Introduction to Exercises

What are they and how should I plan them?

Chad Ostlund, CEM
Emergency Preparedness & Response
Agenda

- What are exercises and why should they be conducted?
- What types of exercises exist?
- How does the planning process work?
- How should partners be identified and involved?
- Q&A
Learning Objectives

By the end of this webinar you will be able to:

1. Discuss basics of exercise planning
2. Describe types of exercises
3. Determine potential members of exercise planning teams
4. Identify partners that may be involved in your exercises
National Preparedness Goal

“A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

Prevention
Protection
Mitigation
Response
Recovery
15 Public Health Preparedness Capabilities

1. Community Preparedness
2. Community Recovery
3. Emergency Operations Coordination
4. Emergency Public Information & Warning
5. Fatality Management
6. Information Sharing
7. Mass Care
8. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
9. Medical Materiel Management & Distribution
10. Medical Surge
11. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
12. Public Health Laboratory Testing
13. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
14. Responder Safety and Health
15. Volunteer Management
A Sheep? No, HSEEP!
(Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program)

- HSEEP Preparedness Toolkit
- https://www.preptoolkit.org/web/hseep-resources
Always Successful?

FAIL

I DON'T ALWAYS EXERCISE

BUT WHEN I DO, I'LL DO IT TOMORROW

MDH Minnesota Department of Health
Health Partnerships Division
Types of Exercises

- Full-Scale Exercises
- Functional Exercises
- Drills
- Games
- Tabletop Exercises
- Workshops
- Seminars

Capabilities vs. Complexity
Types of Exercises

- Discussion-based
- Operations-based
Discussion-based Exercises

- Seminars
- Workshops
- Tabletop Exercise (TTX) and
- Games
Discussion-based Exercises

- **Seminars – orientation**
  - Department operations center
  - Local emergency operations center
  - Open house

- **Workshop - produce something**
  - Develop a job action sheet
  - Create a policy or protocol
Discussion-based Exercises

- **Tabletop Exercise**
  - Internal or with external partners
  - Uses a scenario
  - In-depth discussion

- **Games**
  - Allows practice
  - Can involve teams
  - Can be a simulation
Discussion-based Exercises

- Audience examples
Operations-based Exercises

- Drills
- Functional Exercises (FE)
- Full-scale Exercises (FSE)
Drills

- Purpose
- What they test and when
- Categories
Functional Exercises (FE)

- Purpose
- Time transitions
- Depend on reactions
Full-scale Exercises (FSE)

- Purpose
- Physical reporting of personnel
- Depend on actions in field
Examples

- Group discussion on drill and exercise experience
Exercise Planning Team

- Neighboring jurisdictions
- Subject matter experts
- Internal agency members
- Health Care Coalition members
- MDH – Public Health Preparedness Consultants
How to Identify & Involve Partners

American Red Cross

HORIZON
Public Health

MDH
Minnesota Department of Health
Health Partnerships Division

Southwest Regional Emergency Preparedness Team
Exercise Planning
Team Organization
Planning Conferences

- Official meetings
  - Concept & Objectives Conference
  - Initial Planning Conference
  - Mid-Term Planning Conference
Planning Conferences

- Official meetings
  - MSEL - Master Scenario Events List Conference
- Final Planning Conference
Exercise Planning Team Responsibilities

- Objectives
  - Define exercise purpose & goal and set timeline
- Create scenario
- Prepare exercise documentation and communication
- Training and pre-exercise briefing
Wrap Up – Review

- HSEEP
  https://www.preptoolkit.org/web/hseep-resources
- Exercise types
- Exercise Planning Team
Upcoming Webinars

- **September 21:** Identifying Goals and Developing a Scenario
- **October 4:** Conducting the Exercise
- **October 19 or 20:** Evaluating the Exercise and Creating an AAR/IP
Contact Information

Chad Ostlund
651-201-5660
chad.ostlund@state.mn.us