



# City of Houston

## Office of Emergency Management

**Jim Palmer**

**Planning/Training & Exercise Officer**

**COOP Manager**



# Emergency Management Exercises

- The Process
- Exercise Program
- Public and Private Sector Coordination

# Risk Assessment

- What hazards can impact our operation?
- What is the likely impact?
- Can this be prevented?
- Can this be mitigated?
- How can we prepare?

**PLANNING**



**TRAINING**

**EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS**



**EXERCISING**



# The Exercise

## ➤ Exercise:

(n) Something performed or practiced in order to develop, improve, or display a specific power or skill.

(v) To practice in order to train, strengthen, or develop.

- Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

# Why Exercise

- Exercises improve readiness by:
  - ✓ Providing a method to gauge the effectiveness of plans, policies, and procedures.
  - ✓ Identifying resource gaps.
  - ✓ Clarifying roles and responsibilities.
  - ✓ Improving interagency coordination.
  - ✓ Reinforcing teamwork.
  - ✓ Identifying opportunities for improvement.
  - ✓ Demonstrating a community's resolve to prepare for disastrous and catastrophic events.

# Exercise Format

- 2 Exercise Formats
  - ✓ Discussion Based
  - ✓ Operations Based

\*New HSEEP Standard\*

# Exercise Styles

- Discussion Based:
  - Seminar
  - Workshop
  - Table Top
  - Game



# Exercise Type

- Operations Based:
  - Drill
  - Functional
  - Full Scale

# Creating an Exercise

- Design and Development
  - ✓ Define exercise purpose
  - ✓ Define exercise scope
  - ✓ Define an exercise objective
  - ✓ Define an exercise scenario

# Building Block Approach

- Crawl, Walk, Run
- Increasing degrees of complexity
- Build upon previous exercises
  - ✓ Objectives
  - ✓ Scale
  - ✓ Experience

# Lessons Learned

- Hotwash

- AAR:  
Informal  
Formal

# Exercise Program



# Coordination

- Private Sector Involvement
  - ✓ Have a Purpose
    - ✓ Emergency Response Role
    - ✓ Provide Critical Service
    - ✓ Promote Emergency Preparedness

# Coordination

## ➤ Critical Services

- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Banking
- ✓ Fuel
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Communications

## ■ Critical Shortfalls

- ✓ Logistics
  - Warehousing
  - Distribution
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Sheltering

# Engaging Public Sector

- Define Functional Area
  - ✓ Typically Preparedness or Response
- Define Purpose
  - ✓ Objectives
  - ✓ Expectations
  - ✓ Methodology
- Define Resource Requirements



# FY 2008 Exercises

- Regional Hurricane Exercise
  - ❖ Orientation ⇔ TTX ⇔ Rehearsal of Concept ⇔ Functional/Full Scale
- Aviation Exercise
  - ❖ Orientation ⇔ TTX ⇔ Full Scale
- Biological Incident (SNS)
  - ❖ TTX ⇔ Functional ⇒ Full Scale

# Point of Contact

Jim Palmer

Office of Emergency Management  
Planning/Training & Exercise Officer  
COOP Manager

713-884-4500

[james.palmer@cityofhouston.net](mailto:james.palmer@cityofhouston.net)



## QUESTIONS?

