

# What's New in Emergency Planning?

## Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)

*By Sarah Diabo, Emergency Planning Manager*

Emergencies occur suddenly, without any warning and can be very disastrous for you, your family and your place of employment. This can leave you feeling overwhelmed and powerless. Being prepared can lessen some of these feelings. It can help protect you, your family and your place of employment. By preparing for emergency situations you can ensure your vital records and the Tribe's essential services are met and steps are taken for appropriate actions before, during and after an emergency.

The Emergency Planning Office and the Records Management Department have teamed up to identify potential threats, essential records and how to safeguard your vital records before a disaster occurs. Too often records are an afterthought, but response and recovery cannot happen unless certain records survive the disaster. Both offices will be conducting training on how households can safeguard their essential records; such as birth certificates, wills, insurance policies and social security numbers in the event of a fire, flood or tornado. "Safeguarding Your Essential Personal Records" training will be held on Thursday January 28, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the *Tsi Tetewatakens* Office for the Aging. To sign up, please call the Records Management Department or the Emergency Planning Office at (518) 358-2272.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's mission statement is "Helping Build a Better Tomorrow." The Emergency Planning Office is preparing for today so there is a better tomorrow. All Tribal divisions and departments are required to have a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure continuation of their essential services across a wide range of emergencies and events. The goals of the Emergency Planning Office are to provide

coordination and oversight in support of programs to ensure public safety. To support this mission, the Tribe must be

prepared to continue operations during any type of threat or emergency, as well as be able to effectively resume essential

operations if services are interrupted.

To assist, Federal

Emergency

Management (FEMA) will be conducting "Continuity of Operations Training" for Tribal Nations tentatively set for the week of February 22, 2016 at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort.

Every family household, agencies, offices and programs have important records. Because we never know when a natural or man-made disaster could strike, it's important to plan for the possibility. ◇

# WHAT IF?

