

OPERATION DEEP WATER

NEBRASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TABLETOP EXERCISE

DEVELOPED BY THE:

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

AND THE

CENTER FOR BIOPREPAREDNESS EDUCATION

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PREFACE

Operation Deep Water is sponsored by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) and the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. This Situation Manual (SitMan) was produced with input, advice, and assistance from the PPC TTX planning team, which followed the guidance set forth in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's), Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

The Operation Deep Water Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Situation Manual provides exercise participants with all the necessary tools for their roles in the exercise. This SitMan was developed with the advice and assistance of the members of the PPC TTX planning team.

This tabletop exercise is unclassified. The control of information is based more on public sensitivity regarding the nature of the exercise than on the actual exercise content. Some exercise material is intended for the exclusive use of exercise planners, facilitators, and evaluators, but players may view other materials deemed necessary to their performance. The SitMan may be viewed by all exercise participants.

All exercise participants should use appropriate guidelines to ensure the proper control of information within their areas of expertise and to protect this material in accordance with current jurisdictional directives. Public release of exercise materials to third parties is at the discretion of PPC TTX planning team and the Center for Biopreparedness Education.

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

1. The title of this document is *Operation Deep Water Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Situation Manual (SitMan)*.
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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Handling Instructions..... | 3 |
| Agenda | 5 |
| Introduction..... | 6 |
| Purpose..... | 6 |
| Scope | 6 |
| Target Capabilities | 6 |
| Exercise Objectives..... | 6 |
| • Solidify knowledge and application of the Incident Command System..... | 6 |
| • Demonstrate and refine the activation protocol for Behavioral Health Emergency Response Teams | 6 |
| • Clarify the roles of other behavioral health resources and the activation protocol for each | 6 |
| Participants | 6 |
| Exercise Structure | 7 |
| Exercise Guidelines | 7 |
| Assumptions and Artificialities | 7 |
| Module 1: Here come the rains..... | 8 |
| Module 2: There go the homes..... | Error! Bookmark not defined. |
| Module 3: Get a bucket and a mop... .. | Error! Bookmark not defined. |



AGENDA

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|------|--|
| 1245 | Registration |
| 1300 | Welcome and Overview Background Exercise Rules |
| 1330 | Module 1 and Discussion |
| 1500 | Break |
| 1515 | Module 2 and Discussion |
| 1600 | Module 3 and Discussion |
| 1630 | Exercise Wrap-Up Questions and Answers "Next Step" Discussions |
| 1645 | Facilitator and Evaluator Hot Wash |

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of Operation Deep Water TTX is to evaluate and improve the operational readiness of behavioral health providers and teams in Nebraska.

Scope

This TTX will involve members of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team, local behavioral health providers, state behavioral health professionals, public health professionals, and hospital representatives. Participants will discuss resource activation, allocation and management; Incident Command structure for behavioral health providers and support staff.

Target Capabilities

The capabilities listed below have been selected by the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center TTX planning team. These capabilities provide the foundation for development of the exercise objectives and scenario, as the purpose of this exercise is to measure and validate performance of these capabilities and their associated critical tasks.

- Economic and Community Recovery
- Fatality Management

Exercise Objectives

The objectives for the 2009 Operation Deep Water TTX are as follows:

- **Solidify knowledge and application of the Incident Command System**
- **Demonstrate and refine the activation protocol for Behavioral Health Emergency Response Teams**
- **Clarify the roles of other behavioral health resources and the activation protocol for each**

Participants

- *Players* respond to the situation presented based on expert knowledge of response procedures, current plans and procedures, and insights derived from training. Players in this exercise include:
 - Hospitals and health care entities
 - Local and State behavioral health personnel
 - Public Health
 - Emergency Management

- Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team members
- *Facilitators* provide situation updates and moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required. Planning committee members may also assist with facilitation as subject matter experts (SMEs) during the tabletop exercise.

Exercise Structure

This will be a Flood scenario, facilitated tabletop exercise. Players will participate in three distinct modules:

- Module 1: Here come the rains...
- Module 2: There go the homes...
- Module 3: Get a bucket and a mop...

Each module simulates the progression of a flood that will provide participants with general information. Following the updates, participants review the situation and engage in a discussion of appropriate response issues.

Exercise Guidelines

- This is an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.
- Respond based on your knowledge of current plans and capabilities (i.e., you may use only existing assets) and insights derived from training.
- Decisions are not precedent setting and may not reflect your organization's final position on a given issue. This is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response and preparedness efforts. Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.

Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise a number of assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted. During this exercise, the following apply:

- The scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- There is no "hidden agenda", nor any trick questions.
- All players receive information at the same time

MODULE 1: HERE COME THE RAINS...

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2009

- Recent heavy rains make the flooding of the Aksarben River imminent
- Aksarben City (population 6,700) prepares to relocate the following critical infrastructure: Aksarben hospital, 911 Dispatch
- The Army Corps of Engineers recommends that if you live in a flood-prone area along the Aksarben River, you should begin preparations now. Residents should begin sandbagging for an additional three feet of water
- The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in anticipation of the flooding. FEMA is 'leaning forward' with supplies and support for flood ravaged areas.
- ESF-8 (public health and medical) has been activated in the State EOC and Annex G (public health and medical) has been activated in the Local EOC.
- Formal disaster declarations have not been signed, so assets cannot be deployed, yet.

MODULE 1 QUESTIONS

- On a half sheet of paper, record your answer(s) to the question.
 - ☑ Three to seven words only
 - ☑ Write big
 - ☑ One idea per card
 - ☑ Write horizontally
 - As a group, discuss the answers you provided
1. State Table(s): Describe activities that would be happening at the State level, in preparation for a Behavioral Health Response to the impending flood. How would Local responders know that State assets are 'leaning forward'? What does 'leaning forward' mean to the State officials?
 2. Regional/Local Table(s): Describe activities that would be happening at the Local level, in preparation for a Behavioral Health Response to the impending flood. What expectations do you have of the State at this point or in the near future? How would you communicate those needs?
 3. State Table(s): Describe your place in the State EOC Incident Command Structure. Describe your position in the State Behavioral Health Response Incident Command Structure.
 4. Regional/Local Table(s): Describe your place in the Local EOC Incident Command Structure. Describe your position in the Local Behavioral Health Response Incident Command Structure.
 5. What is the incident command structure for Behavioral Health? Who is the Behavioral Health Incident Commander? What other ICS positions need to be filled within the Behavioral Health Incident Command? How will these positions work within the larger Incident Command System?
 6. As a Group, use the sticky wall to diagram the Incident Command Structure for Behavioral Health (be sure to accommodate other ICS structures you reside within).

MODULE 2: THERE GO THE HOMES...

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2009

- Waters have reached 18 inches in flood prone areas.
- The Governor has signed a disaster declaration. The State declaration has been sent to the President for a Federal declaration. The scope of the flooding indicates that the President's signature is imminent.
- All patients in Aksarben hospital have been evacuated to other hospitals in the region.
- Aksarben City officials are strongly discouraging all non-essential travel. Motorists are encouraged to stay off all city streets. All City-sponsored events have been cancelled for this coming week, July 13-17.
- Carson Street and Sandoz Street Bridges are being closely monitored and may be closed by Wednesday, July 14.

MODULE 2 QUESTIONS

1. Regional/Local. What behavioral health assets will be requested from neighboring communities that are unaffected by the flood? How do you request those assets?
2. State. What information does the State need from local behavioral health to apply for a crisis counseling grant?
3. Regional/Local. What steps need to be taken to request behavioral health assets from the State?
4. State. What information is needed to assemble a Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team? What is the process for becoming formal state asset?

MODULE 3: GET A BUCKET AND A MOP...

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2009

- Waters have reached 18 inches in flood prone areas.
- The weather is projected to be very nice for the next five days, however, residents are warned to be careful of storms upriver that may affect water levels in Aksarben City.
- The flooding has caused two fatalities. One was an older adult that suffered a fatal heart attack while cleaning up. The other was a toddler that drowned while his parents were cleaning water from their basement.
- NEMA and HHSS have completed the required paperwork to establish a Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team as a State asset.

MODULE 3 QUESTIONS

1. What is the role of the BHERT at this point in the disaster? [Completed by groups and report out. Prioritize the roles.]
2. What is the most important next step to be taken for behavioral health disaster response in Nebraska. [optional]