



IS-120.a Introduction to Exercises replaces *IS-139 Exercise Design* in the Professional Development Series

Course Information:

This bulletin will be of interest to all who are working toward the Professional Development Series (PDS) Certificate of Completion.

As of March 1, 2012, one of the current PDS courses, IS-139 Exercise Design, will be removed from the PDS series and replaced with IS-120.a Introduction to Exercises.

IS-120.a introduces the basics of emergency management exercises. It also builds a foundation for subsequent exercise courses, which provide the specifics of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and the National Standard Exercise Curriculum (NSEC). The course includes information on managing an exercise program; conducting and evaluating an exercise; and developing and implementing an improvement plan. Anyone wishing to complete IS-139 for PDS credit must do so by February 29, 2012. In the interim between the issuance date of this bulletin and February 29, completion of either IS-120.a or IS-139 will be accepted toward the PDS Certificate. After February 29, only IS-120.a Introduction to Exercises will be accepted toward a PDS Certificate. IS-139 Exercise Design course will remain active on the EMI Independent Study web site but not for PDS credit.

Course Length:

5 hours.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs):

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) awards 0.5 CEUs for successful completion of this course.

Audience:

The target audience includes: Federal, State, local and tribal emergency managers; first responders to include incident commanders from all disciplines, and private industry, and voluntary agency personnel responsible for coordinating activities during a disaster or for planning an exercise.

Course Objectives:

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the five phases of the exercise process.
- Distinguish the tasks necessary to complete each phase of the exercise process.
- Understand how exercises complete the emergency preparedness cycle.
- Comprehend the role of exercises in testing facilities, equipment, and personnel in a performance-based environment.
- Recognize how exercises prepare communities to respond to and recover from major emergencies.

Course Completion:

This course is available at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>. When you have completed the course, you may take the online test, fill out the student information and submit the test for scoring. EMI's Independent Study office will notify you via email of your successful completion of the course and a link will be included in the email for you to access and print your course certificate.

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Questions:

For questions about administration, you may contact the Independent Study Program Office at Independent.Study@fema.dhs.gov or 301 447-1200.

For questions about course content, please contact the course manager, Paul Ganem at (301) 447-1172 or by email at Paul.Ganem@fema.dhs.gov.

For PDS questions, please contact PDS course manager, Linda Choha, at (301) 447-1616 or at linda.choha@fema.dhs.gov.



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