

PROTECT Project

Planning Representatives & Operations Taskforce
to Enhance Cybersecurity Training



Identifying the Gap: Washington SPR



- FY2021: The SPR identified gaps in ensuring participation and keeping curriculum contemporary and that there is a lack of or limited integrated training for IT and EM staff
- FY2022: The SPR notes there is a need for large scale (cybersecurity) coordination which has not been addressed through exercises or drills
- FY2023: The SPR notes a need for outcomes from exercises in gap analysis and recommendations to each participant to increase the efficacy of their cybersecurity and/or incident response plans
- FY2023: The SPR suggest providing training for the whole community (including the public and public safety personnel on cybersecurity resilience and cyber incident response

Identifying the Gap: National Research



- Mark Sloan, Harris County Office of Homeland Security: Emergency management uses “gates, guards, and guns”; protection you can see; it is necessary to integrate IT into an EOC outside of a logistics role in your plans
- Adrienne George, Charlotte Fire Department: You need to create shared definitions and language with IT before a cyber response, and prove to them Emergency Management is not here to step into their realm and take over
- Jen Easterly, Director of CISA: The reason 9/11 occurred is because of a failure to imagine all the ways things could go wrong and then meaningfully train and prepare for them. Some of those things today is the cyber landscape
- Travis Houston and Elliott Reep, Dallas and Carrollton Texas; Work needs to be done to integrate IT events into the standard all-hazards response model to ensure successful response

Creating the Opportunity



PROTECT Event Series:

- ☐ Winter (Beginning) 2025 – Statewide Cybersecurity Conference
- ☐ Spring 2025 – Regional Water Sector Workshop & TTX
- ☐ Fall/Winter 2025 – Regional Transportation Sector Workshop & TTX
- ☐ *Proposed* Spring 2026 – AAR Roadshow

Statewide Cybersecurity Conference



January 28-30, 2025; King County

Audience:

- Non-technical response partners
- Water and Transportation subject matter experts
- Public education specialists
- Public information officers

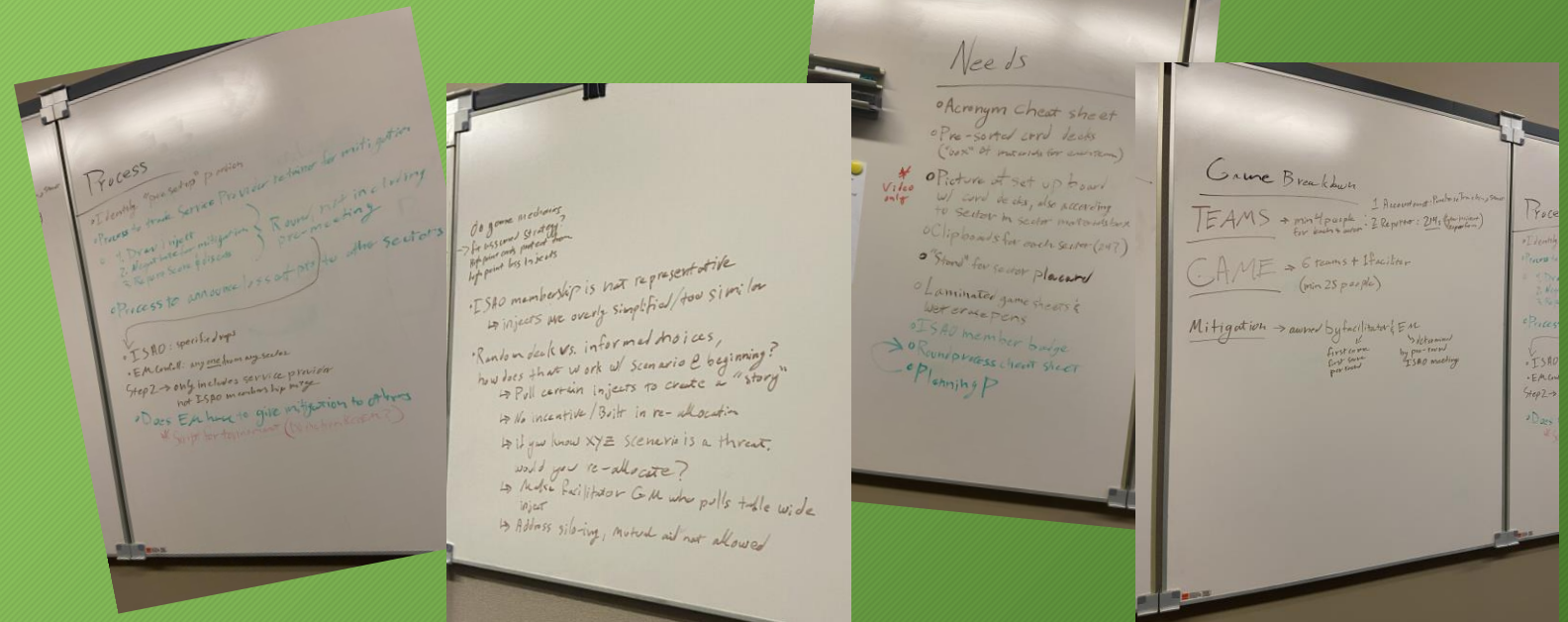
Specialty offerings :

- Tournament style cyber game
- Sector specific sessions
- PIO and public education focused tracks

Statewide Cybersecurity Conference: Cyber Game



Cyber Ready Community Game



Statewide Cybersecurity Conference: Sector Specific Offerings



- 5 breakout sessions facilitated over 2 days with individuals from water and wastewater sectors alongside IT and Emergency Management professionals
- Covered topics including identifying existing protective measures, lessons learned, best practices in the field, and a “lite” tabletop around a cybersecurity event at a water utility
- 40 attendees between day 1 and 2 from across the region
- Feedback: attendees appreciated opportunities to network with others in their field in an informal way and hear what others were doing in this area

Statewide Cybersecurity Conference: Input Opportunity!



Share your input on speakers and topics you want to hear about during the conference! This also serves as part of the early registration group. You will be contacted directly when registration opens to register first.

Questions?



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