

# What is a functional exercise?

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**Introduction:** A functional exercise simulates an emergency in the most realistic manner possible, short of moving resources to an actual site. The exercise is conducted in a “real—time” environment in an EOC or Command Post. The exercise is intended to provide more stress and pressure to the participants. A functional exercise is used to test and evaluate the capability of an organization to respond to an emergency using a simulated event

## Participant Expectations:

- Be a key decision maker or coordinator
- Normally work in the EOC or Command Post
- Respond as they would in a real event
- Accept the scenario and work within the presented parameters

## Controller Expectations:

- Control pace and flow of exercise
- Orient the participants to the exercise and present the narrative

## Evaluator Expectations:

- Observe the exercise progress and identify strengths and areas of improvement
- Assist in development of After Action Report

## Observer Expectations:

- Participate in exercise when asked

**Definition:** The functional exercise is designed to focus on testing and evaluating the centralized emergency operational capability of an organization in a simulated real time environment.

## Major Elements:

- Simulation of an emergency incident
- Includes a team of simulators and a timed sequence of events.
- EOC and ICS personnel practice coordinated response

## Advantages:

- Real time, stressful environment
- Allows practice of prioritization of response
- Allows evaluation of multiple functions

## Disadvantages:

- Does not allow for actual testing of seldom used resources
- Requires a measurable commitment of resources (man-hours , supplies)
- Cannot truly simulate pressure arising from on scene events

