


 **Monroe County**
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Civil Preparedness Initiative







CommEx Communication Drills


 **Based upon the After Action**
Briefing


CIVIL PREPAREDNESS
COMMUNICATION DRILLS
CONDUCTED
On
JULY 15, 2010
FEBRUARY 23 & JULY 15, 2011



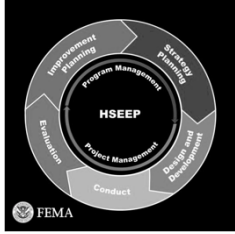
 **Agenda**


- HSEEP/Strategy Review
- Exercise Summary
- Strengths
- Areas of Improvement
- After Action Report (AAR) Review
- Improvement Plan (IP) Development



CPI 


HSEEP: Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program



CPI 



HSEEP Review

- Exercises are a valuable tool for assessing and improving performance, while demonstrating community resolve to prepare for major incidents.
- Helps entities obtain *objective* assessments of their capabilities so that gaps, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities are identified and remedied prior to a real incident.
- Intent of HSEEP is to provide common exercise policy and program guidance capable of constituting a national standard for all exercises.

CPI 



Today's Goal

- Understand exercise concept and process
 - Review relevant strategies/goals/objectives
 - Discuss design objectives
 - Discuss exercise structure and participation
 - Discuss evaluation and improvement planning

Identifying the Need

- Support National and State Goals/Strategies
- Redundant Communication
- Volunteers and County Working Together
- Practical Application of SOPs (Drill is the same for many scenarios-communications resources are deployed using established SOPs)
- Training and documentation for HS Justification

State Strategies Supported:



Support Health Emergency Preparedness by readying the State for a potential pandemic and enhancing the medical community's ability to distribute medical countermeasures on a large scale in any public health emergency and to surge resources in order to manage large numbers of sick or injured during any incident.

Objective 9.1 | Enhance community, regional and national cross-disciplinary planning efforts to prepare for and respond to a health emergency

Objective 9.2 | Support health emergency preparedness training and exercises to align community, regional, State and national preparedness and response activities

Objective 9.7 | Support a statewide capability to distribute and dispense medical countermeasures to include federal, regional, and local capacities

"NYS Homeland Security Strategy 2009"

State Strategies Supported:

Strengthen Communications and Emergency Alerting Capabilities by ensuring that our first responders can effectively communicate with each other and provide alerts and warnings to the public during a major incident in order to protect lives and property.

Objective 6.7 | Acquire and deploy P-25 compliant technology that enable seamless communications across all public safety frequency bands, while ensuring that existing legacy systems remain viable and operable

Objective 6.12 | Conduct multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary HSEEP-compliant exercises to test the vitality of communications plans, SOPs, and systems in New York State

"NYS Homeland Security Strategy 2009"



Exercise Summary

- CPI CommEx was a one day exercise (drill)
 - X 3, 7/10, 2/11 & 7/11
- The purpose of the exercise was to test and verify the existing POD radio communication infrastructure between local, regional, and state partners in support of RSS operations – using existing SOPs





Target Capability “Communications”

- Agencies must be operable, meaning they possess sufficient wireless communications capabilities to meet their daily internal and emergency communication requirements before they focus on interoperability.
- Ability of public safety agencies and service agencies to talk within and across agencies and jurisdictions using various communications systems to exchange voice, data, and/or video with one another on demand or in real time..





Planning/Participation

- **Participants – RACES Volunteers**
 - Players: 34
 - Evaluators: 2
 - Controllers: 2
- **Monroe County**
 - Public Health – Office of Public Health Preparedness
 - Public Safety
 - Office of Emergency Management
 - Public Safety Communications
- **New York State**
 - Department of Health



Planning/Participation

- Multiple sites:
 - Strong Memorial Hospital
 - Department of Environmental Services
 - Municipal POD Sites
 - West Irondequoit High School
 - Webster Thomas High School
 - Spencerport High School
 - Pittsford Mendon High School
 - Penfield Senior High School
 - East Ridge High School
 - Churchville-Chili Senior High School



Objectives

- **In response to notification of an incident, provide and receive interoperable voice, data, and video communications**
- **Test existing radio communication infrastructure in support of RSS operations – including local, regional, and state partners.**
- **Initiate incident-specific demobilization procedures for the interoperable communications system.**



Scenario Overview

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Warning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pandemic in progress •Assumption is EOC activated at some level •RACES Activated 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Notification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assumption is RACES Lead has been notified to report •RACES Lead has Notified team to be on standby •PODS are established
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •RACES Lead reports to EOC •RACES / Health coordination •Resource needs ID and Prep •Resource Allocation (Radios and Personnel) 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Demobilization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Resources notified •RTB •Resource Accountability •Debrief



Exercise Timeline

- 9:00:00 AM StartEx
- 9:15:00 AM Public health liaison delivers site information to RACES including report time, location, and contact numbers
- 9:30:00 AM RACES Team arrives EOC
- 9:45:00 AM Mission Briefing
- 10:15:00 AM Equipment sign out and site assignment
- 11:00:00 AM Resources deployed

Exercise Timeline

- 12:00:00 PM RACES personnel arrive at respective PODS and report in. EOC is notified
- 12:30:00 PM RACES team members setup equipment and perform radio check
- 2:00:00 PM Resources demobilize and transport back to EOC
- 3:00:00 PM All RACES team members report in to EOC NLT 1500
- 3:15:00 PM Hotwash
- 4:00:00 PM EndEx

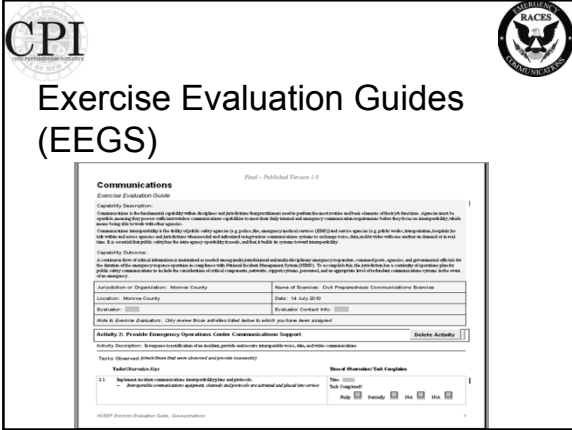
Exercise Evaluation

Objective

- Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs)

Subjective

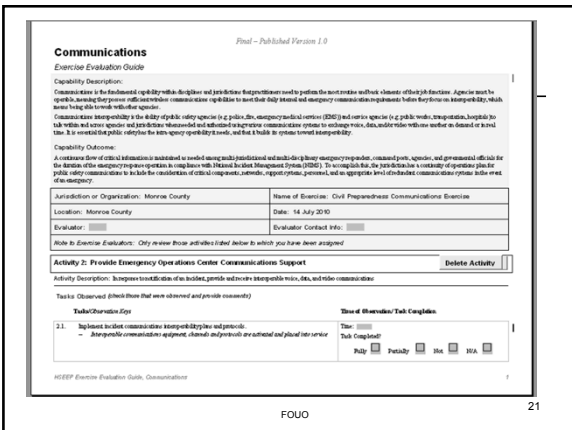
- Self-Evaluation onsite
- Includes site
- Feedback Forms



Key Strengths

- Verified backup, redundant communication connectivity between the RSS, EOC, MCDPH, NYSDOH, one major hospital and nine PODs.
- Operators possessed a high degree of experience which overcame equipment issues.

FOUO 20



Key Strengths

- Promoted interdepartmental coordination within the county (Public Safety, Health)
- Engaged local volunteers in activities that support Monroe County preparedness activities.

FOUO

22

Key Areas for Improvement

- Communications were hampered by equipment issues.
 - Training
 - Communications
 - Equipment
- Further exercises for remaining POD sites
 - 36 POD sites were eventually tested

FOUO

23

Analysis of Capabilities

Activity (ComC4):

Provide Incident Command/First Responder/First Receiver/Interoperable Communications:

In response to notification of an incident, go to the scene to provide and receive interoperable voice data and video communications

FOUO

24

Analysis of Capabilities

Observation:

Strengths:

Voice, data and video were successfully transmitted between participants.
Accountability and tracking of resources were maintained throughout the exercise.

FOUO

25

Analysis of Capabilities

Activity (ComC7):

Return to Normal Operations:

Initiate deactivation procedures for the interoperable communications system and return the system to a ready state.

FOUO

26

Analysis of Capabilities


Observation:

Strength:

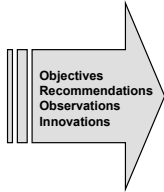
All systems and resources were deactivated, accounted for, and returned to ready state.

FOUO

27

CPI **After-Action Report/Improvement Plan** 

After-Action Report/Improvement Plan




- **Distribution**
 - Participating Agencies
 - Others?
- **Purpose**
 - Proper Documentation
 - Provide feedback
 - Pass on lessons learned

Wrap-up

- Next steps
 - Complete exercises with remaining PODS
 - Obtain required equipment/training
 - Utilize standard forms and Emergency Communication procedures

FOUO 29

Questions?



FOUO 30

Contact Information

- Ralph W. Dutcher
 - Office of Public Health Preparedness
 - 111 Westfall Road, Rochester NY 14620
 - Office 585 753-5453
 - rdutcher@monroecounty.gov



FOUO

31
