



Department  
of Health

# Why are we here

Safety Committee charged with  
developing a Hazardous Weather  
Response Document.

# Threat/Hazard: Winter Storm

Scenario: Blizzard

## Exercise Conduct Brief

09/17/24



# Exercise Rules

- 1.This is a facilitated tabletop exercise.
- 2.Players will respond to the given scenario.
- 3.In any exercise, a number of assumptions and "made up stuff" may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted.
- 4.This is meant to be a plausible scenario with events occurring as presented.
- 5.There are no hidden agendas or trick questions.
- 6.Don't beat up the scenario.

# Purpose of Tabletops

To apply and test organizational policies and procedures in order to determine opportunities for improvement or enhancement of the plans.

# Why Are We Here?

This exercise gives participants the opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans and responsibilities, should the need arise to respond to an incident.

This exercise will focus on internal and external communication, critical decisions and the coordination of assets necessary to save lives and protect your community.

# Objectives

1. Efficient and effective internal and external
2. communication –  
knowing who is responsible for what and able to  
get it done quickly
3. Incident Command system is in place and is an  
effective decision-making and communication tool
4. The decision to alter or suspend EMS  
Responses

# Exercise Overview

# Overview

## **Exercise Purpose:**

- The purpose of this exercise is to examine critical issues and capabilities related to response from a major weather event.

## **Exercise Scope:**

- This 0.5 -hour tabletop exercise (TTX) will be one Module:
- Module 1: Response

## **Mission Areas:**

- Response



# Focus Capabilities

1. Communication across the organization
2. Utilization of the Incident Command System
3. Business Continuity
  - Protection of staff,
  - When do you limit / modify your responses.
  - Have you established an acceptable risk level

# Questions to keep in mind...

1. Who?
2. What?
3. When?
4. How do you know?/Where is it documented?

# Questions to consider

- What decisions need to be made?
- How do you know?
- Who is responsible for what?

# Module 1: Scenario Overview

## Response (D-Hour to D+4 Hours)

- **New York State** is placed under a winter storm watch with snow fall totals predicted to be 4-6 inches. Residents believe this is just another “over hyped” storm.
- Storm rapidly intensifies and by 4 pm 12” blowing and drifting snow has made travel difficult if not impossible. Significant blowing and drifting is expected.
- County officials are receiving calls of numerous stranded vehicles and are beginning to close roads.



# Module 1: Discussion Questions

## Situational Assessment

1. Based on this news what are the planning considerations?
2. What is your Notification protocol based on these reports
3. What are your immediate concerns? Long range concerns.?
4. What are you telling your response partners
5. What actions are you considering based on the roles and responsibilities defined in your incident response plan.

# Scenario Overview

## Initial Recovery (D+37 Hours)

- Snowfall ends with final totals of 19 inches. Drifts are reported across the county in excess of 10 feet. Blowing snow continues to create drifting concerns.
- Plow crews are reporting difficulty opening roadways due to the number of stuck vehicles. Some of the vehicles were abandoned, many are occupied with individuals who were stranded overnight. Road closures are expected to last for several days.
- Most areas of the county are completely inaccessible to fire, EMS and police.
- Elderly and individuals with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) are calling 911 asking for assistance with needed prescriptions and medical supplies.



# Module 1: Discussion Questions

## Situational Assessment

1. What are you telling your stake holders
2. What are your immediate priorities
3. Have you activated your EOC

# Hotwash



# Hotwash Overview

- The hotwash aims to capture the following information for each of the exercise objectives:
  - 1.Strengths observed throughout the exercise (e.g., what worked well)
  - 2.Challenges and/or areas for improvement observed throughout the exercise
  - 3.Major takeaways and key action items to include who is responsible for those action items

# Now What?

- What did you learn?
- What went well?
- Opportunities for improvement?
- Define and prioritize next steps (after-action report)