



Play Well With Others:

Improvisation, Emergencies and Collaboration

June 3, 2020



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22nd Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, June 1–4, 2020

Before we begin...

Let's get in an improvisational state of mind!

ALIEN!



TIGER!



COW!



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Collaboration

- **What is it?**
- Why is it important?
- Who is really good at



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Collaboration



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Collaboration



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Andrew Phelps, Director Oregon OEM

June 3, 2020

NOT Collaboration



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Collaboration

- What is it?
- **Why is it important?**
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Collaboration is kind of important...



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Collaboration is kind of important...



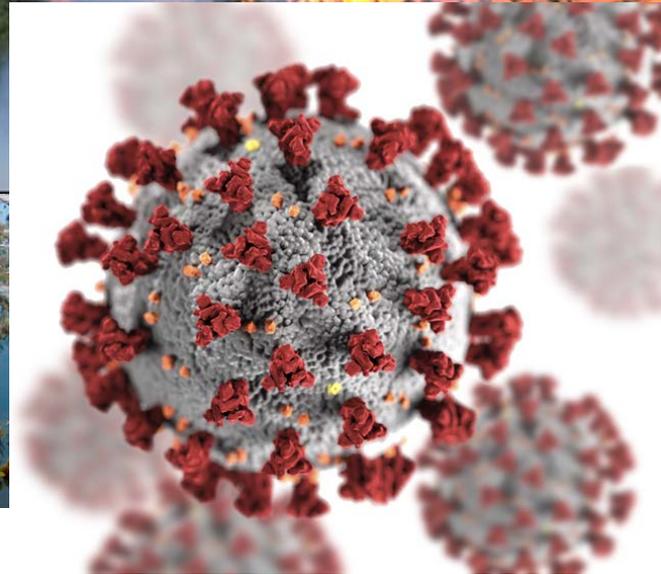
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Collaboration is kind of important...



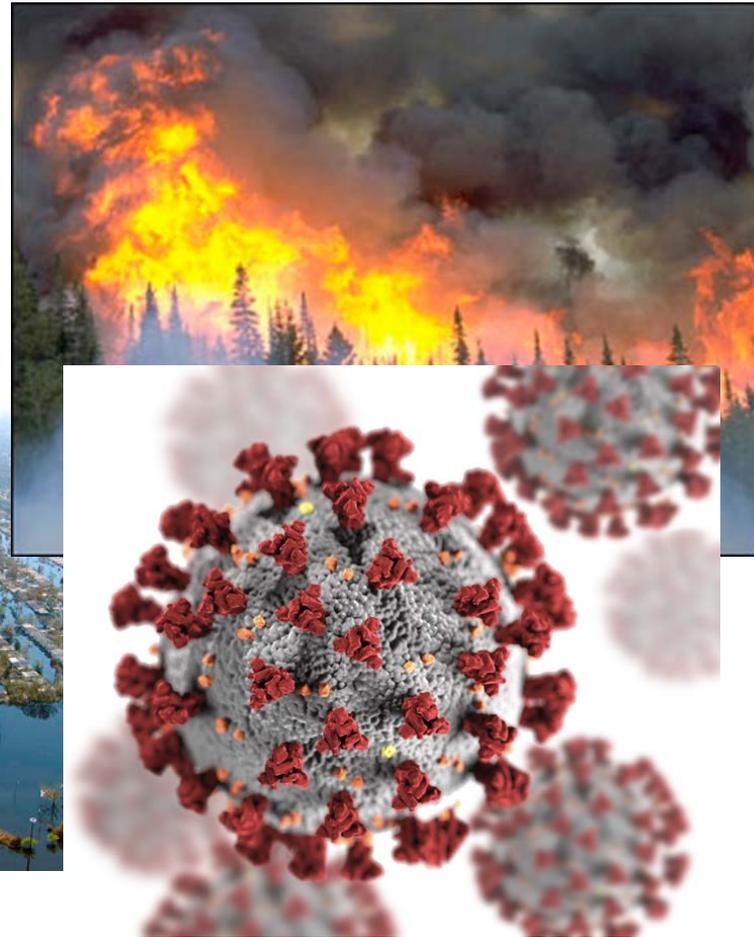
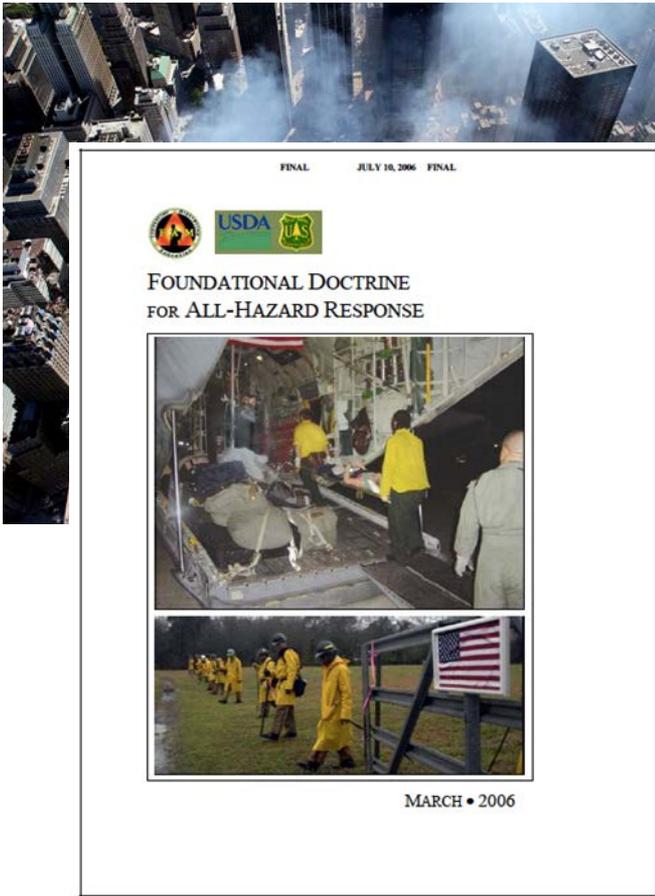
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Collaboration is kind of important...



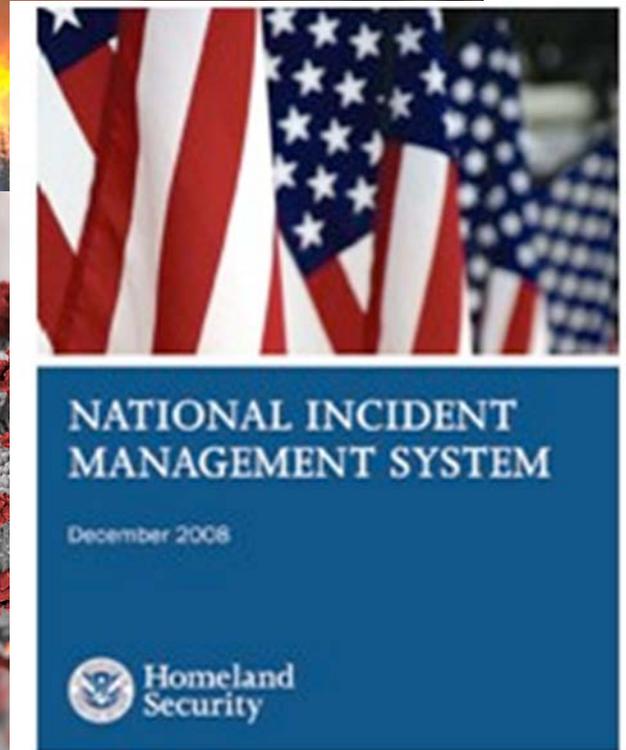
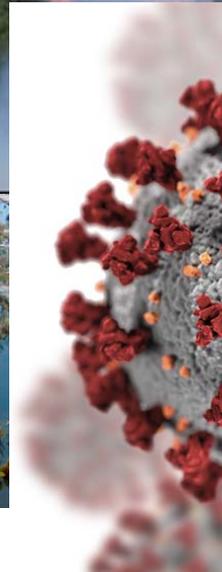
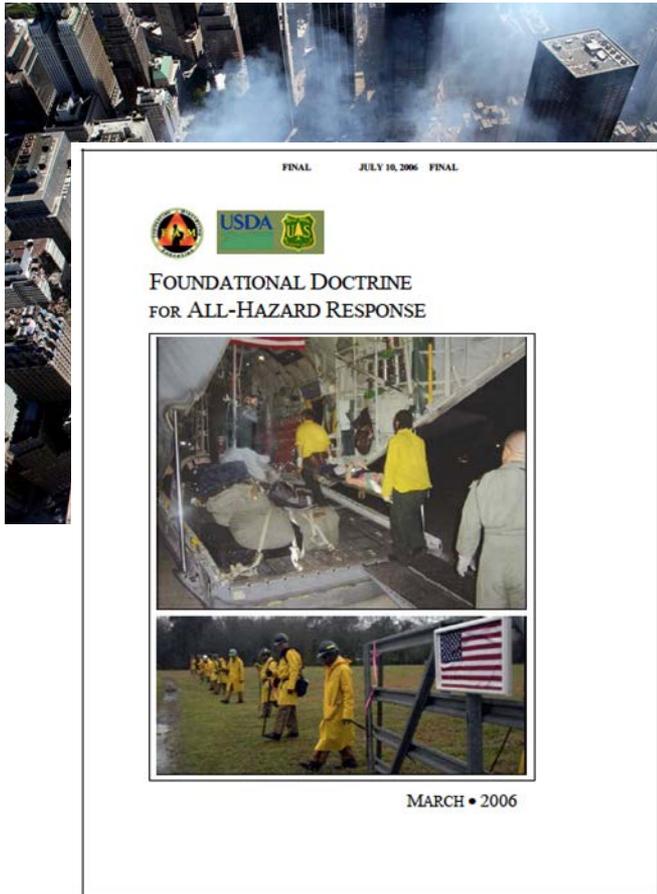
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Collaboration is kind of important...



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Collaboration is kind of important...



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Barriers to Collaboration

- Territorialism
- Competing priorities and objectives
- Unclear (or unknown) roles and responsibilities
- Lack of accountability
- Mistrust
- Lack of knowledge of a partner's capabilities
- Competition for resources
- Inflexibility



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Collaboration

- What is it?
- Why is it important?
- **Who is really good at**



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These folks are!



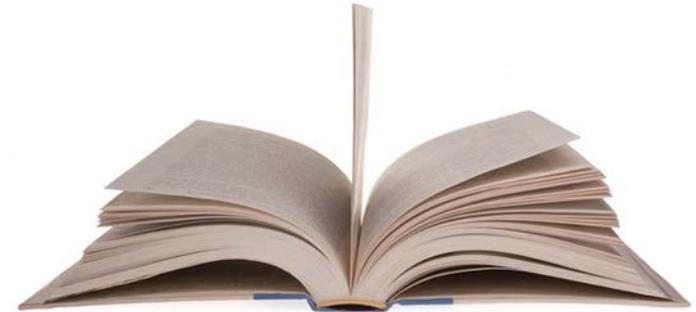
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Improvisation and Emergencies

- Unknowns



- Important to be on the “same page”



- Shared desired outcomes



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Improvisation



“The human capacity to think freshly, to generate novel solutions, (and) to create something new and interesting.”

- Frank Barrett, Phd, Organizational Behavior.

And Jazz pianist.



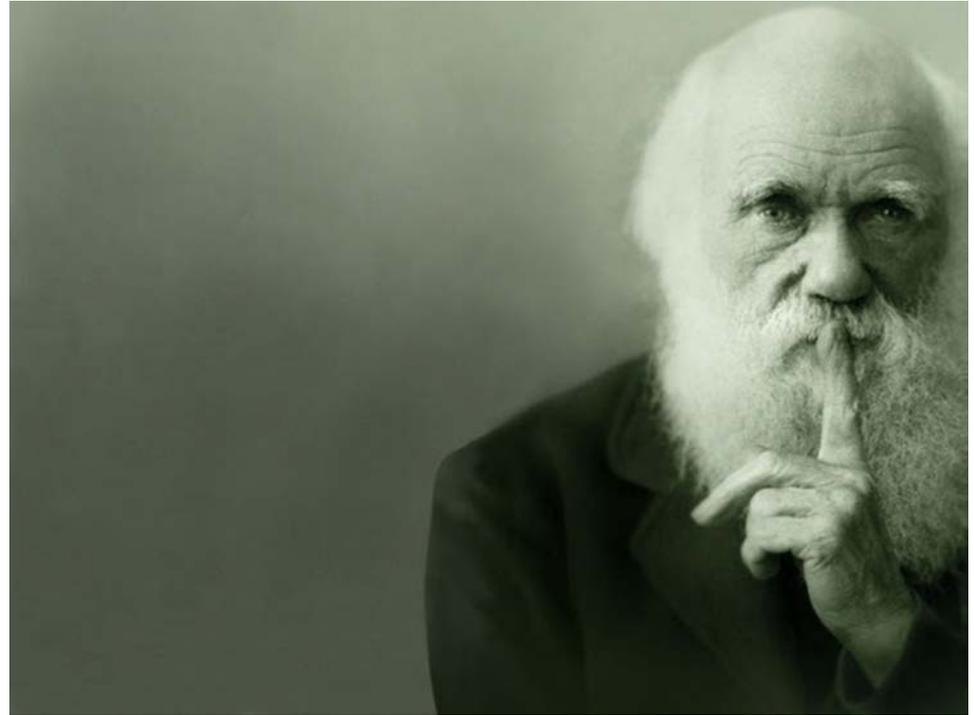
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Improvisation

“In the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed.”

-Charles Darwin*

**Probably not...*



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Improvisational Theater



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The “Rules” of Improvisation

- Progress the action



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The “Rules” of Improvisation

- Progress the action
- **Yes, And...**



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The “Rules” of Improvisation

- Progress the action
- Yes, And...
- **Allow what is presented to change you**



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The “Rules” of Improvisation

- Progress the action
- Yes, And...
- Allow what is presented to change you
- **Make your fellow players look brilliant**



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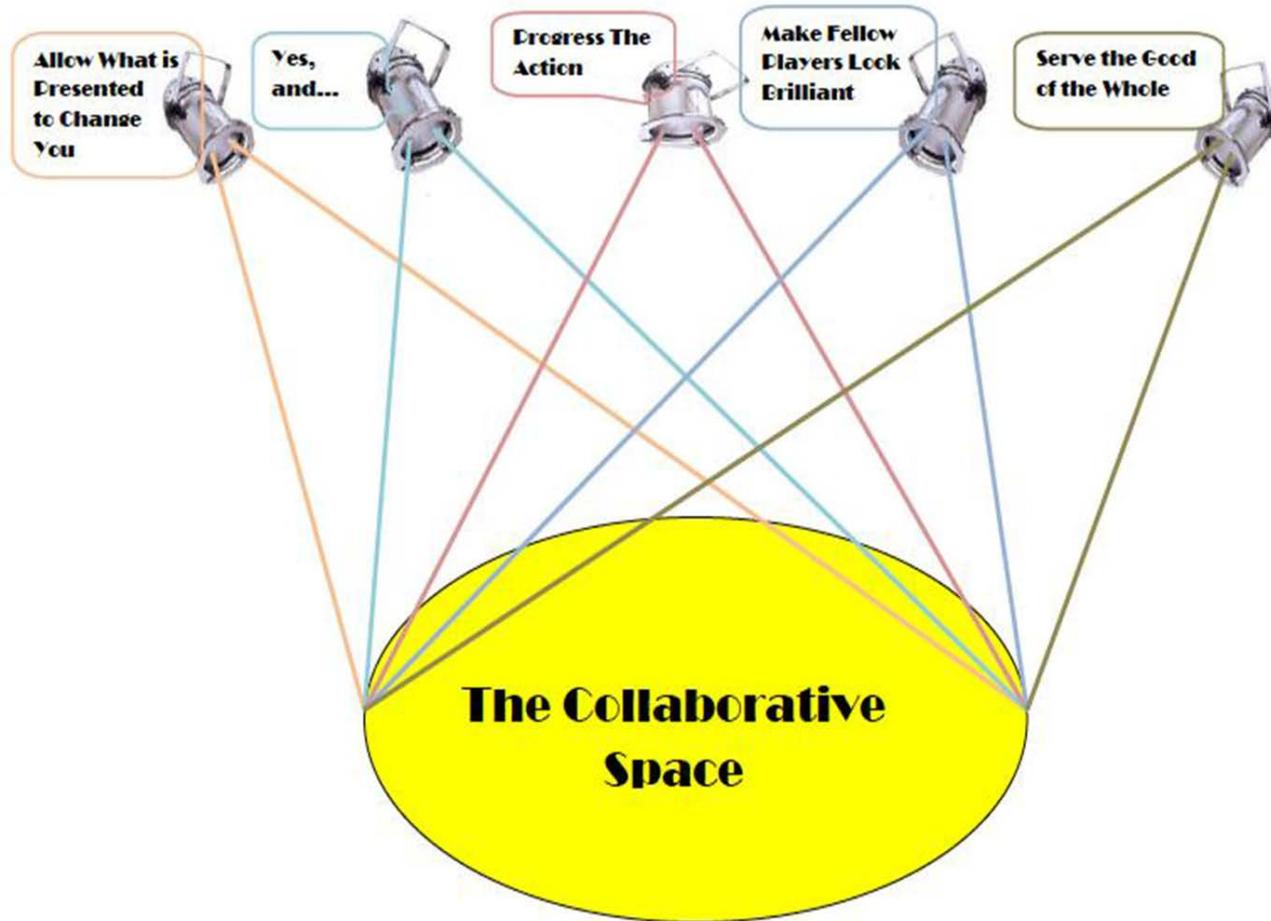
The “Rules” of Improvisation

- Progress the action
- Yes, And...
- Allow what is presented to change you
- Make your fellow players look brilliant
- **Serve the good of the whole**



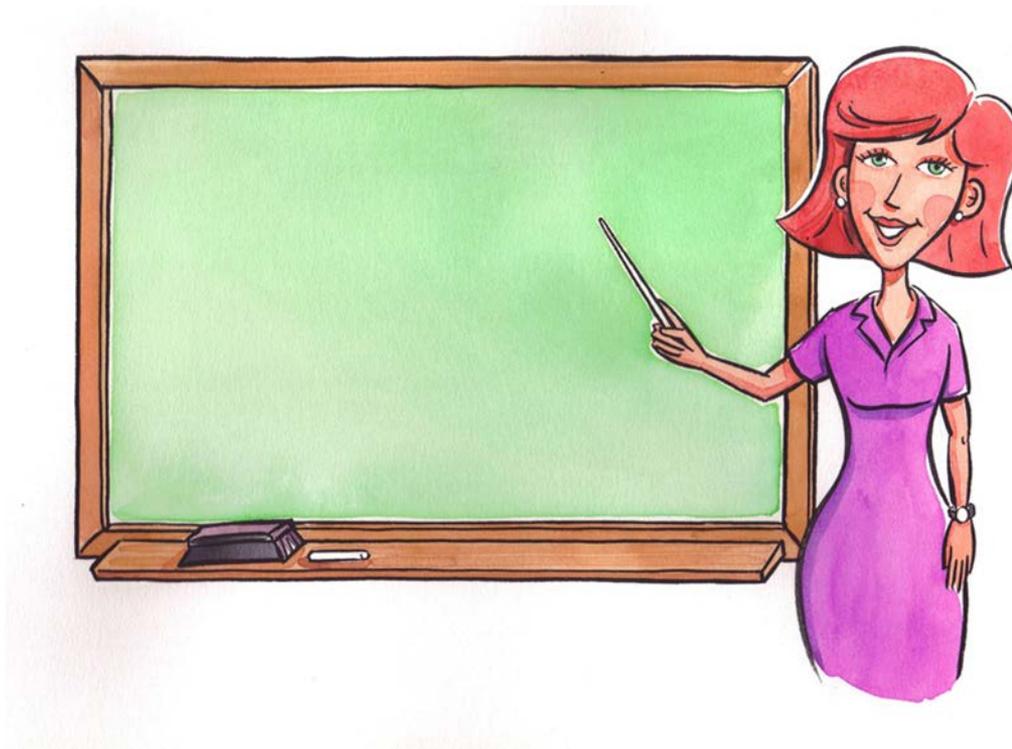
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Illuminating the Collaborative Space



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Improvisation Can Be Taught



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But How Does This Apply to Me?



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But How Does This Apply to Me?

- **Territorialism** – Keep the action moving
- **Competing priorities and objectives** – Yes, and...
- **Unclear (or unknown) roles and responsibilities** – Yes, and...
- **Lack of accountability** – Yes, and...
- **Mistrust** – Make your partners perfect
- **Lack of knowledge of a partner's capabilities** – Make your partners perfect
- **Competition for resources** – Serve the good of the whole
- **Inflexibility** – Allow what is presented to change you



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And now...

I WANT YOU



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Challenge to Collaboration: Competing Priorities



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Can I Get a Disaster?



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Can I Get a Disaster?



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Competing Priorities with “Yes, and...”



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Competing Priorities with “Yes, and...”



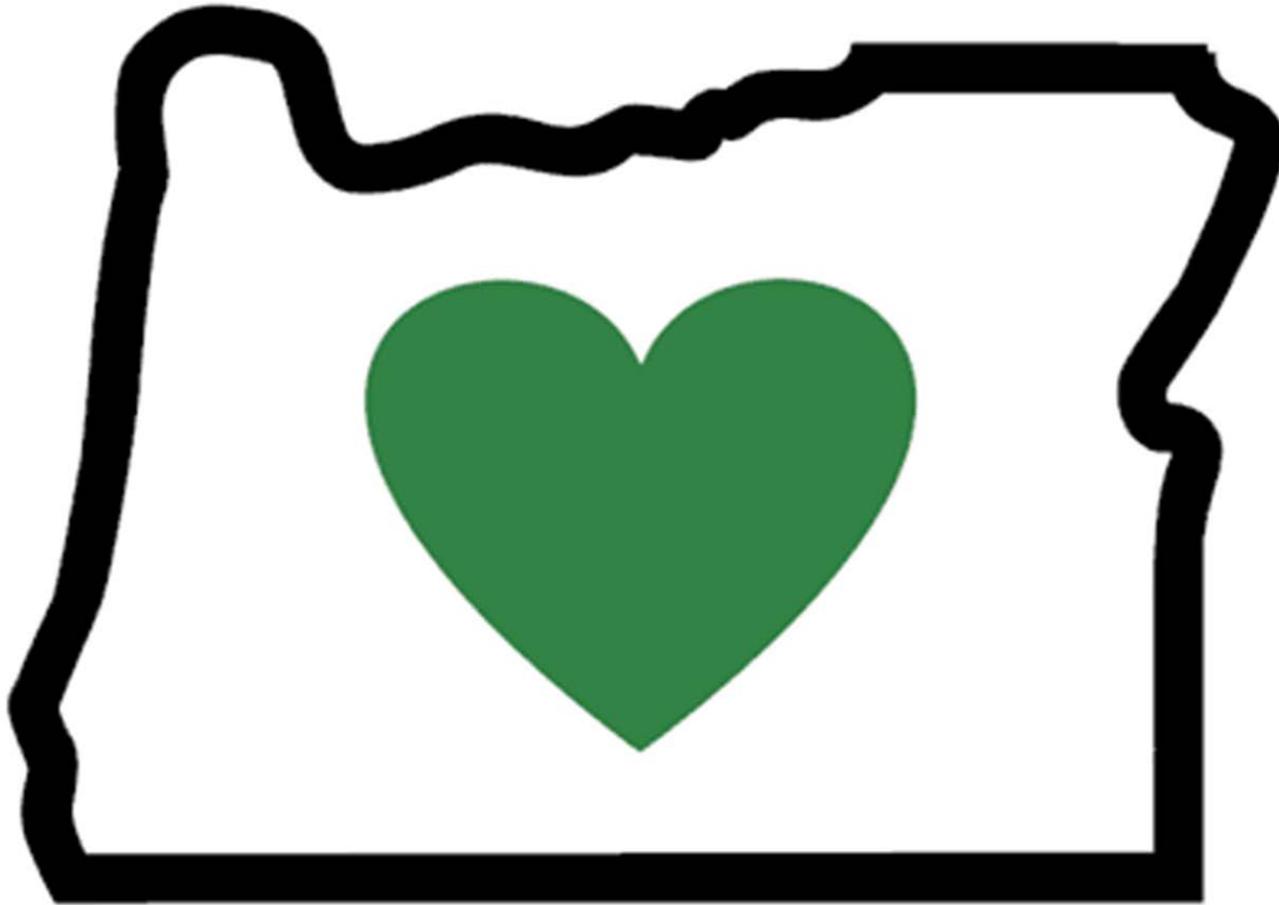
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What I Hope Happened...



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What Questions Do You Have?



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