

Exercise Overview

The Eastern Health Preparedness Coalition and Southeastern Healthcare Preparedness Region are sponsoring an upcoming tabletop exercise to improve healthcare response capabilities across both regions. The goal of the exercise is to address any identified gaps, incorporate the continuing care community, and continue to move both regions toward the end goal of a full-scale regional healthcare facility evacuation exercise. The tabletop exercise will be conducted on April 29, 2021 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This will be a combination virtual and in-person exercise. Organizations that wish to participate will assemble in a single location as a group at your facility and will be provided login information for the exercise.

The planning team is seeking your input to determine extent of play and level of participation of coalition partners. Since this will be a discussion-based exercise focusing on policies, plans, and procedures, participants should be those familiar with organizational and regional response guidance. Participants should also be those who would be involved in the decision-making process during an emergency incident and have the knowledge and authority to speak for their organization.

Core Capabilities and Objectives

The following objectives have been identified for the exercise and should be used to determine your participation and the personnel that attend.

Health Care and Medical Response Coordination, Capability 2

- Identify the established lines of communication and facility points of contact used by healthcare stakeholders for emergency notifications and information sharing.
- Identify the information sharing process for ancillary healthcare providers (e.g., dialysis, home healthcare, assisted living, etc.), emergency management agencies, and regional emergency coordination points, prior to and during an emergency incident.

Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery, Capability 3

- Describe the decision-making triggers used by healthcare stakeholders for executing the safe evacuation or shelter-in-place of healthcare facilities during an emergency incident.
- Identify the prioritization process for emergency evacuation of patients when transportation resources are limited.
- Describe the resource needs for executing a full facility evacuation during an emergency incident.

120 to Landfall: 2.0 Tabletop Exercise

Exercise Scenario

The exercise scenario will focus on a Category 4 hurricane making landfall near Topsail Beach, North Carolina. The hurricane will decrease in forward movement and remain strong as it moves inland. Coastal storm surge is expected to be 15–20 feet above ground level. This projection prompts the activation of the *Coastal Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan*. The impact from the storm is predicted to be widespread on eastern North Carolina’s healthcare and critical infrastructure.

Participant Feedback

Organization: _____

Point of Contact: _____

Email: _____

Is your organization interested in participating in the tabletop exercise? Yes No

How many staff members from your organization would you like to have participate in the exercise? _____

Are there any additional items related to the exercise objectives that you feel would be beneficial to include in the discussion?

Are there any scenario details or ground truth regarding your facility, organization, or region that should be included to aid in the discussion and decision-making process (i.e. impacts to critical infrastructure in your area, resource limitations, etc.)?