

Fact Sheet

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The Exercise

What is Operation OX?

- Operation OX is a full-scale exercise. The exercise will be held April 30 to May 2.
- All tribal and county public health authorities in Oregon will participate in one form or another.
- The exercise will practice the state's ability to request, receive, distribute and dispense medicines and medical supplies from the Federal Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).
- The medications and supplies received from the Federal Strategic National Stockpile and other sources are commonly referred to as Medical Countermeasures (MCM).
- During the exercise OHA's Agency Operations Center will be staffed and a Receipt, Stage and Store (RSS) site will be stood up.
- The RSS site will receive a federal pack of 20-30 pallets of training product.
- The RSS site will focus on receiving, pick and pack, and distribution of product from the federal pack, called the Eagle Pack. Securing product and inventory tracking will be part of the process.
- Select tribal and county partners will participate in physically picking up supplies from the RSS site.
- All partners will participate in the distribution portion of the exercise, with some choosing to test and train on additional response capabilities. Capabilities include epidemiological investigation, medical surge capacity, emergency operations center (EOC) operations, pharmacy collaboration, SERV-OR or Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) management, dispensing, local distribution site (LDS) operations, emergency public information and warning, and information sharing.
- The federal Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) in Oregon encompasses five counties in the Portland Metro Area.
 - These counties will be conducting a joint exercise, testing the same capabilities.
 - The Oregon CRI has elected to have a contractor help facilitate their exercise.
 - Two table top exercises were conducted ahead of the full-scale exercise.
- Counties may have their own name for their local exercise, but they're part of the overarching Operation OX exercise. For example, the 5 county Portland Metro area is calling theirs PACE.



Why are you doing this exercise?

- We need to be ready to keep people in Oregon healthy through a coordinated response.
- Large public health emergencies that require use of the Strategic National Stockpile are not common.
- Exercises like Operation OX train and keep the skills of our staff and partners fresh.
- These exercises help ensure we can scale up much of what we do every day to meet the challenges of a larger event and remain coordinated in our efforts at the federal, tribal, state and local levels.

What types of activities might people see?

- People going door to door (CASPER Survey).
- Local points-of-distribution (POD) sites being set up.
- Warehouse activity at locations that typically have little to no activity.
- A stray email that wasn't labeled "exercise" that contains information that could lead people to believe there's a threat of bioterrorism.
- In some places there will be an increased presence of military or police personnel. One jurisdiction is planning a police escort for medical products. Many federal partners are sending staff members to serve as facilitators, evaluators and observers, and they may be in uniform.

Can we get more information about the site locations or have access?

OHA and our partners are responsible for securing the product. Providing access to the sites or information about the sites could compromise our ability to do that.

The exercise logo

- The logo was designed by Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division Health Security, Preparedness and Response program staff. The image of the bird recalls the uniform worn by "plague doctors."
- Although the garments give the appearance of a bird, plague has little to do with birds. It's generally found in fleas that feed on rodents. Plague affects other animals when they feed on infected animals. People can be infected if they are bitten by an infected flea, if they come into direct contact with body fluids and tissues of a plague infected animal, or when an infected person has an airborne form of plague it can be spread through direct contact with droplets in their cough.
- The garments were intended to provide protection to the health care provider.
- Descriptions of the uniform include descriptions of gowns made of heavy, waxed leather or fabric, goggles or glasses and a bird like beak mask.
- The "beak-shaped mask" contained pungent herbs and perfume, which were thought to purify the air and provide relief from stench one would smell while providing health care. This isn't the protection we would recommend in the modern time.
- The Library of Medicine has more information about these garments or uniforms.

The name of the exercise

- Operation OX is "Oregon's Exercise."
- If you want to look for a more symbolic meaning, it's also a nod of appreciation to the livestock that historically supported the movement of products. That's what this exercise is doing, practicing the movement of lifesaving health products- though we've modernized the form of transportation a bit.

Where does the funding for OHA-PHD's exercise come from?

- Federal resources fund the Oregon Health Authority's Health Security, Preparedness and Response program and its activities.