

2025 Tabletop Exercise

SEVERE WINTER STORM

POWER OUTAGE



Agenda

- Introductions
- Exercise Continuum
- Today's Tabletop Scenario
- Discussions
- Hot Wash (Debrief)
- Action Planning
- Closure

Rules of the Exercise

- Creativity/Group Problem Solving
- Use the knowledge and information available in the room
- Active Thinking
- Active Listening
- Active Participation
- Respect – challenge ideas, not people
- Reality Check – make the exercise real for you.

Introductions



The Exercise Continuum

Briefly:

- Drills
- **Tabletop Exercises**
- Functional Exercises
- Full-Scale Exercises

Tabletop Exercises

- Simulate an emergency situation in an informal, stress-free environment.
- Initiate discussion of emergency guidelines.
- Focus on training and familiarization with roles, guidelines, and responsibilities.

How a Tabletop Works

- A scenario-based discussion is guided by a facilitator; (Brad Beecher-Safety Director)
- Problems talked through without stress;
- Observe offer feedback on the proceedings
- Policies, procedures, plans, and guidelines are discussed and updated.

Tabletop Success

Participants leave with:

- A positive learning experience
- Organizational learning
- Improvement action planning
- More effective policies, plans, and guidelines
- Improved preparedness

Exercise Guidelines

- This exercise is designed to test the preparedness of Knife River Care Center's to respond to a multi-agency, multi-site emergency event.
- Following the exercise, there will be a debriefing time, aka a "Hot Wash".
- Each participant will be given the opportunity to share his/her views on what worked well and what needs to be addressed in additional planning, training and/or drilling

Guidelines (Continued)

- EOP policies and existing safety plan(s) relating to the emergency event.
- The facilitator will serve as the exercise referee and provide any official interpretation of the exercise rules.
- From time to time, there will be **injections** into the scenario. These are intended to further assess response to the exercise scenario.

This is designed to be a learning experience for all.

Purpose

- To examine current policies, procedures, resources and actions in the context to a response to Winter Weather Emergency setting
- To promote greater understanding and ability to apply NIMS/ICS principles to your setting
- To make improvements as identified as an outcome of the exercise

Objectives

- To evaluate Knife River Care Center policies and procedures
- To evaluate command and control including communications procedures
- To identify resources needed vs. available
- To identify training needs
- To identify needed improvements and create an action plan to address those needs

Situation Demographics

Overview:



First Responder Resource Overview

The first responder resources immediately available to Knife River Care Center, include but are not limited to:

- Police
- Fire
- EMS



WINTER STORM

Scenario

The Day Before

Late Monday evening, the media issue this warning:

"An ice storm warning means severe winter weather conditions are imminent or occurring. Significant amounts of ice accumulations will make travel dangerous or impossible.

Travel is strongly discouraged. If you must travel keep an extra flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

Ice accumulations may lead to snapped power lines and falling tree branches that add to the danger."

Scenario

The Start

- The night and early morning are quiet, but cold. Your Tuesday work day begins normally.
- Around 9:30-9:45 a.m. on Tuesday morning, snow flurries begin. Some of the residents are excited! They love snow.
- You hear from the National Weather Service that this is a fast moving storm coming quickly out of the Montana/North Dakota Borders.

Questions

Based on this much information,

- What are your immediate concerns?
- What initial actions should you take?
- What have you done to this point?
- What should you do next?
- What do you need to know?
- How do you find the information?
- Who do you contact?

Scenario #1

1:00 p.m.

- By now, this has become a major wind and freezing rain storm.
- Winds are reaching 75-80mph.
- The snow continues to fall; temperatures drop to 20 degrees.
- The snow is turning into freezing rain. The snow and freezing rain has made travel treacherous in most areas.
- Your power fluctuates. You hear that there are already some places in the area are actually without power.

Questions

- What does your EOP/Safety Plan call for?
- What are you going to do?
What actions will you take?
- Do you need to activate your incident command at this point?
- What is your ICS structure?

Questions

ICS Structure

- Who is the Incident Commander?
- Who is the Public Information Officer?
- Who is the Liaison Officer?
- Who is the Operations Chief?
- What other ICS positions will you activate and who will fill them?

Scenario #2

2:30 p.m.

- By now, there are 3-4 inches of snow and ice in most places.
- The snow and freezing rain continue.
- With the weight of the snow and ice, trees and branches are already breaking and falling around neighborhood.
- You can see some across power lines and roads.
- The local media reports that trees and limbs continue to break and damaging power lines, resulting in power outages.
- You still have power, but you are not sure how much longer it will be on.
- Due to power outages and downed cables, internet service is seriously degraded and intermittent at best.

Scenario #2

2:30pm

- Cell service is still functional but spotty.
- You have gotten frantic calls from a few families which were able to get through.
- You realize that your staff are very likely going to have to stay at facility for the duration of the storm.

Questions

- What actions should you take based on this realization?
- Does your safety plan have contingencies for such a situation?

Questions

- How have you prepared for the extended time period for sheltering residents and staff?
- What should you do about the special needs residents and those who are feeling sick?

Scenario #3

6:00 p.m.

- The area weather remains cold with lows in the teens and 20s.
- The National Weather Service predicts more snowfall through the night and into Wednesday .
- You can expect at least 6-8 more inches of snow on top of the 10 or so which has fallen during the day.
- The storm moved so fast and did so much damage so quickly that the Governor has already issued a Proclamation of Emergency.

Scenario #3

6:30 p.m.

- By 6:30, your power is now out.
City estimates it will remain out for 2 more days.

Questions

- What actions should Knife River Care Center personnel take based on the information from the NWS?
- Knowing that you will have staff and potentially family or visitors staying at facility, what is your back-up plan?
- What do you do about staff who want to leave to be with their own families?
- Will you need to make additional ICS assignments?

Questions

- When possible, how will you ensure that everyone (including residents, family, visitors, and staff) is accounted for?
- What is your reunification plan?
- What further actions will you take?
- What additional contingencies must you now prepare for?
- Will you need to address long-term recovery?

Take a deep breath and
continue...

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Hot Wash

Keep calm and debrief...

Hot Wash

- How well did your EOP/Safety Plan operate and what actions will you take toward improvement?
- How well did your ICS Team operate and what actions will you take toward improvement?
- How well did your Communications Plan operate and what actions will you take toward improvement?

Hot Wash

- What can be done to improve Knife River Care Center's safety & security operations?
- What district-level offices were required to work together in this scenario?
- What external agencies did the Liaison Officer need to work with in this scenario?
- Are all necessary agreements in place to facilitate cooperation among agencies?

After Action Plan

- Lessons Learned:

For an improved action plan, consider what you will:

- Keep Doing _____
- Stop Doing _____
- Do Differently _____
- Start Doing _____

Conclusion

- What is your biggest take away today?



- Thank you for your participation today and enjoy some tacos!

