

Flooding Emergency Response Exercise

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jim Woodward is a Senior Exercise Planner for the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Jim started in 2005 and has served with the Exercise Division since. He has worked exclusively with the Inland Region of Cal EMA. In 2007 he was the Lead Planner for the statewide exercise Golden Guardian 2007. Jim was also the Lead Planner for the recently finished Golden Guardian 2010 Full Scale Exercise, which was a Port Terrorism Theme. He is presently the Lead Planner for Golden Guardian 2011 which is a catastrophic flood theme in the Inland Region of California. Jim retired after 33 years from the Sacramento Fire Protection District, working as a Battalion Chief in his last 15 years. He has an extensive background in Emergency Management, Emergency Operations, Hazardous Materials, Training, and Safety. Jim has a Life Time Teaching Credential and has been an instructor teaching Fire Technology classes with the Los Rio Community College District for 16 years. Jim is a graduate of Cal State University of Sacramento with a BA in Criminal Law.

Jim has been worked with numerous state agencies on discussion based exercises on Continuity of Operations, Pandemic Influenza, Mass Care and Shelter and Evacuations.

ABSTRACT

California is all too familiar with catastrophic events from earthquakes, to floods, drought, to devastating fires. Local, regional, and State Agencies plan and prepare for the next great event. How do you know if your emergency manager and agency is ready for the task when the event happens? California has been training and exercising just for those events since 2004 with the Governor's Statewide Golden Guardian Full Scale Exercises. I intend to guide you through how the California Emergency Management Agency looks at exercise planning. I will then discuss what is involved in the planning and development of a major full scale exercise, making sure we test and evaluate those risks, gaps or issues that have been identified? Finally, reviewing the next Governor's Statewide Golden Guardian Full Scale Exercise, Golden Guardian 2011 will be based on a flood theme.



Emergency Response Exercise Governor's Statewide Full Scale Exercise Golden Guardian

Jim Woodward

Senior Operations Planner

Golden Guardian 2011 Lead Planner



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Purpose of Exercise Planning

- The purpose of the California Emergency Management Agency Training and Exercise Program is to enhance California's readiness to deter, prevent, respond, recover and mitigate against Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, explosive (CBRNE), Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and natural disasters
- *wording to reflect DHS doctrine
- Natural Disasters include floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes



Exercise Vision

Provide leadership and program management through exemplary training and exercise programs which enhance the capacity of state and local governments to prepare for terrorism attacks and natural disasters



Cal EMA Training and Exercise Mission Statement

The Cal EMA Exercise Program , consists of exercise planners from selected state and local agencies who assist in the production of a series of multi-disciplinary, inter-governmental, emergency response exercises **based on customer needs**; establish a repository for lessons learned and best practices; analyze lessons learned and best practices; furnish feedback to participants; and coordinate the development of advanced training identified through the exercise evaluation process.



Capabilities Based Exercises

“Capabilities-based planning is defined as planning under uncertainty, to build capabilities suitable for a wide range of threats and hazards while working within an economic framework that necessitates prioritization and choice.”

Target Capabilities List (TCL): September 2007



Exercise Planning

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified 5 Missions:
 - Common
 - Prevention
 - Protection
 - Response
 - Recovery



Exercise Planning Cont.

- These 5 Missions are broken into 37 Target Capabilities
- Selected Activities within each Capability
- Further broken down to 4800 tasks
- Updated every 2-3 years
- Can be applied to any emergency or incident

Exercise Planning Cont.

- All locals, cities, State, regions and Federal agencies were asked to develop a “Risk Assessment” for their agency
- That Risk Assessment was then prioritized
- In exercise planning all agencies are then asked to identify those capabilities that identify with those risks that may need improvement
- The scenario is then developed to meet the capabilities identified to be evaluated



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Building Block Approach to Exercise

- Building Block Approach to Exercises (Types):
 - Seminars
 - Workshops
 - Tabletop (discussion based)
 - Games
 - Drills
 - Functional Exercises
 - Full Scale Exercises



Why do we Exercise?

- Help agencies evaluate their Plans, Policies, and Procedures
- Identify gaps and issues in those Plans, Policies, and Procedures
- Help evaluate the overall process of a response or recovery
- Identify Lessons Learned and identify training needs



Golden Guardian Series

“Golden Guardian is the nation’s largest state-sponsored emergency preparedness exercise. It is an ongoing annual event, comprised of a series of seminars, discussion based tabletop exercises and drills, culminating in a full scale exercise designed to test the emergency capabilities of the State of California to deter, prevent, respond, and recover from a potential terrorist attack or catastrophic natural disaster”



Golden Guardian 2011

- Catastrophic Flood Theme
- Inland Region (31 counties in Central California)
- Inland Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC), State Operations Center (SOC)
- 3 days of play – May 17-19, 2010
- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm each day
- 3-5 weeks of forecasts to be sent to prior to the 17th to “set the table” for the exercise



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Capabilities

Capabilities to be tested at the State SOC:

- Communications
- Information Gathering & Recognition of Indicators & Warnings
- Emergency Operations Center Management
- Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution
- Citizen Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place
- Emergency Public Information and Warning



Golden Guardian 2011 Capabilities Cont.

SOC capabilities continued:

- Structural Damage Assessment
- Economic & Community Recovery



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Inland Region Capabilities

Capabilities to be tested at the REOC:

- Communications
- Information Gathering & Recognition of Indicators & Warnings
- Emergency Operations Center Management
- Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution
- Citizen Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place
- Emergency Public Information and Warning



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Golden Guardian 2011 Inland Capabilities Cont.

- Mass Care and Sheltering
- Structural Damage Assessment
- Economic & Community Recovery



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State Objectives

- Assess Information Gathering & Recognition of Flood Indicators and Warnings
- Assess Citizen Evacuation Plans and Mass Care and Sheltering Plans
- Assess Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution Plans and Structural Damage Assessment Plans



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Inland Region Objectives

- Test alert and warning systems
- Assess regional mass Evacuation plans
- Assess Mass Care and Sheltering Plan requirements
- Test/Validate the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)
- Assess/validate Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreements (EMMA)
- Assess the region's capability to transition to recovery (IDES)



Golden Guardian 2011 Support Exercises

- Three (3) Regional Evacuation / Mass Care and Sheltering Seminars
- Three (3) Regional Evacuation / Mass Care and Sheltering Tabletop Exercises
- Three (3) Regional Recovery Tabletop Exercises to discuss Long Term Recovery
- Executive Level Tabletop on Long Term Recovery from the State perspective



Points of Contact

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