

Public Safety Fact Sheet

A publication of the Washington County Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee

In response to recent world and national events, Washington County's police and fire agencies, local governments, health officials and emergency managers have increased coordination and communication. The purpose of this effort is two-fold: to ensure an effective countywide response should a major public safety incident occur locally, and to provide residents with timely, consistent information on issues of public concern.

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."



ATAC...
**Enhancing public
safety efforts 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) or your local law enforcement agency.