

## **BLUE CASCADES IV**

### **Focus: Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies and Pandemic Preparedness**

#### *Overall Goal and Objectives*

##### **Overall Goal**

*To build on experience from previous Blue Cascades regional exercises to examine the impact of infrastructure interdependencies that could impede state/provincial, regional, and local emergency and business continuity planning and activities, including delivery of critical services, for response and recovery from an influenza pandemic. Lessons learned will be used to assess and improve existing stakeholder pandemic plans and also bio-terrorism plans.*

##### **Objectives**

1. Given our still rudimentary but growing understanding of regional interdependencies, provide as realistic as possible an expectation of the impacts from a pandemic event on regional infrastructures/essential service providers and the communities they support.
2. Provide a basic understanding of existing local, state, and federal pandemic preparedness plans, policies, regulations, expected actions and available resources;
3. Assess the level and effectiveness of communication on and coordination of public- private sector and other organizational preparedness and continuity of business or operations plans;
4. Examine roles and missions of local, state/provincial, and federal (civilian and defense) agencies under the Incident Command System and of other key stakeholder organizations and their contribution to the decision-making process during response and recovery, with particular emphasis on how intelligent ad hoc decisions are made under changing situations.
5. Create an integrated After Action Report that identifies shortfalls and points toward cost-effective mitigation measures.