

# INTRODUCTION

## *Purpose*

The purpose of this Tabletop Exercise is to observe how State Fire Officials utilize their statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP) in large scale emergencies where local resources are disabled due to the disaster or are otherwise unavailable and statewide resources must be summoned to assist in the mitigation of the incident.

## *Scope*

This exercise will focus on < insert state name here> role in response to the potential consequences of a large scale natural or technological disaster located somewhere in <insert state name here>. **Processes and decision-making are more important than minute details.** The emphasis is on coordination, integration of capabilities, problem identification, and resolution.

## *Exercise Objectives*

- Activate the Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP) per the local protocols;
- Be knowledgeable of the plan components and their relationship to other components within the plan;
- Others?

## ***Exercise Structure***

**Module 1 – Scenario Begins**

**Module 2 – Incident Continues**

**Module 3 – Response Expands**

**Module 4 – Continued Response**

The lead controller may be assisted by supporting evaluators to keep the discussion focused on stated objectives of the exercise, as these serve as the foundation for exercise evaluation.

## ***Roles and Responsibilities***

**Participants** respond to the situation presented based on expert knowledge of response procedures, current plans, and insights derived from training and experience.

**Observers (if present)** do not participate in the moderated discussion period.

**Evaluators** will not participate in the discussion periods. They will be present for the duration of the discussions and hot wash, gathering data and writing notes about the players' responses in order to provide feedback for the exercise After Action Report (AAR).

## ***Invited Participants***

<List participants here>

## ***Assumptions and Artificialities***

To support conduct of any exercise, a number of assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the allotted time and to portray evolving challenges and response progress. Additionally, these artificialities are necessary to present situations that drive participants to address issues that are key to achieving the exercise objectives. For this TTX, the following will apply:

- The scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- There are no “hidden agendas” or trick questions.
- All participants receive information at the same time

## ***Exercise Guidelines***

The following exercise rules apply to this TTX:

- There is no single correct solution. Discussion should be based on knowledge of current plans, capabilities (i.e., use only existing assets) and insights derived from training.
- Think outside the box—organizational positions and policies are not limiting. Make the best decision based on the circumstances presented.
- Decisions are not precedent setting, and may not reflect the state's final position on any given issue. This exercise is an opportunity to discuss all options and possible solutions.
- Assume your state would receive cooperation and support from other responders and agencies in this scenario, if such support would be normally available.
- **Fight the problem, not the exercise!**

## ***Additional Resources***

The following material is provided for use during the exercise and may be referenced in the appendices found in the back of this manual.

Incident Site ..... A-1

Assessment Methodology .....B-1

# EXERCISE SCHEDULE

0800	Registration
0830	Introduction and Overview
0845	Scenario Begins (Module 1) Situation Presentation Facilitated Discussion
0915	Incident Continues (Module 2) Situation Update Facilitated Discussion
0945	Response Expands (Module 3) Situation Update Facilitated Discussion
1015	Continued Response (Module 4) Situation Termination Facilitated Discussion

# NARRATIVE

## ***General Scenario***

Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) Condition Yellow (Elevated) is in effect. Non-specific terrorist threats to government facilities and buildings have been identified. Weather conditions are normal for this time of year and no environmental anomalies have been noted. There are no unusual events occurring in other states and all response agencies are at a stable state.

## ***Background Information***

<Insert city name here> has a population of <insert number here> and is located <insert geographical location here> in <insert state name here>. <Insert city name here> has experienced only <insert number here> large scale disasters in the past <insert number here>. Weather conditions are generally normal for each season. <Add additional background information here>.

## MODULE 1 – SCENARIO BEGINS

It is a clear balmy day fall day in <insert city name> with temperatures in the high 60's and winds calm (1 – 2 mph). The time is 0800 hours on a Tuesday after a three day weekend. The commute hour traffic is exceptionally heavy as everyone is headed back to work. The city of <insert city name> is hit with a large earthquake of unknown magnitude. The first reports of damage come into the local AM news radio station. There are reports of large sections of the overhead freeway collapsing with motorists trapped and fires starting under the collapsed structures. The Public Safety Answering point for the city of <insert city name> begins to receive so many calls for assistance from cellular callers that there 911 lines are over loaded; There are initial reports of several building collapses with fires in the downtown core of the city. The fire department sends its resources out to complete a reconnaissance of the city. Reports back from the first responding fire units confirm 5 building collapses in the center core with heavy casualties and fires burning unattended. The fire units responding to the freeway collapse confirm that a one mile section of elevated freeway has collapsed with vehicles trapped underneath the collapsed sections. Police department reports that the roof of a shopping mall in the suburban area of <insert city name> has collapsed unknown at this time if there are any injuries. There are several unconfirmed reports of single family homes that have been moved off of their foundations with natural gas leaking throughout the neighborhoods. A large chemical facility has activated the community warning system signifying a release of chemicals into the air and is requesting individuals shelter in place. As the police and fire units begin to give reports from the field the cities radio system goes into fail soft and stops working. The Mayor and city council have assembled and declared a state of emergency and opened up the emergency operations center and have contacted the State.

News of the earthquake and reports of damage are coming into the local radio and television stations who are now only reporting on the earthquake. Early reports have damage extending along a fifty mile section of the New Madras fault. Potentially impacting as many 15 cities with as many as 2 million people impacted.

## **Task**

*Consider the issues in this Module. You should also identify any additional requirements, critical issues, decisions, and questions you believe should be addressed at this point in the scenario.*

**Note:** *These questions are divided by functional area and should be used to stimulate issues and discussion. Neither facilitators nor participants should read off each question and answer them; these are only provided as guides for discussion.*

What actions are being taken in consideration of the possibility that the local jurisdiction may request state assistance?

What actions does the statewide emergency response plan (SERP) allow at this stage of an incident?

## MODULE 2 – INCIDENT CONTINUES

More reports of damage are coming into the city's emergency operations center. The fire department is beginning to make requests for mutual aid resources. The incident commander at the freeway collapse has requested as many heavy rescues and strike teams of truck companies as he can get for extraction and 2 strike teams of engines for fire control. They are also requesting EMS resources to transport the patients are extricated.

Further reports of single family houses burning from ruptured gas lines has the fire department running from house to house. The field units have requested at least 5 strike teams of engines to assist with fire control.

The downtown companies have set up commands at 5 different office building that have full or partial collapses. They are requesting heavy rescue and EMS resources to assist with extrication and patient care.

The incident commander at the chemical plant reports that there are multiple broken pipes sending potentially deadly concentrations of chemicals into the environment and they need at least three type 1 hazardous materials response teams at there location. They are also requesting that the police department begin evacuating the residential areas with a 2 mile radius of the chemical plant.

The police department is reporting several other building collapses in the suburban areas of the city with people trapped and no fire resources on the scene. The fire chief and administrative staff are working in the emergency operations center and have logged over 100 requests for service for gas leaks, building collapses, and uncontrolled fires . They have only been able to respond to 50 of those requests for resources.

## **Task**

*Consider the issues in this Module. Identify any additional requirements, critical issues, decisions, and questions to be addressed at this point in the scenario.*

**Note:** *These questions are divided by functional area and should be used to stimulate issues and discussion. Neither facilitators nor participants should read off each question and answer them; these are only provided as guides for discussion.*

What actions would be taken at this stage of the incident?

Which, if any, sections of your SERP have been initiated?

Does the SERP allow state officials to "reach out" to local jurisdictions to offer assistance?

## MODULE 3 – RESPONSE EXPANDS

The section of the New Madras fault that has reported shaking and damage is approximately 50 miles long and includes at least 15 cities and many small rural communities and as many as 2 million people. Most of the smaller cities were built prior to modern day building codes that provide for seismic protection. The downtown core of the cities and towns have buildings made of unreinforced masonry which does not respond well to earthquakes. The USGS has issued a statement that the earthquake which occurred along the New Madras fault measured magnitude 7.5. Given the magnitude of the earthquake it can be assumed that all the cities along the fault where the earthquake occurred will have building collapses and structural damage. Reports are now coming in from some of the smaller cities of damage including building collapses and houses moved off of their foundations.

The city of <insert city name> reports that most of its downtown has collapsed and they are digging through the rubble to look for victims. The town has a volunteer fire department that has been overwhelmed by the amount of damage and they have no communications. The Fire Chief using his cell phone contacted the State and requested all the resources you could send to help out.

There have been no reports from the city of <insert city name> which was at the reported epicenter of the earthquake. Attempts by State agencies to communicate with the emergency service providers have not been successful. This is extremely troubling as the city of <insert city name> has a large historic downtown as well as the largest VA hospital in the State. The hospital which is also made of unreinforced masonry construction was slated for demolition later this year due to the seismic concerns

Requests for fire mutual aid resources are coming in from all of the jurisdictions as they have stretched their resources to the maximum responding to fires, structural collapses, and gas leaks. Requests are also coming in for more EMS support and temporary morgues for the dead. The fire resources in the field are also requesting food and water for those firefighters working at the incidents.

## **Task**

*Consider the issues in this Module. You should also identify any additional requirements, critical issues, decisions, and questions you believe should be addressed at this point in the scenario.*

**Note:** *These questions are divided by functional area and should be used to stimulate issues and discussion. Neither facilitators nor participants should read off each question and answer them; these are only provided as guides for discussion.*

With the need for all of these resources, what other steps must be taken?

How are these resources being tracked?

What specific forms are being used?

What support is necessary for the deployed resources?

What about 'force protection' for these resources?

Does the SERP address the issue of self-dispatching? How is this handled?

Does the SERP spell out inter-agency coordination?

## MODULE 4 – CONTINUED RESPONSE

By 5 PM all of the jurisdictions have been contacted with some idea of the magnitude of the damage understood.

The city of <insert city name> the largest city impacted has reported a one mile section of the main freeway has collapsed they have estimated 100 plus dead so far they have extricated 200 people with more rescue operations in progress. They still need more resources and are expecting to be there for 3 more days. The building collapses in the downtown are in need of additional resources. The fires in the residential neighborhoods getting under control but there are more expected as there are still natural gas leaks. Evacuations are still taking place and the chemical plant leaks are beginning to be plugged but more hazardous materials response teams are needed.

The other cities are reporting similar building collapses and are requesting additional resources. The city of <insert city name> was finally contacted at 3 PM and reported that most of the buildings in the downtown had collapsed, they requested all the resources that were available to assist in rescuing trapped occupants. They also stated that a major portion of the VA hospital was gone, and that they needed additional EMS resources to care for the injured.

First reports of casualty counts have the dead into the thousands, and the injuries in the tens of thousands.

### **Task**

*Consider the issues in this Module. You should also identify any additional requirements, critical issues, decisions, and questions you believe should be addressed at this point in the scenario*

**Note:** *These questions are divided by functional area and should be used to stimulate issues and discussion. Neither facilitators nor participants should read off each question and answer them; these are only provided as guides for discussion.*

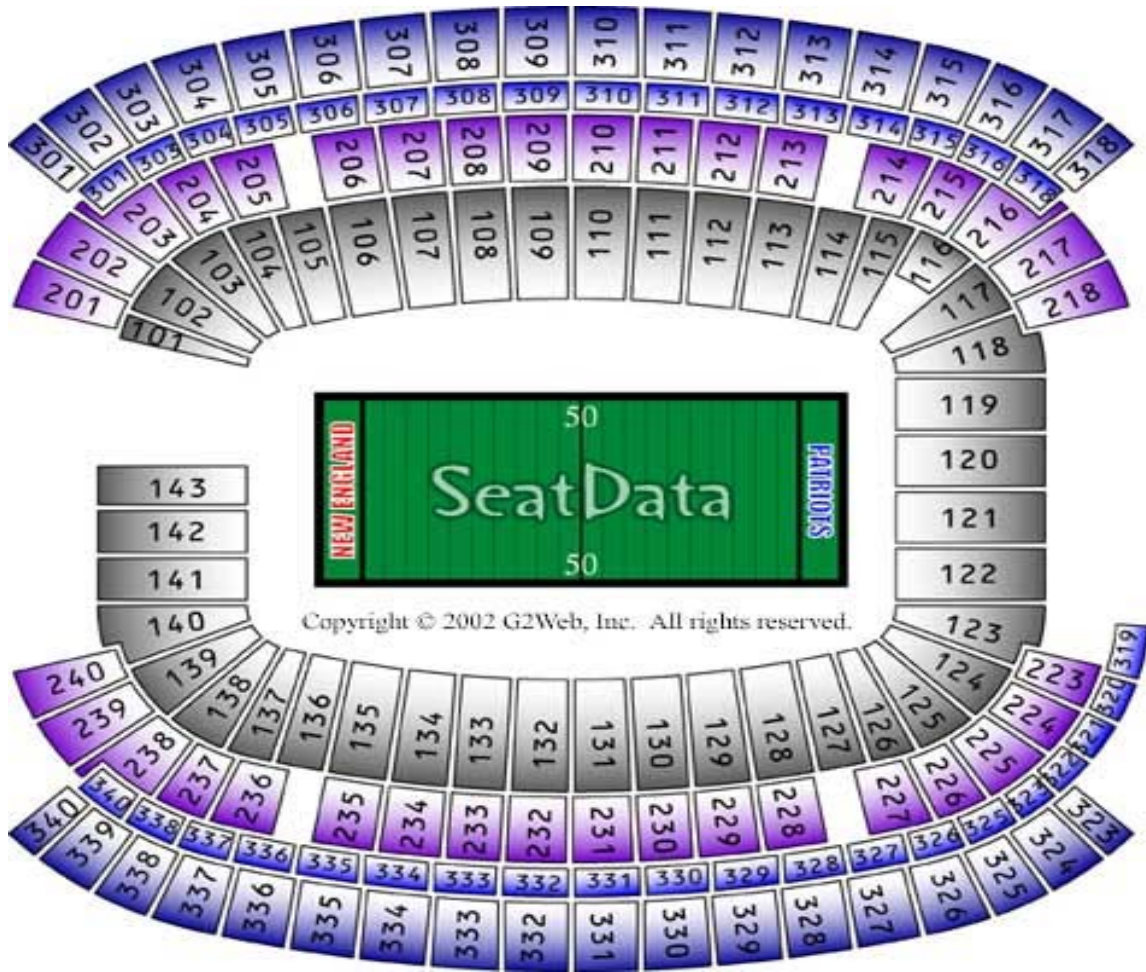
How does the SERP address the potential for incompatibilities in communications?

How would GIS be used to help manage these events?

As resources are no longer needed, how are they demobilized and returned to their respective jurisdictions?

***Additional Resources- Appendices***

TTX Incident Site(s) ..... A-1  
Assessment Methodology .....B-1



# IMAS TABLETOP EVALUATION FORM

**RATED BY:**

**STATE:**

This form is used to evaluate the tabletop exercise for <state name>. Evaluators should be familiar with the state's Fire Statewide Emergency Response Plan (SERP).

The evaluation boxes listed below are used to evaluate the TTX exercise. One of three letters is placed in the second to last column: **S** for Satisfactory, **P** for Partially Satisfactory and **N** for Not Satisfactory. Evaluators will have some latitude in evaluating plan components.

**Satisfactory-** There is definitive evidence that the plan addresses the specific issue being evaluated, e.g., "Communications Plan Activated". If the plan fully addresses the communications plan, how it is activated and spells out how communications are accomplished in the event normal communications are disabled (i.e., phone lines are down).

**Partially Satisfactory-** There is limited evidence that the plan addresses the specific issue being evaluated, e.g., "Communications Plan Activated". If the plan partially addresses the communications plan, or only briefly states how it is activated and spells out only briefly without specifics how communications are accomplished in the event normal communications are disabled (i.e., phone lines are down).

**Not Satisfactory-** There is no evidence that the plan addresses the specific issue being evaluated, e.g., "Communications Plan Activated". If the plan does not address the communications plan, or does not states how it is activated or does not spell out how communications are accomplished in the event normal communications are disabled (i.e., phone lines are down), or there is no plan component evident at all.

## 1. ACTIVATION OF PLAN COMPONENTS

	S =	0%	
	P =	0%	
	N =	0%	<b>COMMENTS</b>
a. Plan activation per plan procedures I. Appropriate people II. Appropriate documents			
b. Preparation activities (if applicable)			
c. Notifications to appropriate ESFs			
d. Communication/notification systems activated			
e. Resource inventory and definitions (per NIMS)			

**2. DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES**

	S =	0%	
	P =	0%	
	N =	0%	<b>COMMENTS</b>
a. Proper processing of resource requests			
b. Identification of staging area(s)			
c. Resource tracking plan to include: I. Resource request completed II. Resource dispatched III. Resource E.T.A. IV. Resources on scene			
d. Policy and Procedures for dealing with self-dispatch			
e. Resource reassessment I. Reserve capacity in state II. Plans to obtain additional resources			
f. Demobilization protocols			

**3. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT**

	S =	0%	
	P =	0%	
	N =	0%	<b>COMMENTS</b>
a. Resource support beyond 72 hours			
b. GIS (if available)			
c. Communication plan followed			
e. Force Protection			

GENERAL COMMENTS:

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

