Elliptic MRC Thunder Tabletop Exercise

medical reserve corps

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

Exercise's Agenda

Time	Activity
08:30-08:35	Welcome and Opening Remarks
08:35-08:45	Exercise's Overview
08:45-9:30	Module 1: Discussion
09:30-10:00	Brief-Back
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-10:45	Module 2: Discussion
10:45-11:00	Brief-Back
11:00:11:30	Module 3: Discussion
11:30-11:45	Brief-Back
11:45-12:00 PM	Hot Wash /Evaluation

Exercise's Benefits

❖Increase MRC Units readiness in the event of an actual emergency

❖Provide a means to assess effectiveness of response plans and response capabilities

❖Serve as a training tool for unit leaders and volunteers and their involvement with other response agencies

❖Provide an opportunity to practice skills and improve individual performance in a non-threatening environment

❖Require participants to network with each other and pre-plan decisions on resources

❖Identify planning conflicts or gaps

❖Identify resource needs and opportunities for sharing of resources

Exercise's Overview

Elliptic MRC Thunder is a tabletop exercise hosted by NACCHO and planned for MRC workshops. The purpose of this exercise,

- is to assess, examine, validate, and demonstrate the ability of MRC units to prepare for, respond to and recover from a catastrophic hurricane that impacts their region.

- to create a space in which unit leaders can learn from each other, identify, capability gaps, strengths, areas for improvement, and potential best practices.

Exercise's Scenario

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a severe thunderstorm watch that will be in effect for the next 24 hours in ASPR regions 5 & 7. States in regions 5 & 7 are predicted to experience the thunderstorm first, with the weather system moving quickly toward the regions. Forecasters predict the severe weather conditions will include heavy rains and strong winds with the potential to cause significant damage to regionals infrastructure. June 13, the storm develops into a powerful line of thunderstorms, damaging winds, and hail. Current conditions are conducive to tornado activity, and the NWS adjusts their notifications to include a flash flood warning and tornado warning. June 14, the storm has arrived, hitting regions 5 & 7. The governors in affected states have declared a state of emergency and have issued evacuation orders due to floodings for significant portions of the regions.

Exercise's Structure

- This exercise will be a multimedia, facilitated exercise. Players will participate in the following 3 modules:
  - **Module 1: Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase**
  - **Module 2: Deployment Phase**
  - **Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase**

Participants have been placed into 13 groups:

- 1 state MRC coordinator,
- 1-2 local and a state public health planner or emergency planner,
- 1 regional MRC coordinator and
- 4-5 MRC unit leaders/volunteers.

Exercise's Objectives-Module 1

Module 1: Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase

1. Evaluate procedures and practices for rapid recruiting and identify the type and number of volunteers needed for the missions requested.

2. Assess procedures and practices used in rapid screening, vetting, registering, and selecting volunteers to support the mission request.

3. Evaluate current training plans to identify gaps and additional resource areas based on the response mission.

4. Explore potential areas of risks for the unit and evaluate the risk management plan.

Module 2: Deployment Phase

5. Evaluate processes to notify volunteers with the desired skills and quantity needed to support emergency activities, including communicating with volunteers during adverse events.

6. Assess procedures to organize, assemble and deploy volunteers that have the necessary credentials and skills consistent with community plans to ensure the effective utilization of MRC volunteers and resources in both emergency operations and non-emergency activities.

7. Assess systems used for tracking and managing volunteers as indicated by the incident and by relevant job functions.

Exercise's Objectives-Module 3

Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase

8. Evaluate processes and procedures to release and track volunteers following completion of service in emergency operations and missions.

9. Assess plans to support volunteer post-deployment including medical screening, stress, and well-being assessments and when requested or indicated referral to medical and mental/behavioral health services.

10. Review process to conduct an after-action review (AAR) of appropriate activities, events, and emergency operations.

Exercise's Structure

MRC Unit Factors for Success

- **5**. Develop Procedures for Volunteer Recruitment
- **6.** Develop and Implement Procedures for Volunteer Screening and Selection
- **7.** Develop a Volunteer Training Program
- **8**. Develop Policies and Procedures for Volunteer Utilization
- **11.** Develop and Implement Strategies for Risk Management
- **12**. Participate in Activities that Fulfill MRC Unit's Mission

PHEP

- **15.** Volunteer Management

Module 1: Pre-Deployment Phase

Key Issues & Implications

- Determining unit's mission and capabilities

- Determining response missions and roles for MRC volunteers.

- Rapidly recruiting, screening and selecting and training new volunteers.

- Preparing for a rapid deployment .

Potential Mission Areas to be Activated:

• Shelters Support for general, medical, and animal shelters

• Points of Dispensing (Medical Countermeasures, supplies)

• Public Health Outreach (Health education & promotion)

• Medical Evacuations & Health Care Systems support.

• Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) And Call Centers

• Family Reunification Centers (FRC)

Exercise's Objectives and Core Capabilities For Phase One-Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase 1

Exercise Objectives	MRC Unit Factors for Success	Phase/ Module
Evaluate procedures and practices for recruiting and identifying the type and number of volunteers needed for the missions requested.	5. Develop Procedures for Volunteer Recruitment	**Module 1: 1: Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase**
Assess procedures and practices used in screening, vetting, registering and selecting volunteers to support the mission request.	6. Develop and Implement Procedures for Volunteer Screening and Selection	**Module 1: 1: Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase**
Evaluate current training plans to identify gaps and additional resource areas based on the response mission.	7. Develop a Volunteer Training Program	**Module 1: 1: Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase**
Explore potential areas of risks for the unit and evaluate the risk management plan.	11. Develop and Implement Strategies for Risk Management	**Module 1: 1: Rapid/Pre-Deployment Phase**

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Module 1-Discussion

1) What systems, policies or procedures do you have in place to assess the situation and the risks associated for volunteers' safety and health before fulfilling the requests?

2) What information should be communicated to existing volunteers at this time? What is the messaging process and current message?

3) How will the unit rapidly recruit new volunteers to support the disaster?

4) What kind of procedures does your unit have for rapid volunteer screening and selection?

5) What training is needed to prepare volunteers for rapid deployment? Please give examples.

6) Do you have mission sets available?

7) What policy do you have to make sure volunteers have all necessary safety and health measures to reduce volunteer's safety and health risks?

Module 1: Discussion

Brief-Back

Pick top three best practices and procedures to report back in:

- On how to recruit and identify the type and number of volunteers needed for the missions requested.

- On how to rapidly screen, vet, register, and select volunteers to support the mission request.

- On how to Identify gaps in training plans and additional resource areas based on the response mission.

- On how to list potential areas of risk for the unit and evaluate the risk management plan.

Module 2: Deployment Phase

Module 2: Deployment Phase

- **Key Issues & Implications**
  - The tornado resulted in more than 1,000 fatalities and 5,000 people have sustained injuries requiring professional treatment in the affected areas.
  - Residents in low-lying areas were ordered to evacuate.
  - Flash flooding created washouts of water and sewer pipes, and cutoff roads in low-lying areas.
  - Shelters throughout the two regions are reaching capacity.
  - Serious need for food supply and drinking water.
  - Sewage treatment plants in the regions have been flooded and sustained damage from the storm.
  - Determining impacts on MRC volunteers to determine impacts on workforce.
  - Allocating volunteers.

Module 2: Deployment Phase

Mission Areas Activated:

- Shelters Support for general, medical, and animal shelters
- Points of Dispensing (Medical Countermeasures, supplies)
- Public Health Outreach (Health education & promotion)
- Medical Evacuations & Health Care Systems support.
- Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) And Call Centers
- Family Reunification Centers (FRC)

Evaluate processes to notify volunteers with the desired skills and quantity needed to support emergency activities, including communicating with volunteers during adverse events.	8. Develop Policies and Procedures for Volunteer Utilization	**Module 2: -Deployment Phase**
Assess procedures to organize, assemble and deploy volunteers that have the necessary credentials and skills consistent with community plans to ensure the effective utilization of MRC volunteers and resources in both emergency operations and non-emergency activities.	8. Develop Policies and Procedures for Volunteer Utilization 12. Participate in Activities that Fulfill MRC Unit's Mission	**Module 2: Deployment Phase**
Assess systems used for tracking and managing volunteers as indicated by the incident and by relevant job functions.	8. Develop Policies and Procedures for Volunteer Utilization	**Module 2: Deployment Phase**

8) What procedures or systems are used to utilize, manage, and track volunteers?

9) What procedures does your unit have in place to rapidly organize, assemble, and deploy volunteers?

10) Does your unit have just-in-time training, job action sheets or checklist in place to response to such missions?

11) What resources are most needed to support MRC volunteers responding rapidly?

12) How does your unit maintain consistent communication with stakeholders and the response agency throughout the disaster?

13) What system or forms of communication will be utilized to communicate with volunteers?

14) How are you communicating incident-specific safety and health risks to volunteers?

15) What system, policies or procedures do you have in place to monitor volunteers' safety and health during the incident response?

16) What type of volunteer legal protections are in place to activate?

Module 2: Discussion

Brief-Back

Pick top three best practices and procedures to report back in:

- How to notify volunteers with the desired skills and quantity needed to support emergency activities, including communicating with volunteers during adverse events.

- How to organize, assemble, and deploy volunteers that have the necessary credentials and skills systems used for tracking and managing volunteers as indicated by the incident and by relevant job functions.

Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase

Response has been ongoing for over two weeks and the immediate needs of the two regions are being addressed. The operation is beginning to transition to a recovery phase.

Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase

Key Issues & Implications

• Tracking volunteers' hours

• Volunteer demobilization

• Volunteer health and safety, including mental health

• After action reviews

Evaluate processes and procedures to release and track volunteers following completion of service in emergency operations and missions.	8. Develop Policies and Procedures for Volunteer Utilization	**Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase**
Assess plans to support volunteer post-deployment including medical screening, stress and well-being assessments and when requested or indicated referral to medical and mental/behavioral health services.	8. Develop Policies and Procedures for Volunteer Utilization 8. Develop and Implement Strategies for Risk Management	**Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase**
Review process to conduct an after-action review (AAR) of appropriate activities, events and emergency operations.	**12**. Participate in Activities that Fulfill MRC Unit's Mission	**Module 3: Post-Deployment Phase**

17) What process do you have in place to release and demobilize volunteers?

18) What strategies for risk management are implemented to protect your unit and the MRC volunteers?

19) What system, policies or procedures do you have in place to monitor volunteers' safety and health after missions are completed?

20) How does your unit conduct after-action reviews and develop after-action reports and improvement plans?

Module 3: Discussion

Brief-Back

Pick top three best practices and procedures to report back in:

- To release and track volunteers following completion of service in emergency operations and missions.

- to support volunteer post-deployment including medical screening, stress, and well-being assessments and when requested or indicated referral to medical and mental/behavioral health services.

- to conduct an after-action review (AAR) of appropriate activities, events, and emergency operations

Exercise's Evaluation & Take Aways

Exercise's Takeaways

- What should be learned from this?

- What improvements need to be implemented?

- Were the organizational roles and responsibilities clearly identified?

Exercise's Hot Wash

Please list top 3 areas of strengths

1-

2-

3-

Please list top areas requiring improvements

1-

2-

3-

Workshop's Evaluation

Workshop's Evaluation