Bay Area UASI

Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative Quarterly Newsletter

Regional Catastrophic Planning Continues During COVID-19

Across the US, the scope and scale of today's COVID-19 response efforts is unprecedented. Integrating disaster service workers into multi-discipline EOC operations, adjudicating scarce resources, and rapidly procuring and implementing new technologies for continuity of operations has proven to be immensely challenging. The same is true in the Bay Area.

However, the Bay Area's history of close collaboration with its regional partners and a significant investment in preparedness has allowed the region to overcome logistical, technological, legal, policy, and other impediments.

To continue expanding regional capabilities, the Bay Area Training and Exercise Program has launched a community preparedness webinar series that educates community members and organizations. Additionally, the Bay Area UASI is facilitating regional conversations about Disaster Service Worker programs. These civil service employees and affiliated volunteers have been reassigned to a specific duty during a time of crisis. To support the effective use of local DSW programs, we are developing tools / templates to support these efforts. By conducting hosted regional conversations, surveys, and one-on-one phone interviews, a regional comprehensive analysis of Bay Area DSW programs will be made available by the end of the year.

Additionally, work on the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program has begun. Kicking off the grant program are initiatives designed to improve Commodity Points of Distribution (C-POD) capabilities throughout the region. These initiatives include guidance and logistics planning to create 70 additional site-specific C-POD activation plans with maps, site setup templates, pre-scripted resource requests, contract templates, and training & exercise opportunities. Due to the increased demand on our stakeholders because of the pandemic, the scope and outlook of the program remains flexible. A large exercise planned for fall of 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19.

For more information on participating in the RCPGP program, please contact the chair of the Bay Area UASI Emergency Management workgroup Corinne.Bartshire@sfgov.org. Click here for C-POD resources previously developed that support these new initiatives.

Bay Area UASI Updates

Securing the Cities Program Update

In March 2020, the Bay Area UASI received $2 million dollars in Securing the Cities (STC) grant funds in the form of a cooperative agreement. The purpose of this national program is to reduce the risk of the successful deployment of a weapon of mass destruction or the movement of radioactive materials in a major metropolitan area. San Francisco was selected as one of six cities in the US (along with Phoenix, Denver, Miami, Atlanta, and Seattle). The region covered by the grant award extends through 48 California counties and Washoe County in NV.

On May 27, the UASI Management Team conducted its first meeting for the Principal Partners of this newly formed Northern California Securing the Cities region. Attending were members of the federal STC office and representatives from: the San Francisco Fire and Police Departments, the Sheriff's Departments from the Counties of Alameda, Fresno, Sacramento, San Mateo, and Washoe, the UCSF Radiation Support Team, and BART, San Francisco Airport, Union Pacific Railroad, and the Port of San Francisco. The meeting introduced the members, described the grant requirements and the various phases of the program.

There are four Phases to this ten year grant program. During the first year, the engagement of the Principal Partners, the development of milestones, the signing of an MOU, and the creation of governance structures will complete Phase I. These initial activities will lead to Phase II, which lasts for three years and includes the development of plans and protocols, standardized equipment identified, purchased, and deployed, and training and exercise support provided. Phase III begins in Year four with the region now fully mission capable with demonstrated capabilities and ready to hold an Exercise series. Phase IV, sustainment, continues during Years five –ten.

New Cybersecurity Toolkits Launched!

The Bay Area UASI, in conjunction with the NCRIC, has engaged in region-wide cyber planning efforts. These efforts include development and delivery of a preparedness survey and plan review, conduct of workshops, the creation of a Regional Cyber Incident Response Framework, all leading to the development and release of a regional Cyber Toolkit.

Cyber Toolkit

The Toolkit includes tools and templates created to assist organizations/jurisdictions in strengthening their cyber planning, response, and recovery. Using feedback from 2019's Cybersecurity Preparedness Survey and plan review and discussions from the Cybersecurity Preparedness Workshop, this toolkit is designed to stand alone or build on completed Continuity of Operations plans in conjunction with the Bay Area UASI COOP/COG Toolkit.

Available materials include:
Cyber Toolkit Executive Summary: Introduces and describes the contents of the Cyber Toolkit and explains the relationships between the plan templates and other related planning efforts.
Technology Recovery Plan Template: Identifies priorities, strategies, and resources that your organization/jurisdiction can use when recovering from cyber incidents.
Cyber Incident Response Plan Template: Provides guidance and structure so your organization/jurisdiction can develop a clear, actionable plan that can be quickly implemented in response to an actual or suspected cyber incident.
Cyber Framework (coming in October): A Regional Cyber Incident Response Framework will assist organizations/jurisdictions in strengthening their cyber incident response capabilities, engaging in county-wide/operational area cyber incident response efforts, and building a region-wide cyber incident response capability.

Bay Area UASI Updates

Bay Area Joint Information System Enhancements

The Bay Area Joint Information System is a network of individuals with responsibilities to support emergency public information and warning. Members from a broad spectrum of agencies, disciplines, and jurisdictions throughout the Bay Area work together

San Francisco Mayor London Breeed conducts a press conference to discuss shelter in place orders.

to coordinate public information and warning efforts before, during, and after emergencies. Currently, the JIS is sharing resources regarding COVID-19 public messaging and has developed a series of toolkits, framework, and resources available to use. To access some of these resources, please visit http://www.bayareauasi.org/jis. To become a member of the Bay Area JIS, email bayareajis@gmail.com. Bay Area JIS members coordinate through Slack and share additional resources via Google Drive.

UASI Regional Training & Exercise Program

July 1st marked the re-launch of the Bay Area Training and Exercise Program (BATEP) and the launch of the program's new website: www.BATEP.org. The program is off to a busy start with the conduct of several community preparedness seminars. A list of upcoming courses can be found by logging in to the program's website. Also on the site, logged in users will find a comprehensive course catalog, the multi-year Integrated Preparedness Plan, and a Program Manual. As in the past, the Training and Exercise Work Group has resumed its monthly meeting schedule. On the exercise front, due to the pandemic, the regional Golden Eagle exercise has been postponed until the fall of 2021. When planning begins, it will focus on critical transportation and C-PODs.

For more information on the Bay Area UASI Training and exercise program, or to browse and register for courses, please visit www.batep.org

BayRICS Update

BayRICS continues supporting the region through monitoring, testing, and implementing FirstNet and other public safety broadband technologies, while also conducting interoperability planning and providing governance for the region's legacy land mobile radio systems. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of secure, regional communications coordination and interoperability. Recently, the BayRICS Radio Operators Advisory Group launched a mobile Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP) application that puts key radio communications information into first responders' hands. They also coordinated a regional radio alias programming scheme to better facilitate mutual aid responses, provided systems access to state and federal partners for mutual aid purposes, and are planning for more encrypted radio channels. For more information, please visit www.bayrics.net

Compliance Corner & Management Team

FY21 UASI Project Proposal Process

On September 17, 2020, the Bay Area UASI will host the FY21 Project Proposal Kickoff Meeting virtually via Zoom. This meeting will present the rules and policies for submitting grant applications. The application period runs from September 18-October 09, 2020.

One key change to this year's process is applicants will be asked to provide more information about how the project closes an identified gap in your jurisdiction. For more information on the FY21 Project Proposal Process visit: www.bayareauasi.org/proposals

Compliance Corner:

If your agency receives UASI grant funding, a signed MOU documents details of the award and all requirements that must be completed in order to receive reimbursement. In certain instances, the purchase of equipment or the conduct of training and/or exercises requires state or federal approval before any funds are expended. Failure to submit the required forms AND obtain approval prior to expending funds may lead to a denial of the reimbursement request.

The following forms must be submitted to the UASI for submission to Cal OES by Feb 15 after your agency receives its award: EHP, sole source, Aviation, and Watercraft. Please submit the forms in Word format so the compliance manager (yours truly) may review for accuracy and assist in preparing the document for submission to Cal OES. Upon completion of the form, it is submitted to Cal OES for their review and approval. Again, jurisdictions may not expend any funds until a letter of approval has been issued.

Although it's a compliance requirement, performance bonds are treated differently. As opposed to submitting a request to Cal OES for approval, the agency is responsible for submitting proof of the bond to the UASI after it is obtained. This bond is an insurance policy, obtained by the selected vendor, only to be used for equipment purchases. It guarantees the delivery of the equipment 90 days after the end of the jurisdiction's performance period. The performance bond requirement is for any single equipment item that costs $250,000 or more (including tax), or any vehicle, watercraft, or aircraft. If the jurisdiction fails to obtain a performance bond, the entire purchase may be in jeopardy.

Upcoming Events

AUGUST
- 08/19: CBRNE Meeting
- 08/20: Training & Exercise Work Group
- 08/27: Public Information & Warning Work Group

SEPTEMBER
- 09/10: Approval Authority Meeting (Zoom)
- 09/17: FY21 Project Proposal Kickoff Meeting (Zoom)
- 09/18: FY21 Applications Open

OCTOBER
- 10/09: FY21 Project Proposal Application Deadline

Approval Authority Updates

The September 10 Approval Authority meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Details will be posted at www.bayareauasi.org/approval-authority/september

Management Team Updates

Please welcome Jodi Traversaro to the Managment Team. She will oversee the Regional Training & Exercise Program, as well as the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program.

Regional Updates

Congratulations to Kevin Twohey on his retirement from Napa County OES. Welcome to Chris Schow and Leah Greenbaum.