

## Exercise Design Objectives

**Note:** *The following are sample exercise design objectives for a discussion-based exercise. Planning team members should limit the number of objectives to **four** or **five**. These samples may be combined or modified and is not an all-inclusive list. The selected objectives should be based on the scope and type (i.e., seminar, workshop, tabletop) of exercise, as well as the scenario and/or subject. For example a tabletop exercise with a scenario involving a biological agent should include objectives that are particularly focused on medical and public health issues.*

### ***Inter-Agency Planning and Coordination***

1. **Community Response Plans.** Assess the adequacy of local, community-wide and agency-specific plans to respond to a terrorist incident. Identify shortfalls in resources, limits in capabilities, and conflicts in planning.
2. **Local Decision-Making Process.** Exercise the local decision-making process and identify areas needing refinements. Identify key actions to be taken and by whom.
3. **Private/Public Sector Interface.** Examine interactions between public and private sectors during the threat or actual occurrence of a terrorist event.
4. **Interfacing With Local/State/Federal Agencies.** Examine the interface and understanding among local/State/Federal agencies in the conduct of incident management activities.
5. **Awareness of Federal Plans.** Expand the local response community's understanding of Federal directives and plans, (e.g., National Incident Management System, NRP) and Federal agencies' roles in responding to a terrorist threat.

### ***Resource Coordination***

1. **Awareness of Federal/State Capabilities.** Broaden the understanding of local authorities and responders to the capabilities available from State and Federal agencies in responding to a terrorist event.
2. **Local Resource Coordination.** Determine strengths and weaknesses in the local coordination and integration of response resources. Identify critical issues and potential solutions.
3. **Mutual-Aid Agreements.** Review inter-jurisdictional mutual support compacts or agreements (between adjacent communities, inter-State, and nationwide).
4. **Implementation of External Assets.** Examine factors involved in the request, receipt, employment, and integration of external response assets by local Incident Command System protocols. Identify interoperability shortcomings, including potential time delays, that will impede the rapid assimilation of external resources. Propose potential long-term solutions and short-term workarounds.
5. **Deployment of External Resources.** Develop an understanding of deployment considerations for external resources, potential time delays in receipt of external support, and the inherent effects at the local level. Assess the local capability of distributing and administering medicines and other treatment to victims.

***Threat/Hazard-related Issues***

1. **Threat Preparation.** Examine various threats posed by a terrorist incident and the implications to the local medical and response communities (i.e., attack detection, mass casualties, and patient tracking).
2. **Criminal Investigations.** Discuss ways to integrate the response efforts with the need to investigate the nature and cause of a terrorist-initiated incident including security, evidence collection, and interview procedures and protocols. Examine requirements for the protection of a crime scene and evidence collection in a contaminated environment.
3. **Detection.** Assess the capability of local response personnel to detect, identify, monitor, and respond to the effects of a CBRNE agent.

***Medical/Public Health***

1. **Medical Capabilities.** Determine major shortcomings in local medical capabilities to identify and treat casualties terrorist event. Identify means to obtain resources and assess the impact of delays in their receipt.
2. **Disposition of Remains.** Discuss factors that would affect the handling of substantial numbers of contaminated remains.
3. **Remediation and Reconstitution.** Assess the local response community's ability to contain agent contamination including decontamination and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Identify available methods of decontamination for structures, response equipment, healthcare facilities, and personnel, as well as reconstitution of equipment and supplies.
4. **Affected Area Access/Quarantine.** Review plans for area access control and quarantine issues.
5. **Medical Monitoring/Surveillance.** Review the local medical, emergency medical transport, and public health department capabilities to recognize, identify, monitor, and respond to an terrorist incident.

***Public Information/Media***

1. **Public Information.** Discuss options to provide timely information to the population and assist in minimizing chaos. Review plans to preclude dissemination of conflicting data.
2. **Media Control.** Assess the adequacy of local plans for interface with and use of media resources. Discuss how media will be coordinated when State and Federal agencies are involved.