teachers, a patrol sergeant from Meridian Police Department and educators from the Meridian Fire Department and

ACCEM. Recent budget cutbacks have curtailed some of this but the program still moves forward with one instructor from MMACHS, Carie Staub, the Fire Prevention Educator from Meridian Fire, Pam Orr and the Public Education/Mitigation Specialist from ACCEM, Paul "Crash" Marusich. CERT supplies for the program are funded through the Citizen Corps grant administered by ACCEM.

The first four years of this program have seen 173 students complete CERT training. That is 173 more future health care professionals that have improved their knowledge of disaster management. This program literally equips youth with life-saving skills and knowledge of how and when to use them. These are life skills that benefit both the individual and the community.

The students at MMACHS also learn one more critical skill from this experience. They learn the importance of volunteering and how doing so can support the phases of emergency management. They play a critical role in support of training and



exercise activities for all of Ada County. Many of the students received training from CERT volunteers and have become very good at moulage. They use these skills to support the EMT training at their own school. Additionally, these skills are used to support the adult CERT classes conducted throughout the county. Over the past four years, 10-15 MMACHS students have volunteered at 16 separate CERT exercises. Many more have also been volunteers for the Boise Airport (Plane Crash Exercise), Boise Veteran's Administration Hospital (National Disaster Medical System Exercise), Micron (HAZMAT Exercise), St. Luke's Regional Medical Center (Hospital Evacuation Exercise) and St. Luke's SIMFEST (simulation training for EMS personnel around the state).

It is difficult at times to achieve a balance within educational guidance and budgetary constraints to produce a well-rounded student experience. MMACHS finds new and creative ways every year to meet this challenge. This is made possible by finding community partners that are willing to support the mission of education. It is a great example of what can be done for students when educators, first responders and emergency managers share not only a vision, but a willingness to enact it. In return, the students give their time in support of the local first response training. The program has created and strengthened relationships that broaden participation and continue to help build a more prepared and resilient county. The combination of educational investment and volunteerism return is a powerful way for the entire community to invest in its own future.

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Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDVOAD) Conference

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER BEFORE EMERGENCIES OCCUR

The Idaho VOAD is the state chapter of the National VOAD and consists of organizations active in disaster response throughout the state of Idaho. The role of the VOAD is to bring organizations together and enable them to work together in preparedness, response, relief and recovery.

The Idaho Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IDVOAD) annual conference was held on September 15-16 and 17, 2013 at Camp Ida-Haven near McCall, Idaho. The theme for the conference this year

was "Coordination during Multi-Agency Response Operations" because the best time coordinate, train and prepare is before a disaster happens.

Over forty participants from a diverse group of agencies attended the conference. Among the attendees were volunteer agencies, county emergency management, health districts, tribal, state and federal organizations, as well as Regional and National VOAD representatives. Also attending were representatives from Montana, Washington State and Wyoming.

The focus of the two day agenda was for agencies to present their roles and specialties to the group to create a better understanding

of what can be accomplished when the "Whole Community" works together. Ten volunteer, local, regional, state and federal

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agencies presented, giving an important overview of all the resources available in and around the State of Idaho. It was invaluable to learn the criteria of requesting assistance, the requirements that must be provided to receive the assistance, and to share the procedures that must be followed by local and state emergency management during emergency/disaster situations.

The conference was concluded with a four hour Table Top Exercise facilitated by two National VOAD staff. The focus was to determine statewide preparedness for, response to, and recovery from a simulated flooding scenario. One of the objectives was to use existing plans and determine which plans need to be created or updated. Some of the discussion included coordination and implementation of emergency procedures, notifications, government coordination, and reporting.

Overall the conference was a huge success in helping all the agencies understand how we should and can work together during an incident.

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Tier II Reporting — Preparing for the Upcoming Reporting Period

In December, 1984, a chemical leak at an industrial facility in Bhopal, India resulted in over 2,000 serious injuries or deaths. Dubbed “the world’s worst industrial catastrophe,” this incident prompted the US Congress to pass the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

Section 312 of EPCRA requires facilities with hazardous substances in significant quantities to report this information via Tier II Reports to the State, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and to the facility’s local fire department. The reports are to be filed annually by March 1.

The 2013 report has been revised to include several pieces of newly required information. Among other changes, facilities must now indicate if they are also subject to other sections of EPCRA, as well as sections of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Based on whether the facility is subject to the various sections, they may be required to provide additional information such as the facility’s identification number and additional contacts. While many facilities may be familiar with these provisions, others may find it helpful to consult the EPA’s website (www.epa.gov) for further information and clarification to ensure proper compliance. Information, including links to various Tier II reporting resources, can also be found at the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security’s website (www.bhs.idaho.gov).

Once the reports are received, responders and planning agencies can incorporate the information into their emergency planning activities.

Responders and LEPC’s may also find it helpful to upload the Tier II Reports to the software suite, Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations Suite (CAMEO), which is a free program from the EPA and available for download through a link on our website. The CAMEO suite combines site-specific information with a full database of chemicals and their respective properties. It allows users to store, access, and effectively plan for hazardous substance emergencies (including mapping capabilities in MARPLOT, and plume modeling with ALOHA – both modules in the CAMEO program), based on actual facility-specific information as provided in the TIER II Reports. IBHS sponsors CAMEO classes and also has trained personnel that can provide support and assistance.

It is important to remember that helping maintain public safety is a responsibility we all share. Proper reporting of potential hazards is one effective and preemptive step to ensure our commitment to protecting the people of Idaho can be carried out.

For more information about TIER II Reporting, please contact Jarod Dick at jdick@bhs.idaho.gov or (208)258-6598, or Mary Marsh at mmarsh@bhs.idaho.gov or (208) 422-5723.

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Public Safety Communications 2013

Once again, another busy summer has ended for Public Safety Communications (PSC) as winter makes an early arrival at many of our mountaintop locations. PSC has successfully completed three major projects this past summer, to include critical upgrades to the Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system, completion of a vital microwave link and 700 MHz repeater installations between Custer County, Grouse and Mackay Peaks as well as final stages of the fire mitigation project in Eastern Idaho.

The VOIP server and software upgrade began in the spring of this year with the goal of upgrading the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security (BHS/PSC) phones system. The project included the migration of a unified communication platform to a newer version. The upgrade required server builds for each of the three regions as well as specific configurations and voicemail upgrades with anticipation of providing redundant and reliable mission critical voice communications for our users. More importantly, the upgrade enhanced the feature sets on the phones and improved the fail over capability of voice mail. Professional services provided by the vendor allowed for a collaborative learning environment for PSC technicians as well as Idaho Military Division IT staff. The project was successfully implemented and completed in late July.

Another significant project completed this past summer was the Custer County microwave upgrade that began back in 2011. This upgrade was implemented in two phases, each with unique challenges, due to weather conditions as well as resource availability. The first phase included the replacement of a microwave path from Grouse Peak to Mackay Peak, which allowed for enhanced communications between Custer County Dispatch and the Idaho State Police. The second phase of the project included the installation of 700 MHz conventional repeaters at Grouse Peak, Mackay Peak, Basin Butte and Potaman Peak.

Probably the biggest and most complex project of the summer was the 2008 Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation (LPDM) project also known as the Fire Mitigation Project. Started back in 2010 this project included the following communication sites: Malad Mountain, Chinese Peak and East Butte. Furthermore, the Fire Mitigation project was combined with another public works project at Malad in order to make better use of funding and resources. The primary purpose of the project was to harden these critical communication sites, to reduce the chance of communication failure during a catastrophic wild land fire. Mitigation measures included the removal of vegetation as well as the installation of aggregate material in and around each communication sites. In addition, new underground propane tanks were purchased, installed and all lines were buried to reduce the possibility of damage during a fire. Lastly, the Malad Mountain Communication site was fitted with a new steel communication tower as well as a fire resistant concrete equipment shelter. Overall the project has been a huge success and as Jeremy Hodge (PSC Technician) stated, "The equipment shelter at Malad is more like a bomb shelter," weighing in at over 128,000 pounds. The logistics of getting the concrete panels up the mountain was a major obstacle and would not have been possible without the diligent help of our partners at the Idaho Transportation Department and our outstanding PSC staff based out of Eastern Idaho.

As PSC transitions from their busy summer project schedule the workload continues to ramp up as planning is already underway for a myriad of projects already approved for next spring and summer. Additionally, on-going projects will continue throughout the fall and winter as PSC continues to provide for the operational needs of their customers well into 2014.

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Malad (New Tower and Building)



Chinese Peak (Buried Propane Tank)

Plans Section Update

Now that the 2013 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process has been completed, the Plans Section is beginning the data gathering process to complete the State Preparedness Report (SPR). The SPR helps us measure our levels of preparedness for the capability target statements we identified in this year's THIRA. Preparedness around the state is measured across five areas – Planning, Organization, Equipment, Training, and Exercise. The SPR is completed with the assistance of subject matter experts across multiple state agencies, ensuring a comprehensive look at capability, statewide.

All the data and discussion captured in the THIRA and SPR process is also being used as the foundation for Strategic Planning for the BHS Management Team and Program Managers. The alignment of these federally required processes with the BHS preparedness cycle and prioritization effort provides a solid foundation for future decision

making and resource acquisitions. These efforts are in keeping with the spirit of new federal grant guidance and requirements for the continued use of homeland security grant funds, namely, a prioritized use of grant funds based on actual threats and hazards faced by the jurisdiction.



The Plans Section participated in a Planner's Workshop hosted by FEMA Region 10 in Seattle at the end of August. This provided an opportunity for sharing lessons learned and best practices between other state planners within the region. The majority of the workshop was spent in technical assistance for the new THIRA process, as outlined in the newly released Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG) 201, version 2. The presented information reaffirmed the path Idaho has chosen in regards to the THIRA, and its application to budgeting, grant guidance,

and strategic planning. Samples of capability target statements from Idaho's 2013 THIRA were identified as best practice examples.

The Plans Section continues to maintain and provide support for the Emergency Operation Planning Template (EOPT). This system continues to be used in a widening array of planning applications. In addition to updating local and state Emergency Operation Plans (EOPs) the tool is also being used to update all hazard mitigation plans and Continuity of Operation

(COOP) plans. EOPT is also being used as the electronic repository for the most up to date, promulgated copy of each county's EOP. If you need an EOPT user account so you can view the plans or would like a new plan loaded into the system, contact Autumn Roberts.

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