Exercise Overview

- **Exercise Focus**
  - Emergency response during a mass fatality incident
- **Mission Area**
  - Response
Exercise Structure

- Scenario
- Situation Update
- Group Discussion
- Plenary Session on Discussion Outcomes

Exercise Guidelines

- This is an open, low-stress, no-fault environment; varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected
- Base your responses on the current plans and capabilities of your organization
- Decisions are not precedent setting; consider different approaches and suggest improvements
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response efforts; problem-solving efforts should be the focus

Assumptions and Artificialities

- The forum is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented
- All players receive information at the same time
- While discussing the questions addressed, please base your inputs on how your organization would respond to an event of this magnitude in your county or jurisdiction

Brief Back Guidance

- Identify one (1) volunteer to brief back discussion outcomes during the Plenary Session
  - Key Findings
    - Identify key strengths and discussion points
  - Highlight areas of overlap and divergence from other groups
- Areas for Improvement
  - Identify gaps in capability, plans, or processes
  - Include any recommended methods to mitigate issues
- Unique Considerations
  - Identify any topic or concern not mentioned by another group

Scenario

- March 10, Tuesday Night:
  - On March 10th, 2015, three (3) tour buses carrying 150 school children and teachers were traveling to Phoenix, on their way back from a ski trip in Flagstaff, AZ. Normally, the tour buses would take State Route I-17, but it was closed due to snow, and the buses were diverted onto Highway I-40.
Scenario

- March 10, Tuesday Night:
  - A semi-tractor trailer travelling northbound, crossed the center line into the oncoming path of the tour buses, and crashed into the first and second buses. The crash took place at approximately 7:00 p.m. It was already dark, very cold, and raining.

- March 10, Tuesday Night:
  - The driver of the third bus called 9-1-1; however, the connection was poor and was ultimately lost before the dispatcher could obtain any information other than that there had been a crash. Another 9-1-1 call was successfully completed around 8:30 p.m. by a passerby.

Key Issues

- Emergency Information Sharing and Warning
- A mass fatality incident (MFI)
- Injured victims
- Adverse weather conditions

Situation Report

- Total number of fatalities: 69 people
- Total number injured: 30 seriously injured, 11 with minor injuries

Discussion Questions

- Questions provided for discussion among your group; not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed
- Note takers will record your discussion for development of the workshop report
- Please base your inputs on how your organization would respond to an event of this magnitude in your county or jurisdiction

Objective 1. Questions

1. Identify the jurisdictional, regional, private, and health/medical support resource partners you will reach out to during the following phases of human remains disposition:
   a. Processing (decontamination, infection control, and other mitigation measures)
   b. Storing
   c. Disposition
   d. Recovery
Objective 1. Questions

2. Describe how you access systems to maintain situational awareness of the fatality incident. How does this information guide the resources needed for the response?

3. Describe how your organization coordinates incident details among public health/health systems.

Objective 1. Questions

4. Timely information is important for your organization's mass fatality response. Describe who provides this information. By what mode is this information received (e.g., fax, phone, email, alert, etc.)?

5. Which indicator or threshold will typically initiate a MFI response for your organization?

Objective 2. Questions

1. Describe your jurisdiction’s risk assessment summary of potential impacts from a mass fatality incident. Does this scenario relate to pre-characterized or pre-planned circumstances?

2. Describe the planning partners/subject matter experts you have coordinated with prior to this incident for Mass Fatality Planning to help clarify your agency's role (e.g. epidemiologists, laboratory services, hospitals, mortuaries, community/cultural burial service providers, emergency management, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high yield explosives (CBRNE) leads, public health, environmental health, behavioral health, volunteer organizations active in disaster, legal/law enforcement).

Objective 2. Questions

3. Which subject matter experts does your agency utilize to determine public health's role in a fatality incident like this (e.g. epidemiology, laboratory, surveillance, community cultural/religious beliefs or burial practices, CBRNE and emergency operations leads)?

4. Describe the State Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) you have coordinated with prior to this incident, and the Annexes you have referenced regarding Mass Fatality Planning to inform your organization's response plan (e.g. ESF #6 Mass Care, ESF #8 Health/Medical, ESF #9 Urban Search and Rescue, SERRP Catastrophic Incident Annex – Mass Fatality/Mass Casualty).
Objective 2. Questions

5. In this current scenario, describe any partners or State Plans you would coordinate with that have not been involved in planning prior (gap assessment). Describe how to integrate these partners into future plans and mitigation processes.

6. Should all key partners be in place, please describe the ideal command, control and communication flow. Using the poster board available, sketch a draft flow chart of the partners represented in your tabletop group, how they are linked to communication flow, and how they relate to command and control of the MFI.

Objective 3. Questions

1. Describe the Public Information Officers and subject matter experts/spokespersons you have identified prior to this incident for disaster that may involve, mass fatalities according to your jurisdiction’s risk assessment.

2. Describe the structure you have established prior to this incident to support alerting of the public. Describe any gaps in staff/training that may impact the ability of identified personnel to fulfill emergency public information and warning tasks.

3. In this current scenario, describe how you assemble public information staff, debrief them on the incident and assign duties. What types of tasks or objectives will your PIO team work to address?

4. Describe how your organization can provide assistance if local public health systems face challenges in implementing emergency communication. What type of resources can be provided and how do you prefer the resource be requested?

5. Describe methods your TTX group has identified for delivering public information.

Objective 4. Questions

1. In an all hazard situation, describe how first responders will be provided information on potential health conditions (acute/chronic) that may develop during or after an incident (relevant to the hazard or exposure circumstance). How do you work with subject matter experts to participate in the formulation of recommendations for risks to be addressed?
Objective 4. Questions

2. Describe how “just in time training” for responders is facilitated and monitored. How is this information coordinated with incident management?

3. Describe the pre-determined or recommended risk-specific training offered prior to an incident to response personnel (both protective actions as well as training for response to exposure or injury).

Objective 4. Questions

4. In this scenario, what guidance would you provide to partner organizations to help conduct monitoring of any responder staff for medical/mental/behavioral incident-related health outcomes? Describe the type of support resources typically provided to responders in this scenario.

Objective 5. Questions

1. For this scenario, please describe how your partners (inside and outside of the jurisdiction) typically educate their constituents on any applicable health interventions being recommended by public health. Fatality Management partners may include but are not limited to the following: public health, medical, mental/behavioral health professionals, social networks, faith-based or volunteer organizations, support groups, and professional organizations.

Objective 5. Questions

2. Describe how you coordinate with partners to support the provision of non-intrusive, culturally sensitive mental/behavioral health support services to family members of the deceased, incident survivors, and responders, if requested/needed.

Objective 6. Questions

1. Describe the process/criteria for identifying/selecting stakeholders across public health medical, law enforcement, and other disciplines within the jurisdiction that should be included in the collection/dissemination methods of ante-mortem data.

Objective 6. Questions

2. Determine the levels of security clearance needed for accessing information from a central repository/database for the collection, recording, and storage of ante-mortem and postmortem data.

3. Describe who is involved with and how ante-mortem (pre death determination) information is coordinated and bridged between Family Assistance Centers and individual families and relayed to Medical Examiners.
Plenary Session

- Volunteer to brief back discussion outcomes
  - Key Findings
    - Identify key strengths and discussion points
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  - Areas for Improvement
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Closing Comments