

# Public Safety Fact Sheet

A publication of the Washington County Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee

*In response to recent world and national events, representatives from police and fire agencies, local governments, health officials and emergency managers within Washington County have increased coordination and communication. The goal of this effort, known as the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee (ATAC), is to help ensure an effective countywide response to a major public safety incident. Additionally, ATAC is committed to enhancing public safety by educating the community on topics of public interest and concern through an on-going series of informational fact sheets.*

## **Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee (ATAC)**

In November 2001, representatives from Washington County law enforcement, EMS, 911, fire, emergency management, local government, public health, and hospitals increased their coordination efforts relating to the threat of terrorism. Together they formed the "**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee**" (ATAC) to place greater focus on the threat, improve information sharing, and develop guidelines or standards for use throughout the county. At the committee's first meeting, its members defined ATAC's purpose with the following mission statement:

*"To enhance public safety preparedness for response to terrorist-related incidents and threats in Washington County."*

The primary benefit of **ATAC** lies in the professional diversity and experience of its members, which includes individuals from a multitude of organizations likely to be involved in a local terrorist threat or incident. Because of this broad based representation, **ATAC** has been able to significantly improve interagency communication, most notably between public health officials and first responders including fire, EMS, and law enforcement. In addition, **ATAC** has developed recommendations to help improve and standardize local response plans and procedures. This work, in particular, has reduced duplicative efforts among the Washington County agencies who must now anticipate and possibly respond to situations far beyond annual windstorms and flooding.

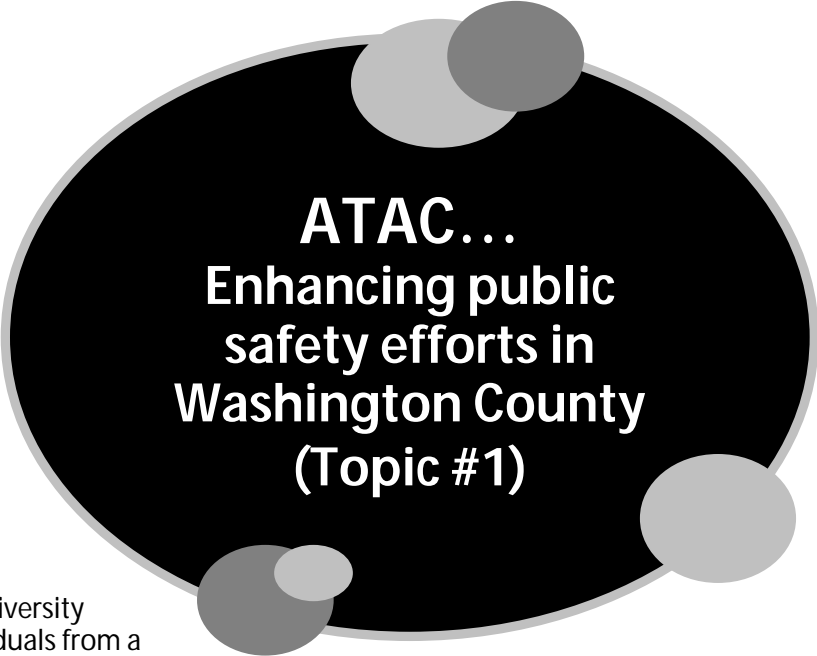
## **Issues currently being discussed by ATAC include:**

- Recommended minimum prevention and response measures for local governments that are linked to common levels of threat (*e.g. employee measures, facilities security, equipment standards, etc.*);
- A notification process to ensure timely dissemination of important public safety alert information to police, fire, and other emergency responders;
- Procedures to guide public health officials and law enforcement agencies in decision making related to the use of quarantines to control the spread of epidemics; and
- Safety information for the public

## **Contacts for More Information:**

For more information about the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee or terrorism preparedness in Washington County, contact:

The Office of Consolidated Emergency Management at (503) 649-8577 (you may also visit [www.ocem.org](http://www.ocem.org)) or your local law enforcement agency.



**ATAC...**  
**Enhancing public  
safety efforts in  
Washington County  
(Topic #1)**