

Activity 9.1 Scenario

Noon – local time

- The Central City Fire Department responded to an explosion and fire at the South Coast Recycling Yard, 2200 T. Street, Central City
- A compressed natural gas truck exploded, injuring the driver and nearby workers
- A large storage building on the same block as the recycling yard is on fire
- Gusty winds are forecast to begin by 1 p.m.
- Local police have closed surrounding roads to make room for fire apparatus

12:45 p.m.

- South Coast staff are trying to move 4 more natural gas trucks parked near the fire
- Central City Utilities is pre-emptively de-energizing nearby power lines
- Central City Transit has paused the light rail near the facility and is rerouting buses
- Heavy smoke is blowing to the northeast
- Fire department Incident command issues a shelter-in-place order for people within a four-block radius of the facility.
- Central City EOC is activated – The Central City Joint Information Center is activated.

1:00 p. m.

- NWS Central City is calling for wind gusts of 40 mph from the west to east for the next 3 hours
- Central City Air Quality and Environmental Monitoring are on scene, assessing potential environmental impact or runoff to Columbia Creek
- Additional fire and hazardous materials response teams have arrived on scene
- The Central City mayor has declared a state of emergency

1:15 p.m.

- The manager of the storage facility has notified the EOC that materials inside the facility produce toxic gas when heated or burned. The sprinkler system inside the warehouse has failed. Some warehouse workers are unaccounted for.
- The Incident Commander has ordered an evacuation of all facilities within 8 blocks of the facility.

1:30 p. m.

- The EOC receives a phone call from campus police at Columbia State University. Students outside on campus are reporting breathing problems due to heavy smoke in the area. Some students have collapsed on the grounds. Campus police have declared a mass casualty event and are asking for transport and medical services.
- A social media post to the Central City Government account states that it represents the Friends of Nature Activist Group and claims responsibility for setting off the explosion. The post says more explosions will follow unless the mayor proclaims a moratorium on data center construction in Central City and agrees to return the data center construction area to its original, natural state.

Questions to answer:

At Noon- Group One

Who is the lead agency for this incident?
Which agency PIOs are involved in the incident?
What messages are they prioritizing?

At 12:45 p.m. – Group Two

Who are the new PIOs involved in this incident?
Who is the lead agency?
What messages are the PIOs prioritizing now?
What are the communication challenges with additional PIOs?

At 1 p.m. – Group Three

Who are the new PIOs involved in this incident?
Is the lead agency the same? Different?
What messages are PIOs prioritizing now?
What are the strategic communications needs?

At 1:15 p.m. – Group Four

Who are the new PIOs involved in this incident?
Is the lead agency the same? Different?
What messages are PIOs prioritizing now?
What are the strategic communications needs?

At 1:30 p.m. – Group Five

Who are the new PIOs involved in this incident?
What's the organization for the Joint Information Center?
Is the lead agency the same? Different?
What messages are PIOs prioritizing now?
How do you handle media inquiries, especially those from those who have read the social media post.