

What is a full-scale exercise?

Introduction: A full-scale exercise is as close to the real thing as possible. It combines the interactivity of the functional exercise with the field element. The full-scale exercise should test and evaluate all or most functions listed in the emergency operations plan. The full-scale exercise is useful to test total coordination among policy makers, coordination officials, and field forces.

Participant Expectations:

- Participants will include policy makers, coordination planners, operations personnel, and field responders
- Respond to exercise as if it is a real event

Controller Expectations:

- Multiple controllers cooperate under direction of a chief controller
- Chief controller responsible for ensuring exercise starts on time and remains on schedule

Evaluator Expectations:

- Observe the action and keep a log of all significant events
- Assist in development of After Action Report

Observer Expectations:

- Participate in exercise when asked

Definition: The full-scale exercise includes all the components of a functional exercise and adds the actual responding field units. It is intended to test and evaluate the operational capability of the emergency management system in an interactive manner.

Major Elements:

- Coordinates the field component with the Emergency Operations Center

Advantages:

- Realistic real-time interaction and communications
- Combines the functional and drill activities
- Allows utilization and testing of seldom used resources
- Allows for increased public awareness of the emergency management program

Disadvantages:

- Extensive time commitment to exercise design
- Extensive cost and commitment of resources
- High safety risk/liability involved

