EOC
FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE
APRIL 28TH 2016

Presented at U-Wide Health & Safety Meeting
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OVERVIEW

• Exercise Planning and Cycle
• Current Affair
• Next Steps
WHY EXERCISE?
HSEEP Cycle

Program Management
- Develop AAR
- Evaluate Performance Against TCL
- Inject Scenario

Project Management
- Conduct Capabilities Assessment
- Develop Strategy
- ID Priorities, TCL
- Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan and Schedule
- Conduct Training
- Identify Exercise-Specific Objectives (UTL)
- Design Scenario
- Select EEGs

Improvement Planning
- Update Capabilities Assessment/Strategy/Multi-Year Plans
- Implement/Track Improvements
- Identify Action Items

Design and Development

For Official Use Only
Building-Block Approach to Exercise Scheduling

- Full-Scale Exercises
- Functional Exercises
- Drills
- Games
- Tabletop Exercises
- Workshops
- Seminars

Capabilities

Complexity

Discussion-Based  Operations-Based
EXERCISE IMPROVES PREPAREDNESS

- Testing policies and procedures
- Establishing and reinforcing partnerships
- Identifying opportunities for improvement of...
  - Coordination
  - Response
  - Recovery
  - Public Information & Communication
2005: Operation Detour *(Back-up EOC)*
2006: Operation Iron Terminus *(Husky Stadium, Terrorism)*
2007: Operation Dark Cloud *(Haz-Mat)*
2008: Sound Shake *(Regional Earthquake Exercise)*
2009: Operation Crash Start *(Plane Crash)*
2010: Operation Troubled Trio *(Critical Infrastructure Disruption)*
2011: Operation Shortstop *(Active Shooter)*
2012: Evergreen Quake *(Regional Earthquake Exercise)*
2013: Operation Flashpoint *(Natural Gas Explosion)*
2014: Turbulent Tango *(Civil Disobedience)*
2015: Royal Flush *(Water Contamination)*

2016: CURRENT AFFAIR
EXERCISE SUMMARY

• Current Affair Functional Exercise was designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies and procedures as they pertain to long term power outage

• Conducted Thursday April 28th 2016

• Focused on response and communication

• EOC: 76 players, 10 controllers, 5 Evaluators and 4 Observers

• 6 Unit Response Centers (URCs) 30+ players
2016 OBJECTIVES

• EOC responders will employ their roles and responsibilities as defined by the UW All-Hazards Emergency Management Plan.

• EOC responders will demonstrate their ability to develop situational awareness and provide information and reports as necessary.

• The EOC responders will practice coordination between the UW and external agencies (i.e. City of Seattle).
The EOC responders will practice coordination between the EOC and various Unit Response Centers (URCs) across campus.

The EOC will illustrate the effective strategic decision making of senior leadership during an EOC activation.

The EOC Media & Communications Team will coordinate, manage, and disseminate public information materials and monitor that the correct information has been received by the general public.
SCENARIO SYNOPSIS

• A widespread power outage throughout the entire University District due to an explosion at the University District Substation, below I-5 just off Northlake Way

• A large fire was burning with a plume of black smoke blowing towards campus

• I-5 Ship Canal & University bridges were shut down due to smoke plume and low visibility

• Seattle City Light and Seattle Fire responded

• Outage estimates were days to a week
HOW WE GATHERED LESSONS LEARNED

• Informal Hotwash
• Participant feedback
• External evaluators
• After Action Report (AAR) Conference

• Green... Things that worked well, including any “Best Practice” that you saw
• Pink... Things that could be improved
• Blue... Neutral or impressions that don’t fall into either category (general comments)
AFTER ACTION REPORT

University of Washington
EOC Functional Exercise
After Action Report (AAR)
2016

UW Emergency Management
STRENGTHS

- Ability to effectively and efficiently contact 100+ UW EOC responders, volunteers and key external partners in a period of less than 2 minutes.

- Use of an evolving Virtual EOC (vEOC) helped to facilitate better information sharing and exchange than in previous exercises.

- More actively integrating various Unit Response Centers (URCs) involvement and coordination.

- Management and control of the Simulation Cell with input from subject matter experts created more realism to all participants.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- More centralized and coordinated university senior leadership that promotes, supports and sustains existing administrative policy statements.
- Role comprehension and job performance remains variable among the EOC responders, despite numerous training opportunities that were offered by UWEM in the recent past.
- There continues to be no representation in the EOC from both the research enterprise as well as the general academic side of the university.
- The Joint Information Center (JIC) has been established but needs more development; required basic emergency PIO training is needed for many of the participants.
- A resource inventory and tracking system for logistics needs to be established.
NEXT STEPS

- Ideally, the lessons learned from the exercise will be implemented in a Corrective Action Plan (CAP).
- This is traditionally where the UW doesn’t perform very well. We do a great job of identifying problems and pretty poor job of actually fixing them.
- How you can help: UWEM needs “champions” to raise awareness of these issues and actually help get some of these planning and response problems resolved.
QUESTIONS