

Emergency Preparedness Exercises

Getting Involved with Exercise Design

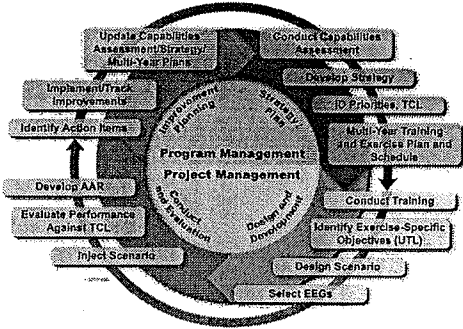
July 09, 2010

Objectives

- Brief overview of the exercise cycle.
- Discuss the types of exercises and how they apply to you.
- How to get involved with local and statewide exercises.

Exercise Cycle

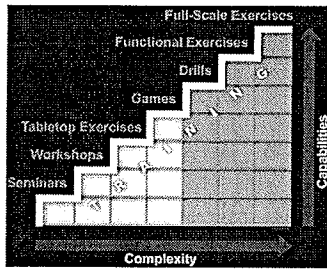
Training and Exercise Cycle



Exercises

Building-Block Approach

- Uses a cycle of increasingly complex exercises
- Builds upon lessons learned from previous training and exercises



Types of Exercises

Seminar

- ♦ Orient participants to or provide overview of authorities, strategies, plans, policies, procedures, protocols, response resources, concepts, and ideas
- ♦ A good starting point for developing or making changes to plans and procedures
- ♦ Informal discussion led by a seminar leader
- ♦ Not constrained by real-time portrayal of events
- ♦ Effective with both small and large groups

Workshop

- ♦ Focus on development of a product
- ♦ Functional organization is common
- ♦ Aided by:
 - Facilitators
 - Breakout sessions
- ♦ Useful for:
 - Determining program or exercise objectives
 - Developing evaluation scenario and key event listings
 - Determining evaluation elements and standards of performance

Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

- ♦ Focus on senior staff, elected officials, or other key personnel in an informal setting
- ♦ Designed to stimulate discussion of issues
- ♦ Used to assess plans, policies, and procedures
- ♦ Attributes of a TTX may include:
 - Practicing group problem solving
 - Conducting a specific case study
 - Examining personnel issues
 - Assessing interagency coordination
 - Achieving limited or specific objectives

Drills

- ♦ A coordinated, supervised activity employed to test a single specific operation or function in a single agency
- ♦ Provides training, tests policies, and practices skills
- ♦ Typical attributes include:
 - A narrow focus, measured against established standards
 - Instant feedback
 - Realistic environment
 - Performance in isolation



Games

- ♦ A simulation of operations, often involving two or more teams
- ♦ Usually a competitive environment
 - Set rules
 - Controlled data
 - Designed procedures
- ♦ Depicts an actual or assumed real-life situation
- ♦ Does not involve actual response
- ♦ Sequence of events affected by the decisions made by the players

Functional Exercise (FE)

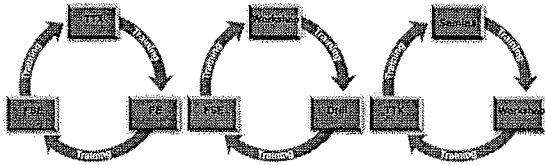
- ♦ Tests and evaluates individual capabilities, multiple functions, or interdependent groups of functions
- ♦ Includes command post exercises
- ♦ Events projected through an exercise scenario with event updates that drive activity at the management level
- ♦ Attributes include:
 - Evaluating functions
 - Evaluating emergency operation centers (EOCs)
 - Examining inter-jurisdictional relationships

Full-Scale Exercise (FSE)

- ♦ Mobilizes and deploys prevention and response elements
- ♦ Tests major portions of operations plans under field conditions
- ♦ Largest and most complex exercise type
- ♦ Attributes may include:
 - Assessing organizational and individual performance
 - Demonstrating interagency cooperation
 - Testing communication systems
 - Activating personnel and equipment

Training & Exercise Plan – Schedule

- ♦ Cycle, mix, and range of training and exercise activities
- ♦ Cycle of activity employs increasing degrees of complexity and ensures continuous improvement of capabilities
- ♦ Combination of training courses and exercise types that accomplish priorities



Exercise Design

Getting involved

First Step: What objectives do you want to test?

- ♦ What plans do you want to test? This is the most important part of exercise design.
- ♦ Examples:
 - Communication
 - Evacuation
 - Disease control
 - Isolation and Quarantine
 - Mass prophylaxis

Second Step: Training and Exercise Workshop

- ♦ Training and Exercise Planning Workshop – 07/29/2010
 - State and Local agency representatives will meet at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division to discuss future exercise opportunities.
 - Great opportunity to discuss your goals and objectives with state and local emergency management representatives.

Third Step: Exercise and Evaluation

- ♦ Exercise your plans and evaluate your results.
 - After the exercise, an After Action Conference will address "the good and the bad" about your response.
 - An After Action Report/Corrective Action Plan (AAR/CAP) will detail the major areas for improvement.
 - The Improvement Plan (IP), will address who is responsible for the corrections and when they will be completed.
 - Improvements can be in the form of trainings, equipment, emergency plans, etc.

Final Step: Re-exercise

- ◆ After the improvements have been completed, you should re-exercise to determine if the corrections were appropriate.
- ◆ If the improvements did not yield the desired results, keep updating your plans until they meet your requirements.

Questions?
