

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
2022 MEDICAL RESPONSE AND SURGE EXERCISE
(MRSE) PARTICIPANT WEBINAR
EXERCISE PLANNING
101



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PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

At the end of this presentation, each participant will be able to:

- Define 3 types of exercise – tabletop, functional and full-scale
- Verbalize at least 3 components needed to plan/conduct an exercise
- Understand the purpose of each component and how they relate to each other
- Discuss how to adapt the LA County Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) to suit the needs of their facility or agency

EMS AGENCY

- Support agency – responsible for coordinating care during a large-scale disaster or incident either within the Medical Alert Center (MAC) or Medical Coordination Center (MCC)
- Not affiliated with CMS nor any other regulatory body, however, exercising with us may assist sectors in meeting some regulatory requirements
- Mission is to support and train medical sectors to be prepared for a disaster

Overarching goal during a disaster: Each patient receive the correct care at the correct facility that can meet their needs

DEFINITIONS OF 3 TYPES OF EXERCISES

- Tabletop exercise (TTX) - Discussion based exercise where participants sit in a classroom type situation or around a table. Focus on policies and procedures
- Functional exercise - Simulated operational environment. Designed to exercise specific team members, processes and/or resources
- Full-scale exercise - Typically, a lengthier exercise that takes place on location using equipment and personnel that would be called upon in an actual event (most realistic)
- Community Wide - An exercise that involves more than just your facility or agency

EXERCISE COMPONENTS

- Objectives
- Scenario
- Master Scenario Events List (MSEL)
- Exercise Evaluation/Participant Feedback
- After Action Report (AAR)
- Improvement Plan (IP)



OBJECTIVES

- Objectives are what you would like to test e.g., communication, triage, contacting specialists, etc.
- For each objective, list steps on how the objective could be tested – example to follow
- Need to be measurable



OBJECTIVE EXAMPLE

OBJECTIVE: Communication

- Maintain situational awareness by gathering and sharing real-time information related to the emergency and the current state of the (facility/agency) through coordination with(staff, EMS Agency, etc.)

Sample Task(s):

- Activate communication plan/policy or develop a process for sharing of information related to the incident with on-duty staff and those who are scheduled to work within 30 minutes of incident notification
- Respond to communication received from local healthcare partners and/or EMS Agency MCC, e.g., service level request, resource availability and/or capabilities.
- Utilize and test redundant communication systems [insert specific systems to test, such as text messaging, email, mass notification software, etc. – refer to your communication plan/policy] to notify staff, response partners and EMS Agency MCC as applicable.

SCENARIO

- The scenario should be developed after the objectives have been determined so that it can test the objectives
- However, with the Medical Response & Surge Exercise (MRSE), the scenario has already been set – radiological event (dirty bombs)
- Scenario should be relevant, and include situations that will test the objectives i.e., based on your Hazard Vulnerability Analysis/Assessment (HVA)



MASTER SCENARIO EVENTS LIST (MSEL)

- Chronological listing of events
- Used in an exercise
- Based on the scenario and sample tasks for each objective
- Each row is called an inject with a time assigned to it
- Column headings may include, but not limited to inject number, time, from and to actual message/information, expected action
- MSEL for the MRSE has more columns
- Only exercise controllers should have access to the MSEL

EXCERPT FROM MRSE MSEL

	Date	Time	Synopsis	From	To	Message	Expected Action	Objectives
12	11/17/2022	8:00am	Resource Request Module Activation	MAC	All Healthcare Partners (HCP) on ReddiNet	MAC opens a New Incident in the Resource Request (RR) Module and titles the incident "2022 MRSE"	MAC opens a New Incident titled "2022 MRSE" to receive and process all exercise related RR	ASC, Clinic, Dialysis, HHH, and UC: Objective 3 Hospital: Objective 5 LTC: Objective 6
22	11/17/2022	8:40am	DPH confirmed detonation of dirty bomb and release of Caesium-137	MAC	All HCP	Public Health Radiation Management team confirmed the detonation of a dirty bomb and the release of Caesium-137. (Implement your radiological incident plan.)	Implement your radiological response plan (use appropriate level of PPE)	Clinic: Objective 3 Hospital: Objective 4
26	11/17/2022	9:10am	Evacuate or Shelter-in-Place	MAC	All HCP except Hospitals	Local law enforcement notifies healthcare partners to evacuate or shelter in place.	Each non-acute care sector site will independently determine if they want to exercise this inject as either Shelter-in Place, or Evacuate, or no action	ASC, Dialysis, HHH, and UC: Objective 2 Clinic: Objective 4 LTC: Objective 4 and Objective 5
27	11/17/2022	9:15am	Service Level Poll	MAC	All HCP on ReddiNet	MAC initiates service level poll for all Sectors (Long Term Care, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Home Health / Hospice, Dialysis, Hospital, Urgent Care, and Clinics sectors	Each HCP will determine which service level color they fit into and respond via ReddiNet with the appropriate color code within 60 minutes	ASC, Clinic, Dialysis, HHH, and UC: Objective 1 LTC: Objective 6 Hospital: Objective 5
28	11/17/2022	9:20am	LTC Bed Availability Poll	MAC	All Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities	Hospitals are decompressing and seeking to transfer stable patients to your facility for post-acute care. Identify open beds and implement strategies to expand capacity	LTC facilities enter your bed availability on ReddiNet within 60 minutes	LTC: Objective 6
38								
39								
40								
41								
42								

<https://dhs.lacounty.gov/emergency-medical-services-agency/home/disaster-programs/exercise-drills/>
<https://dhs.lacounty.gov/emergency-medical-services-agency/>



EXERCISE EVALUATION – PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM

- Exercise evaluation guides are available on the EMS Agency website along with a Participant Feedback Form
- Anyone who participates in any way (player, controller, evaluator, etc.) should complete a feedback form

Part III: Participant Feedback

1. I observed the following strengths during this exercise:

Strengths
[Insert strength 1]
[Insert strength 2]
[Insert strength 3]

2. I observed the following areas of improvement during this exercise:

Area's for Improvement
[Insert area for improvement 1]
[Insert area for improvement 2]
[Insert area for improvement 3]

Part II: Exercise Design

Please rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, your overall assessment of the exercise relative to the statements provided, with 1 indicating strong disagreement, 2 indicating disagreement, 3 indicating neutral, 4 indicating agree, and 5 indicating strong agreement.

Assessment Factor	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Pre-exercise briefings were informative and provided the necessary information for my role in the exercise.	1	2	3	4	5
The exercise scenario was plausible and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5
Exercise participants included the right people in terms of level and mix of disciplines.	1	2	3	4	5
Participants were actively involved in the exercise.	1	2	3	4	5
Exercise participation was appropriate for someone in my field with my level of experience/training.	1	2	3	4	5
The exercise increased my understanding about and familiarity with the capabilities and resources of other participating organizations.	1	2	3	4	5
The exercise provided the opportunity to address significant decisions in support of critical mission areas.	1	2	3	4	5
After this exercise, I am better prepared to deal with capabilities	1	2	3	4	5

- Information from evals and feedback should be collated, organized and put into an After-Action Report (AAR)

AFTER ACTION REPORT (AAR) /IMPROVEMENT PLAN (IP)

- Can be two documents or combined into one
- AAR contains information on how the exercise went – did you meet your objectives by completing the sample tasks?
- Which areas did you do well in (strengths)
- Which areas need some improvement
- Improvement plan should be based on the areas for improvement
- AARs for the MRSE are due 60 days after the exercise (mid January 2023)

AFTER ACTION REPORT (CONTD.)



List top 3 strengths

- We were able to contact all staff both in the facility and those scheduled to work later in the day



List top 3 areas for improvement

- We were unable to contact all appropriate staff as the call list did not contain everyone's current numbers



IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Improvement plan is based on your areas for improvement
- Based on the previous example - *We were unable to contact all appropriate staff as the call list did not contain everyone's current numbers*
- Enter the date to be accomplished and the person responsible for completing the task

Improvement Plan		
Tasks to Accomplish	Accomplish by: (Date)	Responsible Person

EMS AGENCY DISASTER PROGRAM MANAGERS

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THANK YOU

Presenter contact information:

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