2019 SWMHE *in Ventura County* TABLETOP EXERCISE

Situation Manual (SitMan)

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**EARTHQUAKE**

This Situation Manual (SitMan) provides participants with all the necessary tools for their roles in the Tabletop Exercise. All participants may view the SitMan.

# Exercise Overview

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| **Exercise Name** | 2019 SWMHE in Ventura County – Tabletop Exercise (TTX) | |
| **Exercise Date** | **[Date of TTX]** | |
| **Scope** | This Tabletop Exercise is a discussion-based exercise conducted in a low stress, no-fault environment. An exercise Facilitator will manage the flow of the exercise by presenting a scenario narrative in multiple modules. Players will have an opportunity to both respond to defined questions and discuss topics freely within an established time frame. Exercise play is limited to the presentations and discussions held by exercise participants at your site. | |
| **Mission Area(s** | Response and Recovery | |
| **Core Capabilities** | **FEMA** | **HPP/PHEP** |
| * Economic Recovery * Environmental Response/Health and Safety * Infrastructure System * Logistics and Supply Chain Management * Situational Assessment | * HPP 2. Health Care and Medical Response Coordination * HPP 3. Continuity of Health Care Services * HPP 4. Medical Surge * PHEP 2. Emergency Operations Coordination |
| **Objectives** | **[Site, internal TTX Objectives]**  *Sites may reference or use FSE objectives if preferred.* | |
| **Scenario** | Earthquake | |
| **Sponsor** | **[Site/organization Name]** | |
| **Participating Personnel** | See TTX sign-in sheet. | |
| **Point of Contact** | **[Exercise Lead]**  **[Site Address]**  **[Site Phone Number]**  **[Site Email Address]** | |

# General Information

## Exercise Objectives and related Capabilities and Standards

The following exercise objectives in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to HSEEP core capabilities, which are distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the specific mission area(s). Each core capability is also linked to the relevant Public Health Preparedness (PHEP) Capability and Healthcare Preparedness (HPP) Capability.

Table 1. Exercise Objectives and Associated Core Capabilities, PHEP Capabilities, and HPP Capabilities

| **Exercise Objective** | **FEMA Capabilities** | **HPP/PHEP Capabilities** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Immediately after shaking has subsided, players will assess safety of individuals and the integrity of the building in accordance with the site’s emergency plan and submit a Situation Status Report (SitRep) to the Ventura County Health Care Coalition. | * Environmental Response/Health and Safety * Situational Assessment | HPP Capability 2. Health Care and Medical Response Coordination |
| During exercise play, players will follow the Policies and Procedures for loss of power in accordance with the site’s emergency plan. | * Infrastructure System | PHEP Capability 2. Emergency Operations Coordination |
| Within the first 30 minutes of the exercise, players will assess their current supply levels and determine the length of time operations can be sustained. | * Logistics and Supply Chain Management | HPP Capability 4. Medical Surge |
| Within 1 hour of StartEx, players will engage business continuity plans to assess financial impact and the ability to maintain critical operations. | * Economic Recovery | HPP Capability 3. Continuity of Health Care Services |

## Participant Roles and Responsibilities

The term *participant* encompasses many groups of people, not just those playing in the TTX. Dependent on the size of the facility/organization, one individual may assume multiple roles. The below is a summary of the exercise roles.

* **Facilitators.** Facilitators provide situation updates and moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required. Key Exercise Planning Team members also may assist with facilitation as subject matter experts (SMEs) during the exercise.
* **Controllers.** Controllers may be used in a TTX to plan and manage exercise play, set up and operate the site of the discussion, and possibly take the roles of individuals and agencies not participating in the TTX.
* **Evaluators.** Evaluators are assigned to observe and document certain objectives during the exercise. Their primary role is to document player discussions, including how and if those discussions conform to plans, polices, and procedures.
* **Players.** Players are personnel who have an active role in discussing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.

## Exercise Structure

* Exercise planners are expected to carefully review the draft discussion questions in this document and tailor them to the experience and requirements of their exercise participants.
* The TTX contains scenario information and a list of discussion questions. After the scenario updates are presented, participants review the situation and engage in group discussions of issues.
* Exercise facilitators and planners are also encouraged to utilize the TTX as an opportunity to identify objectives to test during the Full-Scale Exercise.

## Exercise Guidelines

* This exercise will be held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.
* Respond to the scenario using your knowledge of current plans and capabilities (i.e. you may use only existing assets) and insights derived from your training.
* Decisions are not precedent setting and may not reflect your organization’s final position on a given issue. This exercise is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.

Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.

## Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificialities are inherent in any exercise and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation. During this exercise, the following apply:

* The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be discussed and evaluated.
* The scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
* All players receive information at the same time.

## Exercise Evaluation

Evaluation of the Workshop is based on the discussions that take place with regard to identified objectives and aligned capabilities. Additionally, players will be asked to complete participant feedback forms. These documents, coupled with facilitator observations and notes, will be used to evaluate the TTX and compile the After-Action Report (AAR).

# Module 1: Mitigation

## Scenario

***July 2019***

At approximately 8:19 pm on July 5th the United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported a 7.1M earthquake which struck the Mojave Desert, 11 miles from Ridgecrest, CA. This earthquake followed a 6.4M earthquake that occurred on July 4th in Searles Valley, CA; near Ridgecrest.  Aftershocks have been reported and are expected to continue.

California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in San Bernardino and Kern Counties.  Newsom also formally requested a Presidential Emergency Declaration for Direct Federal Assistance to further support response and recovery in impacted communities.

Aftershocks of the earthquakes near Ridgecrest have been encroaching on two major earthquake faults; generating interest and some concern among seismologists over whether it could trigger another large temblor. Both faults are capable of producing new earthquakes of magnitude 7 or greater. The USGS says the chance of an earthquake of magnitude 7 or greater from the July 5 earthquake is 1 in 400 — “possible, but with a low probability.”

***Weeks later…***

Seismologist are reporting that earthquakes do not reduce the risk of future quakes. Rather, an earthquake increases the probability for more quakes. Models show that earthquakes relieve stress to some areas around them but redistribute the stress and can push other faults in the area to failure; ultimately leading to a greater potential for a large earthquake.

***September 2019***

Since July, a continued increase in seismological activity has been observed, leading the USGS to develop an earthquake preparedness campaign. As part of this campaign, USGS and the Southern California Earthquake Center constructed a [computer simulation of the ground shaking in Ventura County](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLXC7WElEUs&list=PLfSGTUJx7YsZ-wAQH9XXtQZKFyQ6LBZDx&index=8) based on a worst-case scenario earthquake. It is meant to emphasize the magnitude of the threat and underline the importance of preparedness. Local health officials are taking this concern seriously and advising organizations within the medical and health system to ramp up their preparedness efforts. Under the direction of the California Office of Emergency Services, similar planning is underway through Operational Area emergency management agencies in collaboration with public safety agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services has chosen to focus on the threat of Earthquake for their Preparedness Month outreach; encouraging community members throughout Ventura County to take the [Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety](http://www.EarthquakeCountry.org/sevensteps)**.**

***Two Weeks Prior to Exercise***

At the request of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), local health departments have been working with health care coalition partners to assess their vulnerabilities in the event there is an earthquake. Authorities have requested that emphasis be placed on critical systems required to maintain operations such as emergency power, water supply, on-site disaster supplies, and building safety.

***Two Days Prior to Exercise***

There has been an increase in inquiries both by media and elected officials on the state of preparedness among healthcare organizations and public safety agencies. The aging infrastructure as well as communication and transportation systems are being highlighted in the media reports. Of particular focus is the threat of a massive power failure that could occur if a major fault line ruptures; emphasizing concern for community members who rely on electricity for assistive technology and medical devices. Local health officials have developed guidance – [Preparing for Power Outage: Persons Dependent on Electricity](http://www.vchca.org/resources/preparing-for-power-outage) – to aid community members with their personal preparedness.

As USGS continues to observe a heightened level of seismological activity, media outlets report a spike in sales of disaster supplies.

## Discussion Questions

## Please address the following discussion questions, taking into account existing planning, training, and resources at your facility and within the county and region. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

1. Does your organization have an emergency preparedness plan to address earthquakes? Discuss the plan and its components.
2. Does the plan address potential staff and supply shortages?
3. What are your site’s concerns and priorities?
4. Based on this scenario, what are your site’s mitigation priorities?
5. What efforts would your site take to address this event?

# Module 2: Response

## Scenario

**[If your site would like to address plans, policies, and procedures in response to an earthquake that impacts Ventura County, use this space to include scenario aspects that you desire. See ShakeOut TTX Manual for sample objectives, scenario, and discussion questions.]**

## Discussion Questions

## Please address the following discussion questions, taking into account existing planning, training, and resources at your facility and within the county and region. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at this time.

**[See ShakeOut TTX Manual for sample discussion questions.]**

# Appendix D: Participant Feedback

**Please enter your responses in the form field or check box after the appropriate selection.**

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| **Name** (optional): |  |  |

## Part I: Recommendations and Corrective Actions

1. What were your expectations for responses received, what were unexpected gaps, and/or what were your surprised to hear?

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1. Based on the discussions today, what are the top three strengths for your facility/organization:

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1. Based on the discussions today, what are the top three areas for improvement for your facility/organization:

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1. Based on the presentations and discussions today, identify any equipment, training, policies, plans, and procedures that should be reviewed, revised, or developed.

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1. Is there anything you discussed in the Tabletop Exercise that the evaluator(s) might not have been able to record or topics that needed additional time for discussion?

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## Part II: Participant Feedback

Please provide any additional comments on today’s Tabletop Exercise

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