Table Top Exercises
&
Incident Command System

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Introduction

PPS is:

- A Veteran Owned Company
- A Preparedness Company
- Experts in Exercise Development
- An Innovator
Brief History

PPS Started:
• At the NSFCC PREP Program
• With incorporation of PISCES Simulator
• As an idea to take exercises further
If you haven’t figured it out

It’s all about Preparedness

PLANNING

TRAINING

EXERCISES

LESSONS LEARNED
Why Exercise?

It’s Required by?? (the Coast Guard)

Facilities –
33 CFR 105.220

Vessels –
33 CFR 104.230

Why else??

It’s a safe alternative to the real thing
What is an Exercise?

HSEEP Defines several:
Tabletop Exercise
Game
Drills
Functional Exercises
Full Scale Exercises
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Tabletop Exercise

- Practicing group problem solving
- Familiarizing senior officials
- Conducting a specific case study
- Examining personnel contingencies
- Testing group message interpretation
- Participating in information sharing
- Assessing interagency coordination
- Achieving limited or specific objectives
Game

• Gaining policy or process consensus
• Conducting “what-if” analyses of existing plans
• Developing new plans
Drills

• A narrow focus, measured against established standards
• Instant feedback
• Realistic environment
• Performance in isolation
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Functional Exercise

- Evaluating Functions
- Evaluating Emergency Operations Centers, headquarters, and staff
- Reinforcing established policies and procedures
- Measuring the adequacy of resources
- Examining interjurisdictional relationships
Full-Scale Exercises

- Assess organizational and individual performance
- Demonstrating interagency cooperation
- Allocating resources and personnel
- Assessing equipment capabilities
- Activating personnel and equipment
- Assessing interjurisdictional cooperation
- Exercising public information systems
- Testing communication systems and procedures
- Analyzing plans, policies, procedures, etc.
Why ICS?

Presidential Directive
Everyone else is doing it
Sounded like a good idea
It worked for oil

NIIMS → NIMS
Seriously

Provides common language
Clear lines of Authority

Will it work for security?
This is why we exercise

NIMS
What goes into putting an exercise together

Planning,
Planning,
Planning,
Planning
Planning

Objectives

What do you want to accomplish
Provides focus
Refined throughout design process

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Planning

Realistic Scenario

- Have Player “buy-in”
- Sets tone for entire exercise
Planning

Identify Players

Who would participate for real?
Will they participate now?
Adds to realism
Planning
Have focused development team

- Primary participants
- Secondary participants as necessary
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Planning

Communicate Often

Meeting notes

Set deadlines

Sample
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Planning

Make it interesting

- Through injects
- Simulation
Execution
Controllers

- Knowledgable
- Willing to speak up
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Execution

Evaluators

- Knowledgable
- Willing to **NOT** speak up
Execution

Remain Flexible
Plan for the unexpected
Don’t stray too far from plan
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Evaluation

Capture Everything

Players logs
Evaluator notes
Controller notes
Player debriefs
Evaluation

Let the players critique themselves

- Often more harsh on themselves
- Usually accurate
- They have more buy in to final evaluation
Evaluation

When the evaluation is complete

Have a plan for what to do with the findings
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Benefits

Meet your counterparts
Better to meet at an exercise than at the real thing
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Benefits

Lessons Learned

Great time to validate plans
Test new ideas
Evaluate new technologies
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Take Away

It’s about the planning

Plan your exercise

Exercise your plan

Follow through on your findings
Questions ?
Thank You