

7. TRAINING AND EXERCISES

7.1 Training and Exercises

Training and exercises are essential to assure the readiness of emergency personnel and will provide OA personnel with an opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the OAERP.

Personnel involved in emergency response and management functions outlined in the OAERP will be provided ongoing training to meet Federal, State, and local requirements and recommendations. Key management and emergency personnel will receive additional specialized training necessary to enhance their skills and knowledge base.

The OAAB **Emergency Exercise Steering Committee (EESC)** provides strategic OA guidance on exercise and planning efforts. The EESC serves as the exercise planning team for the OA. The EESC has the following responsibilities:

- Support the implementation of OA exercises as needed
- Develop a comprehensive multi-year OA Training and Exercise Program (TEP)
- Improve relationships, preparedness, and coordination across agencies, jurisdictions, and the private sector through coordinated training and OA exercises

Each agency/jurisdiction is responsible for developing and providing training and exercises for its plans, policies and procedures.

Exercises should be conducted on a regular basis to maintain readiness. Exercises provide personnel with an opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the procedures, facilities and systems which will be used in emergency situations. There are several forms of exercises:

- Seminars/Workshops are low-stress, informal discussions in a group setting with little or no simulation. It is used to provide information and introduce people to policies, plans and procedures
- Tabletop exercises, which provide a convenient and low-cost means to evaluate policies, plans and procedures and resolve coordination and responsibility issues;
- Functional exercises, designed to test and evaluate the capability of an individual function such as evacuation, communications or public information; and
- Full-scale exercises, which simulate an actual emergency, typically involve emergency management staff, and are designed to evaluate the operational capability of the emergency management system.

OEM is responsible for developing and coordinating all CEOC/OAEOC staff training and exercises. OEM will also coordinate an annual exercise in coordination with agencies/jurisdictions.