

# Section 9: Emergency Plan Exercise

EPCRA §11003(c)(9) reads:

*Methods and schedules for exercising the emergency plan.*

## Introduction

The purpose of this section is to describe how and when the LEPC will exercise the emergency plan. The exercise assists in the development and coordination of emergency preparedness. The exercise is designed to evaluate emergency operation plans, procedures or facilities; train personnel in emergency management duties; and demonstrate operational capability.

## Objectives and Goals

*Plan - Practice - Learning - Replan*

The goal of the exercise is to provide an atmosphere where emergency response agencies work together. Local jurisdictions will implement the plan by involving many parts of an integrated emergency management system.

The exercise is intended to create a realistic situation. The response will be evaluated based on strategic measures taken during the exercise. The lessons learned will identify areas where planning can be improved.

The LEPC will prepare a tabletop exercise. The LEPC intends to exercise this plan annually. As the plan improves, the LEPC intends to rewrite this section and eventually hold Functional and Full Scale exercises.

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the emergency plan exercise is to improve emergency operations including the following:

1. Communications
2. Hazardous Materials monitoring
3. Fire-fighting and HazMat tactics
4. Response Mitigation
5. Evacuation warning and shelter management

by involving stakeholders from the following organizations:

1. Emergency Management
2. Fire Department
3. Police Department
4. Emergency Medical Service
5. Hospital
6. Local Businesses
7. Community Groups
8. Public Works
9. Health Department

## **Example Exercise**

We have included the following as an example of a tabletop exercise we intend to perform. The exercise will be conducted by a "Facilitator" who will reveal the scenario to the invited participants. Maps, models, and other materials will be made available to accurately portray site conditions.

Each participant will evaluate the following scenario, and develop an effective strategy for managing the scene. Participants will analyze the material and messages as they are revealed and decide on a response. At least one "Evaluator" will record and evaluate the actions taken.

## **Sample Scenario**

### **Narrative**

The date is January 11. 911 Dispatch has received a call about a train derailment involving a rail tank car carrying 20,000 gal. of nitric acid. The derailment occurred on the west side of DeKalb City, close to the overpass at Annie Glidden Rd. The time of the accident is coincidental with a massive egress of students from NIU, headed to I-88. It is not known initially whether there is a leak from the tank car.

The National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning for heavy snow starting at 2000. Winds are expected to blow from the northeast at that time.

### **DeKalb, IL HazMat Incident Report**

#### **Accident Information**

Date: Friday, January 11th, 20xx  
Time: 1700 hr  
Location: Santa Fe/NorthWestern RR overpass at Annie Glidden Rd.  
Vehicle: none  
Building Surroundings: single/two story, apartment buildings  
Quantity: 20,000 gal rail tank car

## Atmospheric Information

Wind Speed: 4 mph  
Ground Roughness: Open country  
Cloud Cover: Partly cloudy, possible snow

## Chemical Information

Chemical Name: NITRIC ACID, [> 40%]  
Molecular Weight: 63.01 kg/kmol  
IDLH: 25 ppm  
Boiling Point: 181.40° F  
Freezing Point: -42.88° F  
CAS#: 7697-37-2  
CORROSIVE, OXIDIZER, POISON

### Chemical Profile

A pale yellow to reddish brown liquid generating red-brown fumes and having a suffocating odor. Very toxic by inhalation. Corrosive to metals or tissue. Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or short term exposure to high concentrations may result in adverse health effects.  
Density 12 lb / gal (© AAR, 1999).

## Major Events Sequence

1. Deploy emergency agencies
2. Establish command post and set-up hot zone parameters
3. Establish traffic control
4. Notify railroad company
5. Identify chemical
6. Analyze and deploy fire-fighting tactics/ strategies
7. Establish possible LOC plume
8. Evacuate and transport citizens to a safe haven
9. Provide medical attention to the injured
10. Begin the clean up process

## Sample Messages from Evaluator to:

1. **Fire Department: Rail Tanker derailed**
2. **Fire Department: Cautionary evacuation recommended, define safe zone.**
3. **Fire Department: Tanker is leaking**
4. **Railroad: Derailed train, stop train traffic**
5. **Police: Need traffic control at affected streets, detours. Observe leaked chemical plume area in traffic area.**
6. **Media: Derail, leak, blocked traffic, evacuated area to go to \_\_\_\_\_ shelter.**

7. **Local Businesses: Evacuate apartment at 1100 W. Lincoln, clear businesses to safe zone.**
8. **Local Residents: Pets/mobility challenged elderly in residences.**
9. **Emergency Management: Define ESDA responsibility/LEPC presence. Assure contact to emergency assistance agencies (Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.)**
10. **EMS: 35 residents/individuals affected by fumes.**
11. **Hospital: Triage affected? Transport?**
12. **Emergency Assistance Agencies: Need shelter for 100+ for overnight, food.**

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