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.

**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

**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

**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

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