
**CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS/CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT PLAN
(PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN)**

PURPOSE: The purpose of the City's emergency planning is to ensure continuity of essential services before, during, and after a disaster by developing, maintaining, and regularly updating coordinated plans and procedures. These plans, managed by the Office of Emergency Management & Volunteer Services, provide a framework for hazard mitigation, emergency response, and continuity of government operations.

POLICY:

I. Establish a Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Safety Plan)

- A. During a disaster, interruptions to vital City services, personnel, and other infrastructure will occur. Local government must have a plan for how they will manage those impacts and ensure that essential services can continue. To ensure business continuity before, during, and after a disaster, the City develops and maintains several emergency response plans, policies, and procedures, each addressing specific planning or response functions.
- B. The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes the framework for how the City will organize the emergency management organization. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies hazards and probabilities of such within the City. The City Municipal Code outlines how the City operates, its rules, and standards. These are developed and intended for public consumption as an education tool on hazards that exist within the City and how the City will broadly intend to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters.
- C. The Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Safety Plan) answers the question of how the City will respond in greater detail by identifying critical facilities, lines of succession, succession authorities, and other tactical details. For this reason, the plan may be withheld from public disclosure. Like other emergency plans, the Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Safety Plan) is a living document that is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure validity and accuracy.
- D. The Office of Emergency Management & Volunteer Services Division has responsibility for maintenance of the plan under the authority of the Director of Emergency Services.
- E. The Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Security Plan), which is in "draft" form, should not be publicly disclosed since the Public Records Act exempts from disclosure "preliminary drafts" if the public interest in nondisclosure clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The same applies to the "final" Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Security Plan). (See Government Code Section 7922.000). In both instances, it is clear that the public interest in nondisclosure of the Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Security Plan) clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure in that the disclosure of the Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Security Plan) (whether in draft form or final form) could make the City more vulnerable to security threats to public buildings, essential public services (e.g. staff and other City officials) and the general public. The Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan (Public Security Plan) contains detailed information regarding how the City identifies potential threats to public security and how the City plans to respond to various such threats. If such information is publicly disclosed, it could provide insight to potential terrorists and others interested in engaging in violence against the City and the general public on how to avoid detection and accountability for their unlawful activities, which could involve massive property damage, numerous personal injuries, and even deaths, in addition to potentially disrupting the continuity of government after a local terrorist event or disaster.