Step 4 in Plan Development

COURSES OF ACTION PLANNING
Plan Development

Plan development functions:

• Develop and analyze **course(s) of action (COA)**.
• Identify resources.

Planning concepts for developing a course of action:

• **Scenario based** analyzes impact of a scenario.
• **Functional** identifies the common tasks performed during emergencies.
• **Capabilities based** focuses on capacity to take a course of action.
Testing Courses of Action

Test the various courses of action by gaming in a simulation of operations without using actual resources.

A gaming exercise allows planners to:

• Explore the processes and consequences of decisionmaking.
• Conduct “what-if” analyses of existing plans.
• Test existing and potential strategies.
COA Development Process

• Establish a timeline based on onset of event
  – Depict the scenario
  – Place actions on the timeline
  – Identify decision points
  – Identify operational tasks
• Ask questions
• Select courses of action
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

Time
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

Decision Point: Forecast Analysis

How much time do you have to complete the task?
Scenario: Flood

What Courses of Action can you take to solve the problem in time?

Decision Point: Forecast Analysis

Notification

Road Floods

5 hours? 2 days?
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

Decision Point: Forecast Analysis

Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital

Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid

Road Floods
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

Decision Point: Forecast Analysis
Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital
Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid

Decision Point: Begin Evacuation

Evac

Road Floods
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

- Decision Point: Forecast Analysis
- Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital
- Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid

Evac

- Decision Point: Begin Evacuation

Decision Point: Last Ground Evac Complete

Road Floods

- Decision Point: Last Air Evac Complete
**Scenario: Flood**

- **Notification**
  - Decision Point: Forecast Analysis
  - Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid

- **Evac**
  - Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital
  - Decision Point: Begin Evacuation

- **Road Floods**
  - Decision Point: Last Ground Evac Complete
  - Decision Point: Last Air Evac Complete

**Capability Analysis**

Requirement – Capability = Gap

Example:
130 patients – 2 ambulances = ??

1 ambulance can carry 2 patients at a time, depending on their condition
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

- Decision Point: Forecast Analysis
- Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid
- Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital

Evac

- Decision Point: Begin Evacuation

Road Floods

- Decision Point: Last Ground Evac Complete
- Decision Point: Last Air Evac Complete

Time?

20 patients x 1 hour round trip to receiving hospital

- 10 ambulances w/ 2 patients each = 2 hours
- 5 ambulances w/ 2 patients each = 4 hours
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

Notification

- Decision Point: Forecast Analysis
- Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid
- Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital

Evac

- Decision Point: Begin Evacuation

Road Floods

- Decision Point: Last Ground Evac Complete
- Decision Point: Last Air Evac Complete

20 patients x 1 hour round trip to receiving hospital

100 patients x 1 hour round trip to receiving hospital
COA Timeline

Scenario: Flood

- Notification
  - Decision Point: Forecast Analysis
- Decision Point: Evacuate Hospital
- Decision Point: Begin Evacuation
- Decision Point: Order Mutual Aid
- Evac
- Decision Point: Last Ground Evac Complete
- Road Floods
  - Decision Point: Last Air Evac Complete

10 ICU patients x 2 hours round trip flight time to receiving hospital

20 patients x 1 hour round trip to receiving hospital

100 patients x 1 hour round trip to receiving hospital