



# Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group Annual Meeting

## Using HAB Scenarios in EPI Training

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# EPI Subcommittee Objective

Prepare a selection of hostile action based scenarios suitable for drilling emergency public information personnel and checking EPI processes.

# Use of HAB Scenarios

- Introduce the 8 scenarios and unique challenges of each
- Use in training spokespersons
- Use in tabletop drills for EPI Teams

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 1:

Offsite fire, explosion, missile strikes our site, equipment damaged, security personnel injured; is this or is this not a security event?

# HAB Scenario Challenge

Scenario 2:

Letter bombs at national labs;  
employee burned; bio hazard and  
people exposed.

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 3:

Armed attack on site; DHS sent out advance warning; explosives detonated; loss of offsite power; security personnel and armed attackers are killed; FBI takes over.

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 4:

Aircraft threat warning from DHS;  
site evacuation; cargo plane  
crashes site control building;  
massive casualties and fires; loss  
of contact with control building.

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 5:

Disgruntled employee at national lab takes hostages; employees are wounded; hostage negotiations are taking place.

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 6:

Small plane crash near back gate of site and in protected area; no survivors.

Chemical tanker goes in ditch; driver injured.

Security on defensive; we don't know if this is a malevolent act or not.

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 7:

Intruders on site exchange shots with security forces; explosives detonated; personnel are down; Army bomb squad is called for possible explosive in vital area.

# HAB Scenario Challenge

## Scenario 8:

Terrorist group attacks the Test Site with dual security breach; car bomb attack on Israeli visitors; plane invades air space and crashes DAF; multiple sites with injuries.

# Training Spokespersons

- Pre-requisite training necessary
- Communicate training instructions/expectations
- **Team training** with PIOs and technical advisors
- Instructor or trusted agent serves as EOC to provide details, answer questions.

# Using Scenarios in Training

- Decipher, translate, prioritize scenario info.
- What additional info to ask the EOC?
- Prepare statement to present to mock media
- Consider visuals to accompany info
- Anticipate questions
- Coordination with others in prep and approval

# Using Scenarios in Training

- Present in videotaped mock briefing
- Respond to questions from mock media
- Performance is critiqued by instructor and peers
- Spokespersons learn to self-critique

# Challenging Spokespersons

- New HAB terminology
- Coordination with other organizations
- What info is need to know?
- Explaining the hazards
- Explaining protective actions
- Explaining command of the emergency
- What are the real issues?

# Using HAB Scenario in TT

- Selection of scenario and players depends on the intended objectives.
- Believability of the scenario is important
- Discuss each objective.
- Challenge JIC to control dissemination of information and monitor misinformation.
- TT is opportunity to coordinate these aspects and adequately addressed.

# Coordination Issues

- Interface with Headquarters PIOs and Congressional Affairs
- Communication with law enforcement PIOs
- Testing of advance EPI protocols between organizations/agencies
- Liaison with FBI media unit within the JOC
- Chain of command in the JIC
- Response to public/media phone questions

# Knowledge/Skills to Verify

- DOE Assets response roles
- Understanding of Hostile Action Based (HAB) event terminology
- Information sources for the EPI team
- Understanding and explaining command of a security emergency
- Challenges of communication about crime scene and security sensitive information

# Problem & Decision Challenges

- “Need to know” for public safety
- Interface between EPI and site security
- Applicability of existing EPI procedures
- Selection of spokespersons
- JIC activation decision
- Considerations about visuals that can be shown
- Detection and control of rumors

# TT Drill Groundrules

- Moderator controls scenario and discussion time.
- Players stay in their ER role throughout TT.
- Don't debate technical details or timeline during TT.
- Discuss actions, decisions and communications
- Speak loud enough for all to hear.
- Identify program/system problems.
- Discuss cause and correction of problems after.

# TT Roles & Responsibilities

## **Moderator:**

- Run the tabletop, control the event timeline, lead discussion, inject messages, ensure objectives are addressed, provide feedback to players

## **Controller/Recorder:**

- Assist moderator and facilitate discussion among participants; record results of the tabletop, such as issues for follow-up in training or procedure revisions, and success or problems in meeting tabletop objectives.

# TT Roles and Responsibilities

## **Role Players:**

- Inject questions and feedback from news media, public and employees.

## **EOC simulation:**

- Play the EOC management and technical advisor roles.

## **Players**

- State response actions, observe other players' response actions, discuss response actions with moderator and other players.

# Tabletop Drill Players Today

- DOE/NNSA Headquarters PIOs
- EOC EPI Manager
- JIC Manager
- Contractor Spokesperson
- News Manager / News release writer
- Employee Communications Manager
- City/State Public Information Officers
- Site Office PAO
- Site Office Spokesperson
- FBI PIO/Spokesperson

# TT Objectives Today

1. Establish communication with Headquarters PIO and Congressional Affairs representatives.
2. Establish communication with appropriate Federal, State and local agency PIOs for information coordination.
3. Prepare an initial press release about the event.
4. Select emergency spokesperson and technical briefer.
5. Make decisions for activation and staffing a JIC.
6. Communicate with the EOC on current emergency conditions and communication priorities and strategies based on the nature of the scenario events.

# TT Objectives Today

7. Prepare ongoing emergency information for dissemination to the public, news media and employees.
8. Coordinate the approval process for release of information.
9. Describe the process and responsibilities for conduct of press briefings and information to be presented in the briefing.
10. Describe how and by whom rumors will be detected and controlled.
11. Anticipate questions and stories of emphasis associated with the emergency scenario.

# Scenario

- **Pre-Existing Conditions:**
- **Event Scenes:**
  - Nevada National Security Site
  - Main Gate 100/Main Fire Station
  - Device Assembly Facility

# Initiating Event for TT

- The OPA hears radio traffic in his office that security has been breached, two explosions have occurred. Emergency services are responding to dual incidents. There are injuries reported.
- At 0600 hours today, a private vehicle runs the gate at Gate 100 and speeds north on the Mercury Highway. Security personnel give chase, with vehicles moving from both the north and south directions in an attempt to cut it off. The private vehicle's journey is short however – it takes less than three minutes to cover the distance from the gate to the dormitory complex next to the Main Fire Station, where a group of Israeli first responders have started gathering to catch a bus for their counter-terrorism training class. Without warning, the private vehicle plows through the crowd of visitors and slams into the dormitory, exploding on impact.

# Event Continues for TT

- At 0600 a small fixed-wing airplane takes off from an unidentified landing strip, flying northeast at an extremely low altitude, crossing over U.S. Highway 95 toward the Site. With security personnel focused on defending the breach of Gate 100, the aircraft flies virtually undetected across a stretch of desert leading to the Device Assembly Facility. At approximately 0608 hours, security personnel at the DAF report the approaching aircraft and open fire. Despite hitting the aircraft, the plane crashes down onto the roof of DAF at approximately 0610 hours and explodes into a brilliant fireball.
- At 0610 hours (0910 EST) in Washington D.C., the Pentagon, White House and U.S. Department of Energy begin processing intelligence and active public news reports that a Middle Eastern terrorist group is accepting responsibility for launching an attack on “one of the most secure nuclear facilities in America” and successfully “striking a blow against the Jewish state of Israel, for whom the imperialist U.S. government has shown undying support.” The attack is designed to strike at Israeli and U.S. security and demonstrate the terrorists’ ability to hit Americans “anytime, anywhere.”

# Scenario for TT

- Response – Emergency and security units lock down the Site in response to a General Emergency. All employees are ordered to Shelter in Place. Gates are closed. Employees coming to work who have yet to enter the Site are turned around and ordered to return home. Fighter jets are scrambled out of the Air Force Base to patrol the skies around the Site, and in coordination with the FAA, all air traffic into and out of the area is temporarily suspended.

# Discussion

- Coordination issues
- Decision challenges
- Scenario challenges
- Objectives met