

Fall 2022 After Action Report

Held on October 22, 2022 1-4PM

After four exercises conducted virtually via Zoom due to the conditions created by COVID-19, this exercise was conducted primarily in person, although one “team” was organized virtually for those who may not be available to participate in person, had transportation or mobility issues, or who may still have not felt comfortable engaging in in-person activities. Each team operated from a staging area and conducted exercise operations from that point.

The exercise was started by a text from PBEM alerting participants to deploy, just as would happen in an actual incident.



Activities Conducted Based on Objectives

All teams made progress on the objectives outlined for the exercise:

- Each team set up a staging area and most had an incident team lead (ITL), a scribe, an amateur radio operator (ARO), and some had a dedicated FRS/GMRS Radio Lead. Other teams had their ITL or their ARO coordinating intra-team activities via FRS/GMRS radios.;
- Each team had a volunteer and strike team tracking system, using at least Form 2A and 2B and Form 3;
- Each team undertook a damage assessment activity;
- Each team used Form 6 (Communications Log); Form 8 (General Message), some used Form 4 (Assignment Briefing);
- Each team used FRS/GMRS radios for intra-team communication;
- Each team had an opportunity to practice triage, search and rescue and downed power lines.
- Each team had an opportunity to practice basic medical assessment and first aid treatment.
- Some teams practiced with a medical treatment area, using Form 5A (Patient Treatment Area) and Form 5B (Individual Treatment Record)

Teams

Thirteen teams participated in the Fall 2022 CDE. Most were comprised of members from other teams. Fifty-two neighborhoods were represented including 15 members of West Salem CERT who participated from their staging area.

As noted one of the 13 teams met on Zoom. We will continue to have a Zoom Team going forward. The feedback was that those who participated online could not be active in-person for the exercise. Some were out of town while others had transportation or mobility reasons. Having a Zoom Team allows for true inclusivity.

Each team had an exercise coordinator – a member of that neighborhood team that was not a direct participant in the exercise – who were aware of the scenario and all aspects of the scenario prior to the exercise. They assisted the planning committee in preparing materials for the team in advance of the exercise. They served as a resource for the team to provide the injects and any needed details to enable the team to move forward within the scenario. The exercise coordinators filled a vital role and this role will continue to be an essential part of future exercises.

The Numbers

Total number of registrants	181
Participants (registered)	181
Participants (day of registered)	159
Participants (day of, actually participated)	113
Number of teams	13
Exercise Coordinators	13
Subnets	5

Hours

393 hours logged

Feedback Scores

CDE Feedback Scores - Perfect Score is 5.00							
Date	The exercise was well structured and organized.	The overall exercise was plausible and realistic.	The individual scenarios were plausible and realistic.	The exercise will help me be a better NET member.	I felt that my participation was valued and necessary.	The Incident Commander built a strong plan.	Total Score
Fall 2022	4.28	4.21	4.16	4.47	4.4	4.05	4.08
Spring 2022	3.14	3.14	3.26	3.05	2.86	2.52	3.00
Fall 2021	4.31	3.79	4.32	4.03	4.35	4.08	4.15
Spring 2021	3.86	3.86	3.83	4.08	3.82	3.43	3.81

What do participants want to focus on for the Spring 2023 CDE

Exercise participants identified several items that need continued focus in the next CDE:

- Working with forms
- ICS Structure
- FRS Radio Techniques

In addition, participants also identified some new items that require additional training:

- Water/food/sanitation
- Building size-up

Comments from participants

Many responded that they felt that injects were just the right amount and timed well. A few others felt that they could have had more injects.

The scenario and injects were realistic.

Approximately 1/3 of respondents would have liked the last inject of the building collapse to have happened earlier in the exercise to allow time to work that one out.

Refreshing to have something other than an earthquake as the disaster.

Many liked the fact that the response spots were within one to two blocks of the staging area. The Exercise Design Committee personalized the injects for each team based on their staging areas. The goal was to work on the scenario.....not spend time walking to an address.

Some felt that they stood around waiting a lot.

Exercise Follow-up

The planning committee encouraged each team to conduct a brief “hot wash” immediately following the exercise to report on their experience, give initial reactions to the planning committee through their exercise coordinators, and begin to identify areas where individual teams need to work on improvement and also where the team currently excels so that their skills can be maintained. It appears that most teams were able to have an on scene (or nearby) hot wash.

There was also a general “hot wash” on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6pm conducted virtually via Zoom during a regular PBEM training call. Exercise participants were encouraged to offer comments about the exercise to the planning committee. Each participating team was called on to offer feedback. The session was recorded and the input will be used in the planning of future Citywide Deployment Exercises.

The planning committee conducted a follow-up survey offered to all exercise participants to gather more in-depth feedback on various aspects of the exercise. The summary feedback is presented in the chart on page 3 of this report in the Feedback Scores section.

This after-action report will be used in planning future exercises.



Photo Link

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zRX2J2dNh3Z_gr2eBV8JOtDMJ6CTyKR5YLo7_Lj45jg/edit?usp=sharing