

Monroe County CPI Communication Drill



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After Action Briefing

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMUNICATION DRILL CONDUCTED JULY 13, 2010



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Introductions



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Agenda

- Introductions and Opening Remarks
- HSEEP/Strategy Review
- Exercise Summary
- Strengths
- Areas of Improvement
- After Action Report (AAR) Review
- Improvement Plan (IP) Development



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HSEEP



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HSEEP Review

- Exercises are a valuable tool for assessing and improving performance, while demonstrating community resolve to prepare for major incidents.
- Helps entities obtain *objective* assessments of their capabilities so that gaps, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities are identified and remedied prior to a real incident.
- Intent of HSEEP is to provide common exercise policy and program guidance capable of constituting a national standard for all exercises.



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Today's Goal

- Understand exercise concept and process
 - Review relevant strategies/goals/objectives
 - Discuss design objectives
 - Discuss exercise structure and participation
 - Discuss evaluation and improvement planning



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Identifying the Need

- Support National and State Goals/Strategies
- Redundant Communication
- Volunteers and County Working Together
- Practical Application of SOPs (Drill is the same for many scenarios-communications resources are deployed using established SOPs)



• Training and documentation for HS Justification

State Strategies Supported:

Support Health Emergency Preparedness by readying the State for a potential pandemic and enhancing the medical community's ability to distribute medical countermeasures on a large scale in any public health emergency and to surge resources in order to manage large numbers of sick or injured during any incident.

- Objective 9.1 | Enhance community, regional and national cross-disciplinary planning efforts to prepare for and respond to a health emergency
- Objective 9.2 | Support health emergency preparedness training and exercises to align community, regional, State and national preparedness and response activities
- Objective 9.7 | Support a statewide capability to distribute and dispense medical countermeasures to include federal, regional, and local capacities



“NYS Homeland Security Strategy 2009”

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State Strategies Supported:

Strengthen Communications and Emergency Alerting Capabilities by ensuring that our first responders can effectively communicate with each other and provide alerts and warnings to the public during a major incident in order to protect lives and property.

Objective 6.7 | Acquire and deploy P-25 compliant technology that enable seamless communications across all public safety frequency bands, while ensuring that existing legacy systems remain viable and operable

Objective 6.12 | Conduct multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary HSEEP-compliant exercises to test the vitality of communications plans, SOPs, and systems in New York State

“NYS Homeland Security Strategy 2009”

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Exercise Summary

- CPI CommEx was a one day exercise (drill)
- The purpose of the exercise was to test and verify the existing POD radio communication infrastructure between local, regional, and state partners in support of RSS operations – using existing SOPs



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Target Capability “Communications”

- Agencies must be operable, meaning they possess sufficient wireless communications capabilities to meet their daily internal and emergency communication requirements before they focus on interoperability.
- Ability of public safety agencies and service agencies to talk within and across agencies and jurisdictions using various communications systems to exchange voice, data, and/or video with one another on demand or in real time..



Planning/Participation

- **Number of Participants**
 - Players: 34
 - Evaluators: 2
 - Controllers: 2

- **Monroe County**
 - Public Health
 - Public Safety
 - Office of Emergency Management
 - Public Safety Communications

- **State**
 - Department of Health



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Planning/Participation

- **Other**
 - Strong Memorial Hospital
 - Environmental Services
 - West Irondequoit High School
 - Webster Thomas High School
 - Spencerport High School
 - Pittsford Mendon High School
 - Penfield Senior High School
 - East Ridge High School
 - Churchville-Chili Senior High School



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Objectives

- In response to notification of an incident, provide and receive interoperable voice, data, and video communications
- Test existing radio communication infrastructure in support of RSS operations – including local, regional, and state partners.
- Initiate incident-specific demobilization procedures for the interoperable communications system.



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Scenario Overview

Warning

- ***Pandemic in progress***
- ***Assumption is EOC activated at some level***
- ***RACES Activated***

Notification

- ***Assumption is RACES Lead has been notified to report***
- ***RACES Lead has Notified team to be on standby***
- ***PODS are established***

Response

- ***RACES Lead reports to EOC***
- ***RACES / Health coordination***
- ***Resource needs ID and Prep***
- ***Resource Allocation (Radios and Personnel)***

Demobilization

- ***Resources notified***
- ***RTB***
- ***Resource Accountability***
- ***Debrief***



Exercise Timeline

- **9:00:00 AM** **StartEx**
- **9:15:00 AM** **Public health liaison delivers site information to RACES including report time, location, and contact numbers**
- **9:30:00 AM** **RACES Team arrives EOC**
- **9:45:00 AM** **Mission Briefing**
- **10:15:00 AM** **Equipment sign out and site assignment**
- **11:00:00 AM** **Resources deployed**



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Exercise Timeline

- **12:00:00 PM** RACES personnel arrive at respective PODS and report in. EOC is notified
- **12:30:00 PM** RACES team members setup equipment and perform radio check
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- **2:00:00 PM** Resources demobilize and transport back to EOC
- **3:00:00 PM** All RACES team members report in to EOC NLT 1500
- **3:15:00 PM** Hotwash
- **4:00:00 PM** EndEx



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Exercise Evaluation

Objective

- Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs)
- Subjective
 - Self-Evaluation onsite
 - Includes site
 - Feedback Forms



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Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGS)

Final – Published Version 1.0

Communications

Exercise Evaluation Guide

Capability Description:

Communications is the fundamental capability within disciplines and jurisdictions that practitioners need to perform the most routine and basic elements of their job functions. Agencies must be operable, meaning they possess sufficient wireless communications capabilities to meet their daily internal and emergency communication requirements before they focus on interoperability, which means being able to work with other agencies.

Communications interoperability is the ability of public safety agencies (e.g. police, fire, emergency medical services (EMS)) and service agencies (e.g. public works, transportation, hospitals) to talk within and across agencies and jurisdictions when needed and authorized using various communications systems to exchange voice, data, and/or video with one another on demand or in real time. It is essential that public safety has the intra-agency operability it needs, and that it builds its systems toward interoperability.

Capability Outcome:

A continuous flow of critical information is maintained as needed among multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary emergency responders, command posts, agencies, and governmental officials for the duration of the emergency response operation in compliance with National Incident Management System (NIMS). To accomplish this, the jurisdiction has a continuity of operations plan for public safety communications to include the consideration of critical components, networks, support systems, personnel, and an appropriate level of redundant communications systems in the event of an emergency.

| | |
|---|--|
| Jurisdiction or Organization: Monroe County | Name of Exercise: Civil Preparedness Communications Exercise |
| Location: Monroe County | Date: 14 July 2010 |
| Evaluator: [REDACTED] | Evaluator Contact Info: [REDACTED] |

Note to Exercise Evaluators: Only review those activities listed below to which you have been assigned

Activity 2: Provide Emergency Operations Center Communications Support

Delete Activity

Activity Description: In response to notification of an incident, provide and receive interoperable voice, data, and video communications

Tasks Observed (check those that were observed and provide comments)

Tasks/Observation Keys

- 2.1. Implement incident communications interoperability plans and protocols.
 - Interoperable communications equipment, channels and protocols are activated and placed into service

Time of Observation/ Task Completion

Time: [REDACTED]
 Task Completed?
 Fully Partially Not N/A



Key Strengths

- Verified backup, redundant communication connectivity between the RSS, EOC, MCDPH, NYSDOH, one major hospital and nine PODs.
- Operators possessed a high degree of experience which overcame equipment issues.



Key Strengths

- Promoted interdepartmental coordination within the county (Public Safety, Health)
- Engaged local volunteers in activities that support Monroe County preparedness activities.



Key Areas for Improvement

- Communications were hampered by equipment issues.
- Further exercises for remaining POD sites



Analysis of Capabilities

Activity (ComC4): *Provide Incident Command/First Responder/First Receiver/Interoperable Communications:*
In response to notification of an incident, go to the scene to provide and receive interoperable voice data and video communications



Analysis of Capabilities

Observation: *Strength:* Voice, data and video were successfully transmitted between participants. Accountability and tracking of resources were maintained throughout the exercise.



Analysis of Capabilities

Activity (ComC7): *Return to Normal*

Operations: Initiate deactivation procedures for the interoperable communications system and return the system to a ready state.



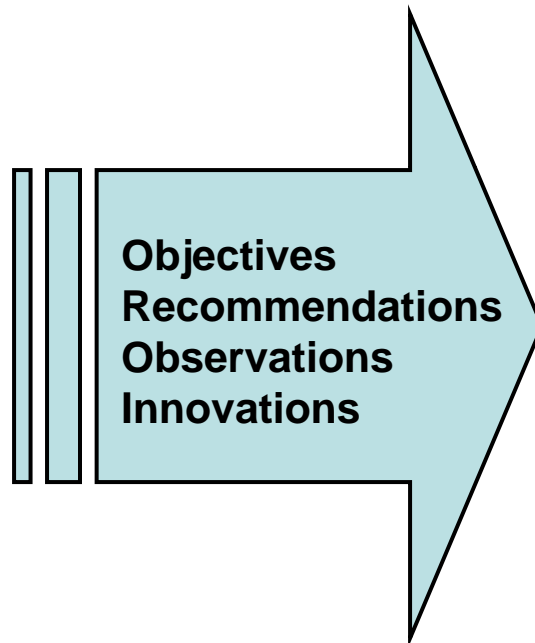
Analysis of Capabilities

Observation: *Strength:* All systems and resources were deactivated, accounted for, and returned to ready state.



After-Action Report/Improvement Plan

After-Action
Report/
Improvement
Plan



- **Distribution**

- Participating Agencies
- Others?

- **Purpose**

- Proper Documentation
- Provide feedback
- Pass on lessons learned



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Wrap-up

- Next steps
 - Continue exercising remaining PODS
 - Obtain required equipment/training



Questions



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