



# Operation Noah's Ark



1

## Objectives

- The attendees will identify when to contact the North Dakota Health & Human Services (ND HHS) Department Operation Center for an evacuation situation during an emergency.
- The attendees will discover how a facility will be contacted by the ND HHS DOC to accept residents/patients during an evacuation affecting another facility in the state.
- The attendees will understand how patients are tracked from a sending facility to a receiving facility.
- Once completed, the attendees will be able to take this tabletop exercise, modify it for their facility, and present it to their facility and staff for future training.



2



## Participant Roles and Responsibilities

- **Players** are personnel who have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.
- **Observers** do not directly participate in the exercise. However, they may support the development of player responses to the situation during the discussion by asking relevant questions or providing subject matter expertise.
- **Facilitators** provide situation updates and moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required. Key Exercise Planning Team members also may assist with facilitation as subject matter experts (SMEs) during the exercise.
- **Evaluators** are assigned to observe and document certain objectives during the exercise. Their primary role is to document player discussions, including how and if those discussions conform to plans, polices and procedures.



3

## Participant Roles and Responsibilities

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in each Module. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements, or questions that should be addressed at that time.



4



## Exercise Guidelines

- This exercise will be held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.
- Respond to the scenario using your knowledge of current plans and capabilities (i.e., you may use only existing assets) and insights derived from your training.
- Decisions are not precedent setting and may not reflect your organization’s final position on a given issue. This exercise is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response efforts. Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.



5

## Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificialities are inherent in any exercise and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation. During this exercise, the following apply:

- The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated.
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- All players receive information at the same time.



6



## Exercise Structure

- This exercise will be a multimedia, facilitated exercise. Players will participate in the following 3 modules:
  - Module 1: The Flood is Coming
  - Module 2: It's Here
  - Module 3: Now What?
- Each module begins with a multimedia update that summarizes key events occurring within that time. After the updates, participants review the situation and engage in functional group discussions of appropriate response/recovery issues.

7

## Exercise Structure

- The following questions are provided as suggested subjects that you may wish to address as the discussion progresses.
- These questions are not meant to be a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

8





## MODULE 1: THE FLOOD IS COMING



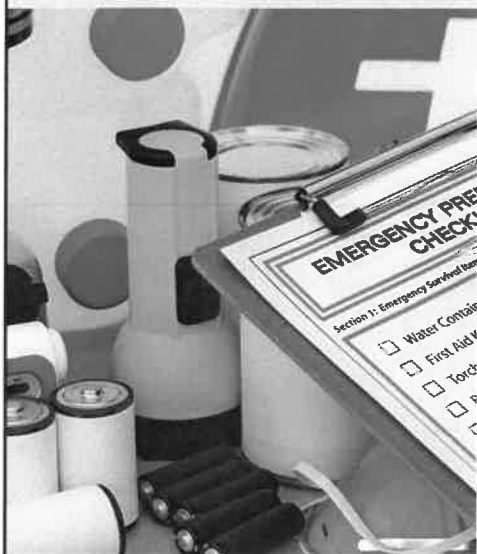
### Early March 2025

Due to late fall rainfall, colder than normal temperatures throughout early winter, and higher than average snowfall this year, the NWS in Grand Forks, ND has issued flood watches for eastern ND the last week of April throughout the Red River and all its tributaries. The Sheyenne, James, and Red rivers are projected to crest at record levels not seen since 1997. All cities along these rivers are currently preparing for major flooding.

NORTH  
Dakota | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary

9

## MODULE 1: THE FLOOD IS COMING



What processes can your facility do to prepare for such an event?

- Are you currently preparing to evacuate?
- Are you preparing to accept patients/residents?
- Will your staff be prepared at home?
- Who are you in contact with for assistance?
- Are you and your staff familiar with the state's Mass Transportation and Evacuation Plan?
- Is your patient tracking database data up to date with current resident information?

NORTH  
Dakota | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary

10



## MODULE 2: IT'S HERE

### April 5, 2025

In the next few days, The Red River is projected to crest 4 feet above major flood stage at Wahpeton, ND; 60 residents need to be evacuated from the care center. The James River at LaMoure is expected to crest 4 feet above flood stage. LaMoure Care Center has chosen to evacuate and needs space for 32 residents. The Lisbon Veterans Home has decided that since access will become an issue, they will evacuate needing space for 60 residents. Lisbon Hospital is also watching closely and may need to evacuate in short notice. Fargo is expected to have minor flooding, and although no flooding of buildings is expected, 3 medium-size facilities will not be accessible due to flooded roadways; 165 patients will need to be moved. In Valley City, although the LTC facilities are safe from flooding, the hospital may need to evacuate on short notice.

NORTH  
Dakota | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary

11

## MODULE 2: IT'S HERE



Who are you working with to make the decision of whether to stay or evacuate?

If you decide to stay, what provisions will you need to assure you will be able to maintain operations for an extended period? (food, supply, staff, water, wastewater, etc.)?

Is your staff prepared at home for extended shifts perhaps days at a time?

Who is working on placing and transporting the residents into new facilities?

What can your facility do to prepare for more residents than normal?

Is your staff familiar with the patient tracking system to send and receive residents on mobile devices and in the patient tracking database?

NORTH  
Dakota | Health & Human Services  
Be Legendary

12



## MODULE 3: NOW WHAT?



**May 15, 2025**

The rivers have receded and only 2 facilities received flood damage not allowing patients to return. Of the roughly 320 patients evacuated, all but 60 will be repatriated back to their facility.

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Health & Human Services  
Be legendary.

13

## MODULE 3: NOW WHAT?

Who are you working with to repatriate residents?

Are the patients/residents prepared to return?

Have the facilities been inspected and are they able to accept patients/residents?

Do the residents and their families want/have to return?

Is the patient/resident information updated in the patient tracking database?

Who is transporting the patients/residents?

The patients/residents are transferred. What next?

NORTH  
**Dakota** | Health & Human Services  
Be legendary.

14

