



Before During & After

The Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (OHSEM) Newsletter

Significant Dates

- September 6th: Labor Day (Holiday)
- September 8th: COOP Webinar Wednesday
- September 30th: End of Monsoon Season

COVID-19 Links

[Maricopa County Public Health COVID-19 Dashboard and Vaccine Information Site](#)

[AZDHS COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Website](#)

Emergency Management Links

[OHSEM Website](#)

[Maricopa County WebEOC](#)

[COOP Plans \(BOLDplanning\)](#)

[Phoenix NOAA/NWS Website](#)

[Arizona Emergency Information Network \(AZEIN\)](#)

Summer Safety Focus: Severe Wind

At first glance, severe winds sound like a concern only for regions that regularly experience hurricanes or tornadoes. However, it turns out severe winds are one of the most destructive natural phenomena in Phoenix. This is because severe winds, defined as any climatic events that produce damaging winds, are common in the city as they typically accompany thunderstorms occurring year-round.



Photo Credit: 3TV/ CBS 5

There are three types of damaging wind related features associated with thunderstorms:

- **Downbursts** – These are columns of air that move rapidly downward through a thunderstorm. As the air reaches the ground, it spreads out in all direction, creating horizontal wind gusts of 80 mph or higher (sometimes as high as 140 mph!). When the diameter of the downburst is greater than 2.5 miles, it is referred to as a **macroburst**, and downbursts equal to or less than 2.5 miles size is considered a **microburst**.
- **Straight line winds** – Similar to downbursts, these winds are usually sustained for longer periods of time and are frequently responsible for generating dust storms.
- **Tornadoes** – The least common wind activity that accompany thunderstorms, tornadoes are rapidly rotating funnels of air that extend toward the ground from a cumulonimbus cloud. Most funnel clouds do not touch the ground, but when they do, they cause extensive damage.

As we saw during the thunderstorms this monsoon season, severe winds are powerful and destructive events that can have major impacts around the city, such as downing power lines, uprooting trees, and damaging vehicles as well as residential and commercial buildings.

Regional/National Resources

Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM)

As the largest city in the county, we work closely with MCDEM to ensure all our emergency management efforts are aligned. Click their title to find out more about MCDEM and their services.

Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA)

DEMA consists of the Arizona National Guard, the Division of Emergency Management and the Division of Administrative Services. Click their title to find out more about their capabilities and the resources they can provide.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA provides emergency management guidance and support at the national level. Their website contains an abundance of information on nearly everything you may want to know about emergency management.

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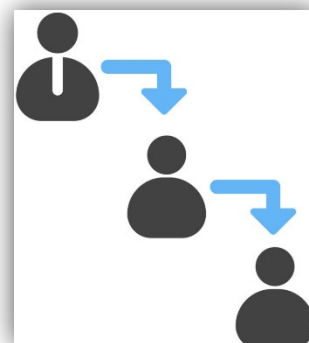
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Managing City Departments During Continuity Events: Orders of Succession and Delegations of Authority

In the June OHSEM Newsletter, we learned that City Departments must identify their essential functions and be prepared to carry out these functions in the face of a continuity event. Now that City Departments are aware of what must be done, we turn our attention to how City Departments can effectively carry out their operations, starting with two fundamental administrative concepts: **orders of succession** and **delegations of authority**.

Orders of succession refers to how a City Department will manage key positions in case current personnel are unavailable or unable to fill those roles. In the event of a continuity event, having an order of succession in place will help facilitate an orderly and pre-defined transition of key positions in the department.

Another helpful way of understanding orders of succession is by asking the question, "who comes next in the chain of command?".



The next administrative concept is **Delegations of Authority**. This refers to specific authorities that exist within the department and which personnel are authorized to conduct them. This is very similar to Orders of Succession, but the major difference is that Delegations of Authority focus on personnel who could assume specific capabilities/authorities while Orders of Succession focus on personnel who can assume a specific title. The following are examples of the types of authorities departments should consider:



- Signing checks, contracts, or other legal documents
- Granting travel, vacation, or extended leave authorization
- Making purchases for certain amount above and beyond normal purchase limits
- Closing workplace and/or determining a delayed opening
- Hiring and laying off personnel

In the BOLDplanning program there are pre-programmed Orders of Succession and Delegations of Authority inputs that are recommended. City Departments may choose to add more depending on organizational and operational needs. If you require any assistance completing these sections of the COOP plan, please reach out to your Departmental COOP Administrator!

Find OHSEM's COOP training videos here:

<https://cityofphoenix.sharepoint.com/sites/ohsem/emergency-plans>

Find previous COOP articles in OHSEM's monthly newsletter here:

<https://cityofphoenix.sharepoint.com/sites/ohsem/Pages/default.aspx>