



Introduction

The overall purpose of the Florida Division of Emergency Management's (FDEM), Continuity of Operations Program is to ensure that Florida's state and local governments, and other entities can maintain the ability to continue and support their mission essential functions during an emergency or event. A COOP is created as a good business practice and address emergencies from an all-hazard approach. COOP plans are accomplished through contingency planning and provisions for alternate facilities, personnel, resources, communications, and vital records. There is a direct relationship between a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and a Continuity of Government (COG). The COG Plan addresses survival of leadership, lines of succession and ensures that the authority needed to exercise powers during an emergency or events are sustained.

Background

In 2002 Governor Bush signed an amendment to § 252.365, Florida Statutes, enhancing the requirements for Disaster Recovery Plans. The law requires standardized essential elements, establishes a deadline for completion of and mandates an assessment and approval process. During 2002, FDEM implemented a programmatic initiative emphasizing the development of Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans for state and local governments. Since that time, state and local governments have faced emergencies that required them to activate their COOPs. The 2004-2005 hurricane seasons created conditions that required activation of COOPs, and valuable lessons were learned that were incorporated into contingency planning. It is imperative that Florida has a viable COOP program to provide mission essential functions to the citizens of Florida.

Requirements and Regulations:

The Division of Emergency Management has the responsibility for annually reviewing and monitoring state and county Continuity of Operations Plans.

- *Sections 252.31 – 252.62, Florida Statutes (Emergency Management Act)*
- *Executive Order 80-29 (Disaster Preparedness), dated April 14, 1980*
- *Presidential Decision Directive 67 (PDD67), dated October 21, 1998.*
- *Continuity Guidance Circular 1 (CGC1), dated January 29, 2009*

Major Milestone Accomplished:

The development of a COG website was created to provide assistance with contingency planning for constitutional governance and ensures command and control during emergencies or events. Continuity of Government (COG) web-base tool was successfully completed and tested. Project anticipated project roll-out date March 22, 2011

Targeted Audience:

Our targeted audience or stakeholders include internal and external customers such County as Emergency Management Directors and the Continuity of Operations (COOP) Coordinators of the Executive Departments and Agencies, the Public Service Commission, the Fish and Wildlife

Continuity of Operations-Continuity of Government Fact Sheet

Conservation Commission, the Water Management Districts, Tribal, and other Non-Governmental Entities.

Funding:

- COOP and COG program: EMPG funding.