

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

NATIONAL EMERGENCY TRAINING CENTER • EMMITSBURG, MD 21727



FEMA

Course: V-0031 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Haz Mat (Bakken - Oil) Transportation (Rail) Focus

Exercise Date & Location:

May 11, 2016, Virtual Tabletop Exercise – Multiple Locations

Exercise Length: 4 Hours. Start time is 11:00 A.M. Central Standard Time (CST) and end time is 3:00 P.M. CST.

Exercise Description:

This exercise is set as crude oil transported by rail disaster based off recent events, such as the Lac-Mégantic, Quebec and Montgomery, WV train derailment, explosion and fire. There also have been several high-profile Bakken oil events in North Dakota, Alabama & Virginia in the past few years. This exercise is one of a series of Virtual Tabletop Exercises (VTTX) that are offered by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC)** technology (not Adobe Connect® or Go To Meeting™), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a facilitated discussion. This can be used to assess plans, policies, training and procedures. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency.

Exercise Goal:

This virtual exercise will enable the participants to exercise their knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to effectively conduct all-hazards emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Overall goals include:

- 1.) Prepare participants for a Bakken oil disaster scenario and how it will affect their community.
- 2.) Enable participants to better coordinate their response operations with counterparts from local governments, other state governments, Federal agencies, tribal, private sector organizations, and non-governmental agencies
- 3.) Provide a virtual education environment to exercise and enhance critical tasks.

Target Audience:

The VTTX program is designed for a “community-based” group (not individual participation) of personnel from Federal, local, tribal or state emergency management organizations with representation from all Emergency Management disciplines - public safety, public works, public health, health care, government, administrative, communications, military, private sector, non-governmental and other whole community partners involved during a real world event.

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Exercise Design

This VTTX is designed to engage the participants in a no fault, hazard-specific exercise discussion. The lead facilitation will occur via VTC from the EMI campus, and will be complimented by a dedicated local agency facilitator at each VTC site.

The VTTX will be supported by an Exercise and Coordination Facilitation Guide, which will include all required logistical information (room layout, connection instructions, etc.), as well as facilitation and hot wash instructions, which will be provided upon enrollment.

The VTTX will consist of:

- A hazard awareness briefing on the scenario hazard.
- Three discussion modules presented by the EMI facilitator.
- Local discussion with guided questions facilitated by an on-site facilitator.
- Brief-outs from each participating location after each module.

Participation Requirements:

The VTTX will be limited to approximately 10-15 locations per exercise. Participants must have an appropriate site equipped with VTC capability that can access the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) VTC site (connection information will be provided by EMI). Participating locations will be responsible for local exercise logistics, and should designate an exercise coordinator to implement the logistical requirements for the exercise. In addition, the location must provide a person capable of facilitating the on-site portion of exercise. Electronic copies of the related exercise materials (Situation Manual) will be provided two weeks prior to the event date by EMI.

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