



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021



Bay Area Joint Information System Supports COVID-19 Information Sharing and Response

January 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in the San Francisco Bay Area. Over February and into March, the novel coronavirus spread throughout the Bay Area. By March, local governments and the State of California declared emergencies.

18 months later, and just in time for summer, life in the Bay Area started to feel normal again. Maintaining social distance from others and covering one's face outdoors seemed to have become a matter of personal preference, rather than public order. However, despite high vaccination rates, case numbers in the Bay Area have spiked. The United States is once again seeing a rise in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.¹ As of July 22, 35% of U.S. counties are experiencing high levels of community transmission.¹

This increase in COVID-19 cases also creates more opportunities for the virus to mutate. Variants of the COVID-19 virus are now responsible for all cases in the United States, with the Delta variant making up an estimated 83.2% of recent U.S. cases.¹

Uncertainty around the virus and our fight against it remains challenging for all of us, but information sharing and collaboration through the Joint Information System has helped share resources, streamline communications, and identify needs to coordinate response.

Since February 2020, hundreds of Bay Area Public Information Officers (PIOs) and communications staff across the Bay Area UASI region have been using the JIS to coordinate public information efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic represents the first implementation of the Bay Area JIS during a long-term (multi-month) emergency response. It is the first-time members have used the system consistently for the duration of an emergency. Bay Area JIS members continue to use the JIS to coordinate regional and local public information efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, earthquakes, evacuation, wildfires, and air quality.

¹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 Data tracker Weekly Review, July 23, 2021. Public-use data file and documentation. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>

Bay Area Joint Information System (JIS)

“The JIS has been an incredible asset to us to coordinate everything that is happening. The fact that [the system] was set up in advance was by design, and critical to us being able to assemble our resources and emergency response so quickly.

It is great that we had these communications channels and performed drills in advance. And, it was also great that we knew many of our cohorts in advance as well, because that automatically breaks down barriers.”

*Bay Area JIS Member,
August 2020*



In 2014, members formed the Bay Area Joint Information System (JIS) with support from the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (BAUASI). Today, more than 500 members have signed up to coordinate on the system’s virtual coordination platforms.

The JIS is a voluntary network of individuals with emergency public information and warning responsibilities from multiple agencies, disciplines, and jurisdictions throughout the BAUASI region. Bay Area JIS members work together to coordinate public information and warning efforts before, during, and after emergencies.

During the pandemic, JIS members initiated daily coordination calls where updates, information, and resource needs were shared. Bay Area JIS members continue to manage, evaluate, and identify opportunities to improve regional coordination and remain essential in coordinating regional and local public information efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Main objectives:

1. Activate the JIS in a timely manner to coordinate public information and warning efforts across Bay Area jurisdictions and relevant agencies in support of local response efforts.
2. In a reasonable and timely manner, establish and implement an emergency coordination team as outlined in the Bay Area JIS Framework.
3. Within the next operational period, ensure inclusive participation of Bay Area jurisdictions, other regional public information groups, and relevant agencies.
4. Coordinate daily situational awareness through entirety of the incident, adapting as needed, based on the demands of the incident.

Bay Area Joint Information System Resources

» [JIS Framework](#)

Outlines the general structure and operations of the JIS.

» [JIS Toolkit](#)

Provides guidance and resources that support Bay Area Joint Information System coordination and collaboration before, during, and after an event or emergency.

» [JIS Video Tutorials](#)

Includes videos on day-to-day coordination, transitioning to emergency coordination, coordinating virtually and through technology, and examples of and requesting mutual aid.

For these resources and more visit www.bayareauasi.org/jis

Mass Notification Seminar

November 4th & 5th at the Hyatt Embarcadero in San Francisco

Hosted as part of the 2021 Bay Area UASI Summit, this seminar will consist of presentations and workshops aimed at improving capabilities in developing and disseminating prompt, clear, specific, accurate, inclusive and actionable emergency public information and warnings. This seminar provides an opportunity to learn about topics integral to our community’s success in utilizing mass notification systems to relay important life-saving information to the public before, during, and after an emergency. Contact Mikyung.Kim-Molina@sfgov.org for more information

FY2022 BAUASI Grantmaking

KEY DATES

FY22 Kickoff Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 at 1:30- 2:30 p.m.
Application Period Opens	Friday, Sept. 17, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.
Application Period Closes	Friday, Oct. 8, 2021 at 5 p.m.
Hub Prioritization Meetings	January 2022
Approval Authority Project Approval	Mar. 10, 2022

NEW! 2-Year Grants Cycle

A 2-year funding cycle has been established to provide the opportunity for Hubs to plan for projects that may exceed the 14-month project performance period.

Each Hub may only submit projects that total their expected 2-year allocation plus 10%. This additional 10% acts as a contingency in the event that funding increases.

The following amounts reflect two years funding plus ten percent.
This is an estimate of expected HUB funding not awarded amounts.

East Hub \$ 3,206,066
North Hub \$ 1,181,861
South Hub \$ 3,374,354
West Hub \$ 5,664,028

Hubs are strongly encouraged to meet prior to the September kick-off meeting to discuss the submission of projects so they do not exceed the above listed FY 22-23 Hub allocation amount.

See the compliance corner on the back for more information.



**Project Proposal Guidance
for Fiscal Year 2022**

Click [HERE](#) or
visit www.bauasi.org to view it



Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

THIRA

Helps us answer:

What threats and hazards affect our community?

What impacts those threats and hazards would have on our community?

Based on those impacts, what capabilities our community should have?

SPR

Helps us answer:

What our current capability levels are and how they've changed over the past year?

What gaps exist between the capabilities we want to achieve and the capabilities we currently have?

What do we need to do to close the capability gaps or sustain the capabilities?

What impact did different funding sources have on building or sustaining capabilities?

Building a culture of preparedness requires the nation to understand what risks to prepare for and how to prepare for them. The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) assesses the impacts of the most catastrophic threats and hazards to the Region and establishes capability targets to address them.

As a requirement for receiving Federal UASI funds, the BAUASI conducts the THIRA and the companion capability assessment, the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), on behalf of the region. Projects funded by the BAUASI are expected to sustain capacity or close gaps identified through this process. More information on these documents is available on the bauasi.org website [here](#).

Stakeholder input usually begins in the spring of each year. Input is gathered from subject matter experts in the region through a variety of methods including: BAUASI Work Groups, focused workshops, and written worksheets. The final version of the THIRA and SPR are approved by the BAUASI Approval Authority in November for submission to FEMA in December.

Tools for Conducting THIRA and SPR:

- » [Comprehensive Preparedness Guide](#) (CPG) 201, Third Edition provides guidance for conducting THIRA and SPR.
- » [National Preparedness Goal](#), Second Edition details the 32 Core capabilities deemed essential for the execution of each of the five mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery), forming the basis for the THIRA and SPR process.
- » [Increasing Resilience Using THIRA/SPR and Mitigation Planning](#) describes the similarities and differences between mitigation planning and the THIRA/SPR process.

THIRA and SPR are designated by the Department of Defense as For Official Use Only documents. Governmental agencies within our jurisdiction may contact Amy Ramirez at amy.ramirez@sfgov.org to request to view the documents.

Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Program

Domestic Violent Extremism and Targeted Violence Workgroup Kickoff

The Aug. 25th session will feature a guest speaker from [Moonshot](#)—a team working to end online harms—who recently published a report, [White Supremacy Search Trends in the US](#). Email Jodi.Traversaro@sfgov.org if you are interested in joining.

TVTP Resources

» [DHS Mitigating School Violence Public Awareness Bulletin](#)

Describes threats to schools and provides insights into what to look for when an individual needs help.

» [2021 USSS Averting Targeted School Violence Report](#) outlines best practices.

» [Threat Assessment and Management Team Overview](#) provides toolkits and educational materials to help in developing such teams.

Bay Area UASI TVTP Partners with Renowned Research Institute!

The Bay Area UASI TVTP Program was selected by the Department of Homeland Security to partner with the renowned research institute, RTI International to implement Bay Area TVTP funded programs. This unique 2-year partnership brings together practitioners and academia to advance violence prevention strategies, using a public health approach, nationwide.

Targeted Violence Prevention Training

In June and July over 200 community, interfaith, and educational leaders from over 30 Bay Area jurisdictions joined the Community Awareness and Prevention Strategies training.

Prior to taking the training and after training attendees were surveyed anonymously. Before taking this training, 79% of attendees rated their knowledge of risk factors and indicators for targeted violence as very poor, poor, or fair.

Following the training:

- » 96% reported increased awareness of the threat of violent extremism.
- » 85% reported increased confidence in identifying risk factors and pre-incident indicators that someone might be mobilizing to violence.
- » 100% report now knowing how to report suspicious activity following the training.
- » 95% rated the course as excellent or good.
- » 95% report that they are likely or very likely to incorporate what they learned on the job.

Targeted Violence: Community Awareness and Prevention Strategies training sessions are offered monthly through December.

Register at <http://bauasi.org/tvtp>





Bay Area Training and Exercise Program (BATEP)

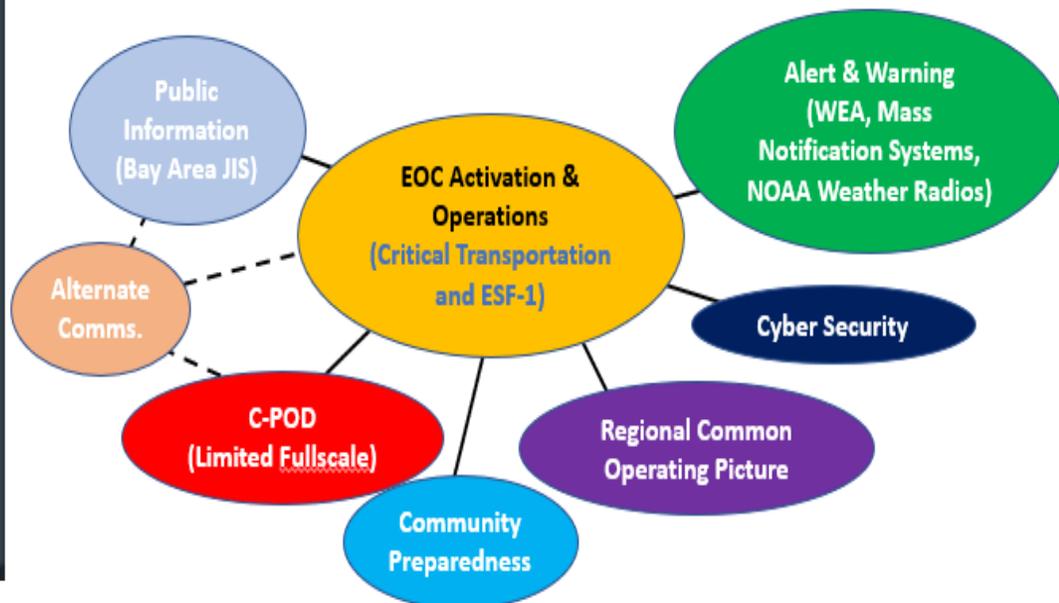
2021 Public Safety Preparedness Summit

November 3rd, Golden Eagle Exercise hosted at various emergency operations centers, commodity points of distribution (C-PODs), and participating agency venues, the exercise will focus on critical transportation operations and logistics for distribution of life sustaining commodities. Local government, transit agencies, state / federal agencies, and community preparedness partners are slated to participate. Contact Corinne.Bartshire@sfgov.org for more information.

November 4th and 5th, Seminar and Training hosted at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, this seminar will include tracks for mass notification, community preparedness, emergency management, and Securing the Cities. It will be a wonderful opportunity for Bay Area partners across public safety disciplines, private and non-profit sectors, local, state, and federal agencies to come together in person. The Seminar will feature keynote speakers, networking events, and a lot of shared best practices. Visit www.bayareauasi.org for more information.

November 5th, Securing the Cities (STC) Drills will reinforce radiation detection skills that emergency responders have been learning as part of STC during 2020-2021. Public safety personnel from throughout the Northern California STC region will demonstrate their ability to detect radiation, locate source, measure radiation levels, identify radioactive isotopes, assess and categorize the threat status of a situation, perform reach back, and resolve alarms. Contact David.a.Rocha@sfgov.org for more information.

The below graphic depicts the various components to be featured in the Golden Eagle Exercise. Participating agencies may customize their exercise to focus on any components that are of high priority to them.



Featured integration! RCPGP and BATEP

The Bay Area UASI will soon be offering two new courses that are being developed as part of the FY19 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) project.

Commodity Points of Distribution (C-POD) Manager will cover why and when to establish a C-POD, the duties associated with managing a C-POD, coordination between a C-POD and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the tools available to support a C-POD Manager.

Disaster Logistics for Practitioners

will cover the characteristics of public sector logistics, the tools and practices for identifying needs and shortfalls, procurement processes, the components of distribution management, and pre-disaster planning to build logistical capabilities. Both courses will be offered virtually this fall in preparation for the Golden Eagle exercise. In-person courses will be offered in early 2022.

Securing the Cities San Francisco Bay Area (STC SFBA)

Public Safety Preparedness Summit – November 4 and 5, 2021

STC SFBA will be hosting trainings and a capstone drill. All Principal Partners are invited to register a team! Contact Dave Rocha at:

david.a.rocha@sfgov.org.

Countering Anti-Asian Violence: Legal & Community Actions Webinar

STC SFBA Program manager, Dominic Yin, spoke at the virtual event which included other local leaders from the Asian American community. Hosted by the MIT Chinese Alumni Group of Northern California, the session reviewed effective means for countering anti-Asian violence including working with law enforcement and local and state governments, community organizing, funding and mobilizing legal action, and private business and organizational roles.

[WATCH HERE](#)

\$2.1M in FY20 STC SFBA Funding Awarded!

This award focuses on Phase II (Implementation) to enhance capabilities to detect and report the presence of radiological/nuclear materials out of regulatory control. Phase two is expected to take three years and its milestones include development of plans, the procurement of equipment, training and exercise, operational and technical subject matter expertise, and other programmatic support.

STC SFBA Training:

Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection

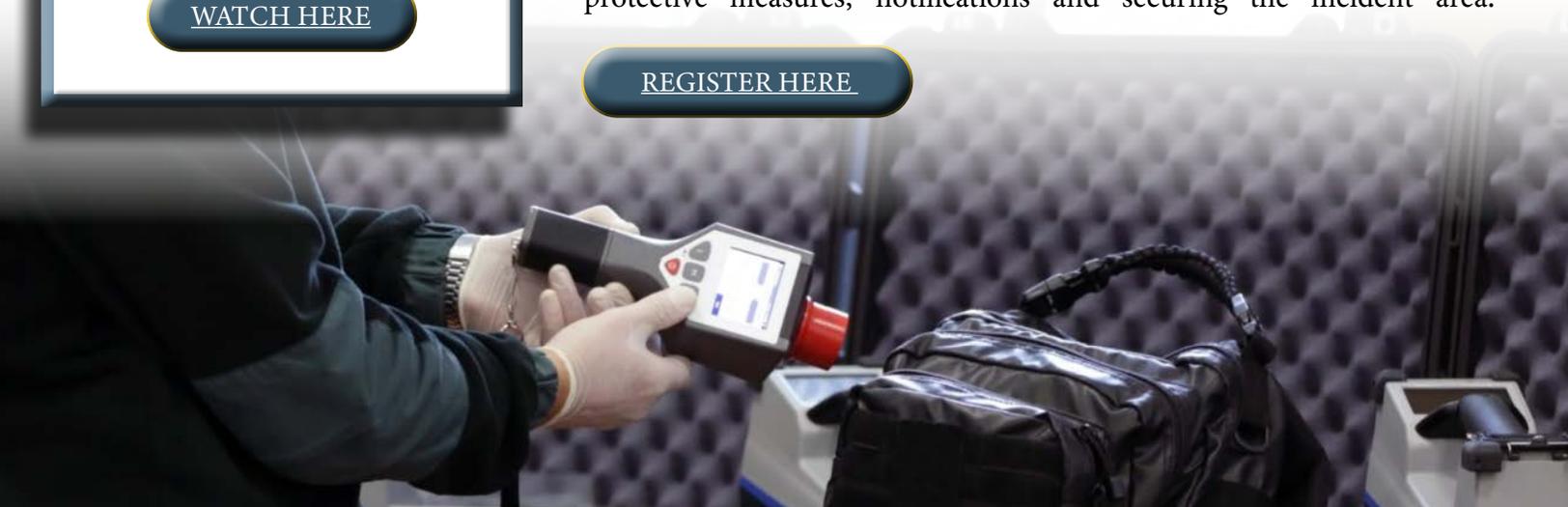
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Training on the detection, assessment, and mitigation of radiological/nuclear sources is being provided throughout the STC SFBA footprint which includes the 14 BAUASI jurisdictions, Sacramento and Fresno Counties, and Washoe County, NV. These classes are providing students from local, regional, and state government valuable insight into primary and secondary screening for radiation/nuclear sources. San Francisco's cohort wrapped up on June 24th with fifteen participants, Sacramento's series started mid-July with twelve participants, and Reno is scheduled to deliver training to learners. Training will then move on to support Fresno and San Mateo counties. Classes are filling quickly so please sign up early!

Introduction to Radiological/Nuclear WMD Operations AWR-140-W (3-hour, web-based)

Provides an introduction to Radiological/Nuclear WMD operations for first responders and others, who may be tasked with response or support missions. The course provides fundamental knowledge regarding recognition of the threat or incident, protective measures, notifications and securing the incident area.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



BAUASI Management

California Emergency Services Association (CESA) Virtual Conference

BAUASI regional project managers participated in the two day virtual CESA conference which offered attendees the opportunity to learn, interact and receive timely information about key issues affecting Emergency Managers.

Communications and Technology Project Manager Mikyung Kim-Molina participated on a panel titled "COVID-19 - How Public Information Changed Public Behavior." Mikyung highlighted how working across disciplines and jurisdictions to interpret and translate public health directives into consumable actionable public messaging saved lives during the pandemic.

Risk Management Project Manager Amy Ramirez participated on a panel titled "Ransomware and Regional Cyber Incident Response." Amy highlighted lessons learned from recent ransomware attacks and showcased the Bay Area UASI's Regional Cyber Incident Response Framework.

**BAUASI moved into a
new office!**

**1663 Mission St. Ste. 320
San Francisco, CA 94103**

Congratulations!

Dominic Yin, STC SFBA Program Manager, was sworn into the Northern California Maritime Safety Committee as a Board Member in July. Dominic will provide a BAUASI/STC SFBA presence on that Committee.

Compliance Corner

Each year, approximately 180 applications are submitted in Webgrants with only 60 being selected. Based on input from hub voting members, it was determined that a two-year budget cycle would allow agencies to do more long-range planning as well as reduce the amount of time spent on the application and review process itself.

At the June 10th Approval Authority meeting, the Board voted to move the BAUASI grant program to a two-year budget cycle. Starting this year, agencies will submit applications for FY 22 and FY 23 in September and the next application period will not be held until September 2023 for the FY 24 and FY 25 grant performance periods.

The available funding amount for each hub will be double the FY 21 award amount plus a 10% cushion (to allow for variations in the final award). There will no longer be "above the line" or "below the line" designations since all projects approved for FY 22 and FY 23 will be prioritized from this one list. Hub Voting members will be asked to list the projects in order of importance to the Hub and then divided into Year One and Year Two. In cases where the amount of funding requested exceeds the two year + 10% allocated amount, Hub Voting members must either decide to limit the number of submitted projects or place a spending limit on projects. There will be no "above the line" or "below the line" designations.

The proposal kickoff meeting will be held on Thursday September 16, 2021, and the Webgrants portal will be open from September 17 - October 8, 2021. Agencies are strongly urged to meet prior to the Kickoff meeting in September to discuss the submissions of their projects to better ensure that they receive funding in either FY 22 or FY 23.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Landers at Mary.Landers@sfgov.org.

Welcome New BAUASI Staff

Christophe Arnold,
Bay Area Training and Exercise
Program, Administration
Sara Cox,
Bay Area Urban Areas Security
Initiative, Office Administration
Will Kahan,
Securing the Cities San
Francisco Bay Area Program,
Administration

