

**Team Name:** Central Oregon

**Major Activities:** Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook Counties pursued a shared approach to public health preparedness activities.

The tri-county team spent a great deal of time in the exploration phase. After several months, they held a strategic planning retreat, which helped to sharpen their focus and crystallize their efforts. They named their initiative Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Central Oregon (PHEPCO), and ultimately focused on developing shared risk communications and a joint medical surge plan.

**Major Accomplishments:** Each county has the same general Public Health Risk Communication Plan, with customized protocols for each county. Letterhead was adopted for media and other communication dissemination relevant to all three counties. A Risk Communication Memorandum of Understanding was being drafted at the end of the project period. The team also agreed to hold integrated training and exercises to support a Medical Surge Plan that also was developed with state funds during the project period.

**Challenges:** The CJS team had a hard time getting started on this work, as collaborative models were perceived by some as being expensive, with smaller counties receiving a disproportionate financial impact if they participated. Once the team focused on their respective motivations and agreed on what would be “on and off the table,” they were able to move forward and identify mutually agreeable areas for collaboration.