Choosing the Right Exercise Type

Resources

- Exercise choice flowchart
- Exercise types tables: discussion-based and operations-based

HSEEP Methodology: Principles to Guide Exercise Planning

- HSEEP offers a uniform and simple way to document all aspects of an exercise.
- Emergency management personnel and other elected and appointed officials who understand the emergency management needs of a jurisdiction should guide exercise planning.
- Base your plan on the jurisdiction's capabilities. The core capabilities define actions needed to fulfill the Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery mission areas.
- Define objectives (desired accomplishments) that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART).
- Use a progressive planning approach to ensure exercises build the jurisdiction's capabilities. Apply a systematic, logical process of understanding policies, plans and procedures before putting them into action. (Doing a discussion-based exercise before an operations-based exercise is a progressive planning approach.)
- Use a Whole Community approach to ensure all aspects and members of the community are engaged in the planning process. (This means including members of volunteer, faith- and community-based organizations, the private sector, and the public — including senior citizens and people with functional and access needs.)
- Reference risk assessments such as the THIRA (a tool that helps a jurisdiction understand its threats and hazards, and how impacts may vary) to ensure exercises are relevant to the jurisdiction's risks and to evaluate how its emergency plans address the threats and hazards of greatest concern.

Request Assistance

If you don't find what you are looking for on these pages, please check the Training and Exercise Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Still didn't find what you need? Send us an *Exercise Request for Assistance* form and we will be happy to help. The HSEM Training and Exercise team is available to assist you Monday through Friday during regular business hours.