

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER • EMMITSBURG, MD 21727



FEMA

Course: V-0033B - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Public Health, Chemical

Exercise Date & Location:

January 26, 27, 28, 2016, Virtual Exercise – Multiple Locations

(Note: Three separate offerings to accommodate as many site applicants as possible)

Exercise Length: 4 Hours. Start time is 12:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and end time is 4:00 P.M. EST.

Exercise Description:

This Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) will utilize a chlorine release scenario with three modules, focusing on initial response and recognition, advanced response, and recovery. Some of the specific public health details discussed will be determining protective zone and protective actions, personal protective equipment, hospital triage, latent effects, decontamination issues pertaining to patients, environmental concerns (water contamination and topography), and re-entry. The VTTX involves key personnel from across the whole community discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures related to a public health incident.

This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology** (this is not a web-based computer program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI and CDC, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise.

Exercise Goal:

This virtual exercise will enable the participants to exercise their knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to effectively conduct all-hazards emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Overall goals include:

- 1.) Prepare participants for a public health incident affecting their community.
- 2.) Enable participants to better coordinate their response operations with counterparts from local governments, other state governments, Federal agencies, tribal government, military, private sector organizations, non-governmental agencies and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.
- 3.) Provide a virtual, experiential education environment to exercise and enhance critical response and recovery tasks.

This delivery method will allow participating communities to share real-time chemical incident-related preparation, response, and recovery concerns and solutions with all participants.

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Target Audience:

The VTTX program is designed for a “community-based” group (not individual participation) of at least 7 or more personnel from various organizations with representation across the Incident Management System and its functions, to include Emergency Management and Public Health, public safety, public works, health care, government, tribal, administrative, communications, military, private sector, non-governmental, critical stress professionals, agricultural security, supply chain management and other whole community partners involved in a chemical incident response and recovery.

Exercise Design

This VTTX is designed to engage the participants in a no fault, hazard-specific exercise discussion. The lead facilitation will occur via VTC from the EMI campus and CDC-Atlanta, and will be complimented by a dedicated local agency facilitator at each VTC site.

The VTTX will be supported by an Exercise and Coordination Facilitation Guide, which will include all required logistical information (room layout, connection instructions, etc.), as well as facilitation and hot wash instructions.

The VTTX will consist of:

- A hazard awareness briefing on the scenario hazard.
- Three discussion modules presented by the CDC facilitator.
- Local discussion with guided questions facilitated by an on-site facilitator.
- Brief-outs from each participating location after each module.

Participation Requirements:

Participants must have an appropriate site equipped with Video Teleconference capability that can access the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) VTC site (connection information will be provided by EMI). Participating locations will be responsible for local exercise logistics, and should designate an exercise coordinator to implement the logistical requirements for the exercise. In addition, the location must provide a person capable of facilitating the on-site portion of exercise. Electronic copies of the related exercise materials (Situation Manual) will be provided in advance by EMI.

To Apply:

Locations interested in participating in the VTTX series should submit an email request to participate in the exercise to Doug Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov, phone (301) 447-7645, with preferred date of participation. Your email is your program application. When applying, please provide a central point of contact from your organization to work all VTTX issues. Each location will receive a notice from EMI and will be provided with relevant logistical information and exercise materials to set up and facilitate the exercise locally. With your request cc in your email: the Integrated Emergency Management Branch office at fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-1381.

VTTX Program Information:

For a complete listing of all the FY16 VTTX dates and scenarios please check our homepage at: <http://www.training.fema.gov/Programs/emiVTTX.aspx>.

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