

TOWN OF HAMDEN, CT

**EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
PLANNING
EXERCISE**



September 22, 2009

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PROJECT SOURCE

- The project was funded through the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) under the federal Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEPG) program and,
 - State of CT Department of Environmental Protection
 - State of CT Commission on Fire Prevention and Control

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PROJECT PLANNERS

- William Seward, III, CT Fire Academy
- Raymond Crowley, Retired NHPD ESU
- Hamden Fire Department
- Hamden Police Department

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//// PURPOSE

- The purpose of this project was to fulfill an essential emergency planning requirement under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know law and regulation.
- Promote efficiency for the response to sudden and unexpected releases of hazardous substances within the community.

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//// OBJECTIVE & GOALS

- The objective was to conduct a Tabletop Exercise on the Town of Hamden's Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
- Provide insight to improve emergency preparedness planning and response.
- Exercise Hamden's ERP through the activation of local policies and procedures in compliance with SARA Title III.

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//// SCOPE

- The Tabletop Exercise (TTX) focused on the actions demonstrated by officials in response to a sudden and unexpected release of a hazardous material.
- Emphasis was placed on coordination and integration of capabilities, problem recognition; mitigation and a safe resolution will be a priority.
- Clear, concise decision making and communications between internal and external organizations was evaluated.

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DESIGN FORMAT

- U. S. Department of Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
 - Performance-based
 - Reviews self-sustaining capabilities
 - Opportunity to share and review procedures
 - TTX, Hotwash and After Action Report

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EXERCISE FOCUS

- Implementing procedures to provide for a coordinated effort in response to a hazardous material release.
- Examine the roles and responsibilities expected from agencies and disciplines.
- Identify response organizations, equipment and other resources that may be deployed for such an event.
- Recommend mechanisms for consideration in planning an integrated response.

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REFERENCES

- Town of Hamden Emergency Response Plan
- Federal Contingency Plans
- CT DEMHS Guidance Documents
- USDOT and USEPA Regulations
- USDOT-ERG, NIOSH Pocket Guide, CAMEO, WISER, MSDS forms

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HAMDEN TTX GUIDELINES

- Town of Hamden Hazmat Emergency Planning Workshop was a facilitated, multimedia exercise developed into two modules:

Module 1 – PREPARATION

Module 2 – RESPONSE

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TTX SCHEDULE

0800 – 0830 Welcome and Opening Comments

0830 – 0930 Module 1: **PREPARATION**

0950 – 1200 Module 2: **RESPONSE**

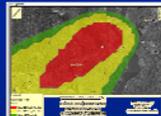
1200 – 1300 TTX Hot Wash & Comments

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EXERCISE FORMAT



Sequence of Events



Situation Update



Facilitated Discussion



Caucus Period

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EXERCISE RULES

- All Agencies/Departments are operating under current conditions.
- The TTX is a safe, open, and stress-free environment.
- Respond based on knowledge of current plans and capabilities.
- Limitations are based around your organizations' positions, policies, procedures and assets.
- Decisions are not precedent setting; constant evaluation of actions are necessary.
- Assume cooperation and support from State and Federal agencies.
- Situation updates, written material, and resources serve as the basis for discussion.

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ASSUMPTIONS & ARTIFICIALITIES

- The scenario is plausible and events occur as they are presented.
- There are no hidden agendas or trick questions
 - "Think outside of the Box"
- All players receive information at the same time.
- Officials should assume that while they are concentrating on the local response, State and Federal agencies may be initiating their own plans, procedures, and protocols to deal with the effects of the incident.

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MEDIA RELATIONS

- The media is a resource in any emergency response.
- Each functional group will be addressing media concerns and questions.
- The exercise will culminate with a press conference in which your specific actions will be discussed

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Departments/Agencies must utilize their City's Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) as an instrument for determining roles and responsibilities.
- FEMA forms and documents are available as reference material.
- Printed hazmat resources are available upon request.
- An Incident Action Plan will be developed for a second operational period.

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Module 1

PREPARATION

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TTX INFORMATION

- Day: Saturday
- Date: January 30, 2010
- Time: 2:00 pm
- Weather:
 - Temp: 38°F,
 - Wind: W@ 8 mph
 - Sky Clear



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TTX INFORMATION – con't

- Event: High School Hockey Game - Hamden High vs Notre Dame (WH)
- Attendees: Seating capacity of 1000 is reached, others standing along walkways.
- Hamden High School auditorium is the host site for a winter concert composed of cooperative high school performing arts students
- It is anticipated that nearly 400 people will attend this first time event, commencing at 4:00pm.

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WHAT PREPARATION DOES THE TOWN OF HAMDEN MAKE FOR THESE TYPES OF EVENTS?

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RESOURCES

- What is the daily staffing for:
 - Hamden FD
 - Hamden PD
 - American Medical Response
- Do agencies up staff during known community events?
- What types of communications systems are available to contact personnel?
- What type of equipment is available?

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PREPLANNING

- What type of facility preplanning is provided for each discipline?
- How do you prepare for potential emergencies during public events?
- Do agencies work in a collaborative manner to plan events?
 - Who is involved?
 - On scene authority?
 - Written plans?

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CAUCUS



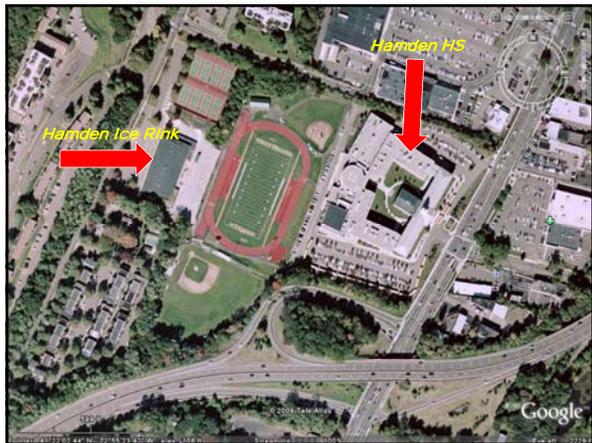
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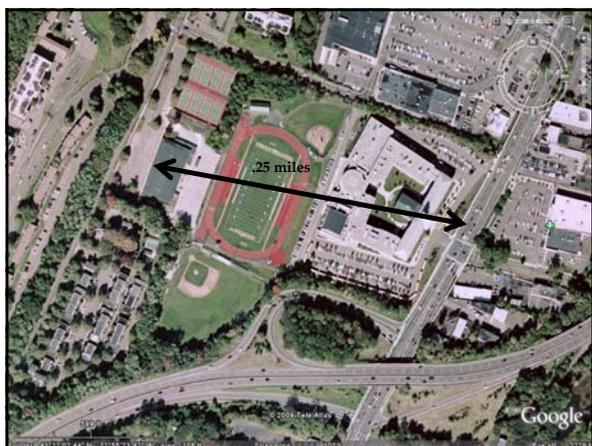


FACILITATED DISCUSSION

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SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- At 2:30pm a spectator tells a rink staffer they smell an strange order at the southwest end of the rink and it is irritating their nose and eyes.
- At 2:40pm a group of attendees begin coughing and complaining of burning eyes.
- Within minutes about 30 people are experiencing shortness of breath.

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SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- At 2:41pm 911 receives the first report of the incident; this is followed up by many cell phone calls.
- On-duty public safety personnel begin to get more complaints and see many people becoming ill; they call Central Communications and request assistance.



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Module 2

RESPONSE

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SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- Fire & Police units arrive and perform a size up.
- Based upon initial reports and signs and symptoms exhibited by victims, personnel consider that foreign substance has been released in the atmosphere.
- A hazmat and mass casualty response is requested.
- Central Communications begins notifications.

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SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- The rink operator reports to officials there has been problems with the equipment monitoring system this week and are awaiting repair.



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SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- The Zamboni operator tells responders that he's noticed a slight odor of ammonia near the back door.
- The ammonia monitoring system has not alarmed



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THOUGHTS TO FOSTER

- A command structure is assembled, what action will be taken at this time?
- Is the building being evacuated?
- Can on scene personnel safely perform an entry into the equipment room for recon?
- What detection devices are immediately available?
- What is being done for the victims?
- Are there plans in place for this type of incident?

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INCIDENT MANAGEMENT



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LOCAL PREPAREDNESS

- Activation of the Town's Emergency Operations Plan – (By Whom?)
 - Hamden EMD notified
 - Communications is established with on-scene command staff.
 - DEMHS Region 2 and State EOC
 - Use of WebEOC
- Areas of Responsibility & Authority
- Press Releases to the Media

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Interoperable Communications



The collage consists of three photographs. The top-left photo shows a group of people sitting around a table in a meeting room, engaged in discussion. The top-right photo shows an open blue emergency equipment case containing various communication devices. The bottom photo is a close-up of a radio console with multiple channels and buttons.

Multi-agency Response



The collage features three photographs. The top-left photo shows two men in white shirts standing by a whiteboard during a presentation. The bottom-left photo shows a group of people in a meeting room. The right-side photo shows two men, one in a dark uniform and one in a light shirt, standing by a whiteboard.

Hamden Emergency Operations Plan Annex A – Direction & Control

Position	Name	Contact # 1	Contact # 2
Mayor			
EMD			
Fire			
Police			
Public Works			
Health			
BOE			
ARC			
Others			

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SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- Hazmat teams arrive on scene and are briefed by command staff.
- A risk assessment is performed and an entry team is assigned to perform recon.
- Atmospheric monitoring in the arena indicates 40 ppm near back door.



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2008 DOT ERG

Aluminum borohydride in devices	135	2870	N-Aminoethylpiperazine	153	2815
Aluminum bromide, anhydrous	137	1725	Aminophenols	152	2512
Aluminum bromide, solution	154	2580	Aminopyridines	153	2671
Aluminum carbide	138	1394	Ammonia, anhydrous	125	1005
Aluminum chloride, anhydrous	137	1726	Ammonia, solution, with more than 10% but not more than 35% Ammonia	124	2672
Aluminum chloride, solution	154	2581	Ammonia, solution, with more than 35% but not more than 50% Ammonia	125	1006
Aluminum dross	138	3170			
Aluminum ferric silico-phosphate	138	1395			

**DOT ERG Guide # 125
UN # 1005**

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PROTECTIVE ACTION DISTANCES

Initial Isolation: Immediately 500 ft all directions then 1/2 mile downwind.



SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- Evacuees have congregated in the parking lots and are complaining of being cold. Access in and out of the are is blocked by emergency vehicles.
- Central communications tells command that people in the high school are concerned about the incident and can the concert go on as planned?

■■■■ SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- News media arrive and are seeking information; bystanders begin to tell their own story.
- Traffic around the rink is problematic and spills onto Dixwell Ave. There is no parking for concert goers.
- The EOC receives calls from concerned citizens and are asking if they should evacuate.

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■■■■ SITUATION STATUS REPORT

- Area hospitals begin to receive their first of many victims complaining of eyes, nose, throat irritation & shortness of breath.
- There is a backlog of ambulance requests into C-MED and volunteer first-aiders go to the rink to assist.

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■■■■ CAUCUS



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**FACILITATED
DISCUSSION**

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PRESS RELEASE

- A PREPARED STATEMENT SHALL BE MADE TO THE PRESS REGARDING THIS INCIDENT.



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Working Lunch Break



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**EMERGENCY PLANNING
PREPAREDNESS
TABLETOP EXERCISE**



“HOT WASH”

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REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES

- Hazardous Materials Response & Mitigation
- Public Information
- Evacuation
- Logistics
- Emergency Operations Center

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AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Managing evacuation areas.
- Communications between town agencies and regional assets.
- Critical logistical support.
- Installation of additional warning systems to detect leaks in system.

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PARTICIPANTS (31)

- Mayor's Office
- Emergency Management
- PD, FD, DPW, 911 Communications
- School District
- Building and Recreation Departments
- ARC, Elderly Svcs, Health District
- AMR, CT-DEP, DEMHS Reg. 2, NHASH

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TTX BUDGET

- FY09 ERP TTX - Town of Hamden \$8,500
- Exercise Support: Reimbursement to Town of Hamden \$3,102.65
- Facility & Logistics \$1,200
- Exercise design, Planning and Administration \$2,670
- Total Cost \$6,972.65 (\$1,527.35)

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TTX REVIEW

- The Town of Hamden's 2009 Emergency Planning Preparedness Exercise was designed to promote operational efficiency within community response agencies, with focus on:
 - Preplanning and collaboration with partnerships
 - Activation of the town's ERP
 - Coordination and integration of response capabilities
 - Communications
 - Implementing an Incident Action Plan

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TOWN OF HAMDEN, CT



2009

**EMERGENCY PLANNING
PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT
HMECT 8046160

PLAN, TRAIN & RESPOND
