

Exercise Types

Discussion-Based

Discussion-based exercises familiarize players with plans, policies, procedures and agreements, and help develop new ones.

- Seminar: an informal discussion, designed to orient participants to new or updated plans, policies or procedures
- Workshop: resembles a seminar, but is used to build specific products, such as a draft plan or policy (e.g., a training and exercise plan workshop is used to develop a multiyear training and exercise plan)
- Tabletop Exercise (TTX): involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting. TTXs may be used to assess plans, policies and procedures.
- Game: a simulation of operations that often involves two or more teams — usually in a competitive environment — using rules, data and procedures designed to depict an actual or assumed real-life situation.

Operations-Based

Operations-based exercises focus on testing and validating plans, policies, procedures and agreements; clarifying roles and responsibilities; and identifying resource gaps in an operational environment.

- Drill: a coordinated, supervised activity usually used to test a single, specific operation or function within a single entity (e.g., a fire department conducts a decontamination drill).
- Functional Exercise (FX): examines and/or validates the coordination, command and control between various multiagency coordination centers (e.g., Emergency Operations Center or Joint Field Office). A functional exercise strives to be as realistic as possible, without deploying resources.
- Full Scale Exercise (FSE): a multiagency, multijurisdictional, multidiscipline exercise involving functional (e.g., Joint Field Office and Emergency Operations Center) and “boots on the ground” response (e.g., firefighters decontaminating mock victims).

Request Assistance

If you don't find what you're looking for, please send us an [Exercise Request for Assistance](#) form and we will be happy to help.