

Use of Existing Infrastructures for Greater Continuity Readiness

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Continuity Readiness

- “Our biggest concern is whether an agency has a clear idea of what it absolutely has to do, no matter what.” [Identify Mission Essential Functions]
- In several cases, agencies never trained for or rehearsed emergency plans causing concern that when disaster strikes, “people will be sitting there with a 500-page book in front of them.” [Responsiveness and Executability of Plans]

Source: Linda Koontz, GAO Director of Information Management, “U.S. Plan for Flu Pandemic Revealed”, in *Washington Post*, 4-16-2006

Daily Continuity Readiness & Dispersion are National Policy

- “Continuity requirements shall be incorporated into daily operations of all executive departments and agencies.”
- “As a result of the asymmetric threat environment, adequate warning . . . might not be available, and therefore all continuity planning shall be based on the assumption that no such warning will be received.”
- “Emphasis will be placed upon geographic dispersion of leadership, staff, and infrastructure in order to increase survivability and maintain uninterrupted Government Functions.”

Source: NSPD-51/HSPD-20, “National Continuity Policy”

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Daily Continuity Readiness & Dispersion are Foundations for Implementation

- “Incorporating geographic dispersal in an organization’s normal daily operations, as appropriate, can significantly enhance the organization’s resilience”
- “While some leadership and staff want to be located ‘close to the flagpole’ (i.e. headquarters) organizations should appropriately disperse staff elements and functions away from the main headquarters building on a routine operating basis to enhance the survival of key personnel and functions.”
- “. *Policy* makes clear that continuity planning for execution of Federal executive branch Essential Functions must be integrated into daily operations, functions, plans, and mission areas.”

Source: National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan

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Continuity Infrastructures

Federal Executive
Branch Departments
& Agencies:

Category I – 13

Category II – 16

Category III – 13

Total: 42

Category IV – All EB
organizations not
otherwise identified in
Categories I – III

National Response
Framework : 15
Emergency Support
Functions



Source: National Continuity Policy Implementation Plan

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Suggestions for Greater Use of Existing Infrastructures

- Define what “daily” means to gain & sustain COOP readiness
- Consideration by senior leaders
- Evaluate regular temporary work arrangements
- Use business process analyses focused on COOP execution
- Consider adapting H1N1 preparedness methods & Department /Agency telework infrastructures