

SCHOOL-AGE DISASTER SCENARIO OVERVIEW FOR PARTICIPANTS

Introduction:

Today's exercise is a three hour interactive Tabletop Exercise (TTX) involving an urban elementary school. It will begin with a briefing of the scenario. Players will discuss probable actions and coordination efforts. Questions are provided to serve as a guide for discussion. Interaction is encouraged to promote communication and to better integrate response activities. A facilitator will guide and mediate the discussions. This exercise addresses both operational and policy-level responses to a school emergency. Process and decision-making are more important than minute details. Emphasis is on developing the best possible response through problem-identification, coordination, and integration of capabilities, innovation, and resolution.

Roles:

1. Facilitator(s) – provide situation updates and moderate the discussion; will also provide additional information, or answer questions, as required.
2. Players – respond to the proposed situation based on:
 - Experience and knowledge
 - The current plans and procedures utilized within their agencies, departments, organizations, or schools

Rules:

In any exercise, a number of assumptions are required in order to complete the exercise in the allotted time. During this exercise, the following factors apply:

1. The scenario is assumed to be plausible.
2. The series of events unfold in the order presented.
3. There are no trick questions.
4. The exercise contains no underlying or sub-level agenda.
5. All participants receive information simultaneously.

Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected. This exercise is designed to take place in an open and constructive environment. Responses must be based on current capabilities using only assets that presently exist. Current agency or department policies and procedures should not limit discussion and development of key decisions. Today's outcome is not intended to set precedent nor reflect an organization's final position on particular or specific issues. This exercise is an opportunity to explore a range of options and possible approaches. It may also serve as a guide for improvements to a Crisis Management Plan.

Exercise Goal:

To practice the coordination between a school's Crisis Management Team and the implementation of a Crisis Management Plan.

Exercise Objectives:

1. To identify at least 3 problems that can arise during the implementation of a Crisis Management Plan.
2. To list at least 2 follow-up strategies that Social Workers can implement after the crisis has been resolved.