COOP Overview

What is COOP?

- COOP is the acronym for Continuity of Operations.
- COOP planning is an internal effort within an institution to ensure the continuity of essential functions across a wide range of emergencies and events.
- A COOP plan may be activated after an emergency has interrupted the performance of an essential function. Examples of emergencies include natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes) and manmade disasters (e.g., terrorism, sabotage, and human error). Even localized incidents such as a power outage or air conditioning failure may require the activation of COOP.
- A COOP Plan is an “All Hazards” plan, meaning it is intended for any emergency response situation, at any time, with little or no warning.

Goals of COOP

- Ensure timely and orderly continuous performance of essential functions during and after an emergency.
- Protect facilities, equipment, records, and other assets that support essential functions.
- Reduce or mitigate disruptions to operations.
- Minimize loss of life and injury to agency personnel.

Guidelines for COOP

- Plan should be capable of execution both with and without warning.
- Plan should be operational no later than 12 hours after activation and maintain sustained operations for at least 14 days.
- Plan should take maximum advantage of existing infrastructure.