



Rural Resilience - Hazardous Materials Train Accident Table Top Exercise Template (AI Generated)

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About SGNL Solutions

SGNL Solutions (SGNL) is a service-disabled veteran-owned small business corporation dedicated to addressing complex health security challenges by bridging the gap between research, policy, and practice communities. Our collaborative projects involve stakeholder engagement, process facilitation, data collection, analysis, evaluation, scientific writing, and product development. Our team of seasoned consultants offers cross-disciplinary expertise and insights, fostering a comprehensive understanding and integrated solutions to tackle the nation's most critical issues. At SGNL, we immerse ourselves in the topics that matter most to our clients, becoming experts in the process. We sift through the clutter of data and distractions to uncover the signal – the essential information and approaches required to effectively address persistent problems. Our team transcends disciplines, embraces creativity, and dismantles silos that often hinder progress. We collaborate with clients to make these crucial issues accessible and actionable, driving meaningful change.

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Rural Resilience - Hazardous Materials Train Accident Exercise

Situation Manual

[Date]

This Situation Manual (SitMan) provides exercise participants with all the necessary tools for their roles in the exercise. Some exercise material is intended for the exclusive use of exercise planners, facilitators, and evaluators, but players may view other materials that are necessary to their performance. All exercise participants may view the SitMan.

EXERCISE OVERVIEW

Exercise Name	Rural Resilience - Hazardous Materials Train Accident Exercise
Exercise Dates	[Indicate the start and end dates of the exercise]
Scope	This exercise is a Table Top Exercise, planned for 1 day (7 hours) at [exercise location].
Mission Area(s)	Prevention, Protection, Response, and/or Recovery
Core Capabilities	Planning, Operational Coordination, Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services, Public Information and Warning, Situational Assessment, Infrastructure Systems, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Fatality Management Services, Environmental Response / Health and Safety, Long-term Vulnerability Reduction
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the preparedness and ability of emergency management, government officials, public health professionals, public safety, and EMS personnel to respond to a hazardous materials train accident in a rural setting. 2. Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of communication and coordination between local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private sector organizations and community partners. 3. Identify challenges and barriers in coordinating response efforts, including resource limitations, infrastructure constraints, and communication gaps. 4. Examine short-term medical response capabilities and public health monitoring in the aftermath of the incident. 5. Review and evaluate recovery and mitigation strategies, including environmental decontamination and long-term health monitoring.
Threat or Hazard	Technological/man made with hazardous material release
Scenario	A freight train carrying hazardous materials, specifically chlorine gas, has derailed in a rural community of 5,000 residents. The accident has resulted in a significant release of chlorine gas, posing immediate and long-term risks to public health, the environment, and infrastructure. The rural community is characterized by limited resources and infrastructure,

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[Redacted]

including a small volunteer fire department, a remote health clinic, and minimal equipment to handle hazardous materials.

Sponsor

[Insert the name of the sponsor organization, as well as any grant programs being utilized, if applicable]

Participating Organizations

[Insert a brief summary of the total number of participants and participation level (i.e., Federal, State, local, Tribal, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and/or international agencies). Consider including the full list of participating agencies in Appendix B. Delete Appendix B if not required.]

Point of Contact

[Insert the name, title, agency, address, phone number, and email address of the primary exercise POC (e.g., exercise director or exercise sponsor)]

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exercise Objectives and Core Capabilities

The following exercise objectives in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to core capabilities, which are distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the specific mission area(s). The objectives and aligned core capabilities are guided by elected and appointed officials and selected by the Exercise Planning Team.

Exercise Objective	Core Capability
1. Assess the preparedness and ability of emergency management, government officials, public health professionals, public safety, and EMS personnel to respond to a hazardous materials train accident in a rural setting.	Planning, Operational Coordination, Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services
2. Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of communication and coordination between local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private sector organizations and community partners.	Operational Coordination, Public Information and Warning, Situational Assessment
3. Identify challenges and barriers in coordinating response efforts, including resource limitations, infrastructure constraints, and communication gaps.	Planning, Operational Coordination, Infrastructure Systems, Logistics and Supply Chain Management
4. Examine short-term medical response capabilities and public health monitoring in the aftermath of the incident.	Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services, Fatality Management Services, Environmental Response / Health and Safety
5. Review and evaluate recovery and mitigation strategies, including environmental decontamination and long-term health monitoring.	Public Health, Healthcare and Emergency Medical Services, Long-term Vulnerability Reduction, Environmental Response / Health and Safety, Infrastructure Systems

Table 1. Exercise Objectives and Associated Core Capabilities

Participant Roles and Responsibilities

The term *participant* encompasses many groups of people, not just those playing in the exercise. Groups of participants involved in the exercise, and their respective roles and responsibilities, are as follows:

- Players.** Players are personnel who have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.

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- **Observers.** Observers do not directly participate in the exercise. However, they may support the development of player responses to the situation during the discussion by asking relevant questions or providing subject matter expertise.
- **Facilitators.** Facilitators provide situation updates and moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required. Key Exercise Planning Team members also may assist with facilitation as subject matter experts (SMEs) during the exercise.
- **Evaluators.** Evaluators are assigned to observe and document certain objectives during the exercise. Their primary role is to document player discussions, including how and if those discussions conform to plans, policies, and procedures.

Exercise Structure

This exercise will be a multimedia, facilitated exercise. Players will participate in the following four modules:

- Module 1: Preparedness and Immediate Response
- Module 2: Short-term Medical Response and Public Health Monitoring
- Module 3: Recovery and Environmental Decontamination
- Module 4: Long-term Health Monitoring and Community Resilience

Each module begins with a multimedia update that summarizes key events occurring within that time period. After the updates, participants review the situation and engage in functional group discussions of appropriate prevention/protection/response/recovery issues

After these functional group discussions, participants will engage in a moderated plenary discussion in which a spokesperson from each group will present a synopsis of the group's actions, based on the scenario.

Exercise Guidelines

- This exercise will be held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.
- Respond to the scenario using your knowledge of current plans and capabilities (i.e., you may use only existing assets) and insights derived from your training.
- Decisions are not precedent setting and may not reflect your organization's final position on a given issue. This exercise is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve prevention/protection/response/recovery efforts. Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.

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Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificialities are inherent in any exercise, and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation. During this exercise, the following apply:

- The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated.
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- All players receive information at the same time

Exercise Evaluation

Evaluation of the exercise is based on the exercise objectives and aligned capabilities, capability targets, and critical tasks, which are documented in Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs). Evaluators have EEGs for each of their assigned areas. Additionally, players will be asked to complete participant feedback forms. These documents, coupled with facilitator observations and notes, will be used to evaluate the exercise and compile the After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP).

MODULE 1: PREPAREDNESS AND IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

Module Overview

In this module, participants will focus on the preparedness and immediate response actions required to address the hazardous materials train accident scenario in a rural community. The module will assess the participants' ability to activate their emergency plans, coordinate resources, and initiate a response to the incident. The primary objectives of this module are to assess preparedness, evaluate communication and coordination, and identify potential challenges and barriers.

Scenario

A freight train carrying hazardous materials, including chlorine gas, has derailed in a rural community, resulting in a spill and the release of the toxic substances. A cloud of chlorine gas is spreading, posing an immediate threat to the surrounding area. First responders are on the scene, and emergency management, government officials, public health professionals, public safety, and

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EMS personnel are being mobilized to address the situation. The incident has the potential to cause significant environmental contamination, public health risks, and infrastructure damage.

Key Issues

- A freight train carrying hazardous materials has derailed in a rural community.
- The derailment has caused a spill and the release of toxic substances.
- First responders are on the scene, and various agencies and organizations are being mobilized to address the situation.
- The incident has the potential to cause significant environmental contamination, public health risks, and infrastructure damage.

Discussion Questions

1. How do your organization's emergency plans address the unique challenges of a hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas in a rural setting, such as limited infrastructure and access to resources?
 - What specific protocols, partnerships, or resources are in place to support these plans?
 - Are there any contingency plans for dealing with resource limitations in a rural environment?
2. In the event of conflicting priorities among responding agencies and organizations, how would decisions be made to allocate resources and coordinate efforts effectively?
 - Are there any established communication channels or decision-making frameworks in place to resolve conflicts?
 - How would your organization prioritize its own objectives while collaborating with other agencies?
3. Given the potential environmental and public health impacts of a hazardous materials incident involving chlorine gas, how would your organization coordinate with environmental and public health agencies to assess and mitigate risks?
 - What partnerships or inter-agency agreements are in place to facilitate coordination?
 - How would your organization contribute to joint efforts in risk assessment and mitigation?
4. How would your organization handle the influx of outside resources, such as mutual aid or federal assistance, to ensure a seamless integration into the response effort while maintaining the integrity of the incident command structure?
 - Are there any pre-established protocols for accepting and integrating external assistance?
 - How would your organization communicate with outside resources to ensure smooth coordination?

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5. How would your organization address the needs of vulnerable populations, such as individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and non-English speakers, in the immediate response to the incident?
 - What specific measures are in place to identify and support vulnerable populations during a hazardous materials incident?
 - Are there any partnerships with community organizations or specialized agencies to assist in meeting the needs of these populations?
6. How does your organization plan for the continuity of essential services, such as water supply, sanitation, and healthcare, during the response to a hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas?
 - What backup systems or alternative resources are in place to maintain essential services during an emergency?
 - How does your organization prioritize and allocate resources to ensure the continuity of these services?
7. What measures does your organization have in place to protect responders from potential exposure to hazardous materials, particularly chlorine gas, during the incident, and how are these measures communicated and enforced?
 - What personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety protocols are in place for responders during a hazardous materials incident?
 - How does your organization ensure that all responders are aware of and adhere to these safety measures?

Injects

During this module, facilitators may introduce injects or additional scenario updates to challenge participants and stimulate discussion. These injects may include new information about the incident, changing conditions, or additional requests for assistance. Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise.

1. Weather conditions change, causing the chlorine gas cloud to spread more quickly and unpredictably.
2. Reports of multiple casualties near the incident site, with symptoms indicating possible chlorine gas exposure.
3. A nearby water source is at risk of contamination due to the hazardous materials spill.
4. Local hospitals and medical facilities become overwhelmed with the influx of patients affected by the chlorine gas release.
5. A roadblock or other infrastructure issue hampers the transportation and delivery of emergency resources to the affected area.
6. Communication systems become disrupted, affecting the ability of response agencies to share critical information and coordinate efforts.

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7. Media outlets and social media platforms are circulating misinformation or unconfirmed details about the incident, causing confusion and panic among the public.
8. A shelter-in-place order is issued for the surrounding community, but some residents are not receiving the information or are unable to comply.
9. The incident attracts the attention of national media, and high-level government officials request updates and briefings on the situation.
10. Responders on-site encounter difficulties with their personal protective equipment (PPE), raising concerns about their safety during the response.

Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise. Injects can be tailored or modified to fit the specific goals and objectives of the exercise or to address particular issues that arise during the discussion.

MODULE 2: SHORT-TERM MEDICAL RESPONSE AND PUBLIC HEALTH MONITORING

Module Overview

In this module, participants will focus on the short-term medical response and public health monitoring actions required to address the hazardous materials train accident scenario involving chlorine gas in a rural community. The module will assess the participants' ability to provide medical care, manage public health risks, and coordinate resources among healthcare providers and public health agencies. The primary objectives of this module are to examine short-term medical response capabilities, review public health monitoring strategies, and identify potential challenges and barriers.

Scenario

As the response to the hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas continues, the focus shifts to the short-term medical response and public health monitoring in the affected rural community. Local hospitals and medical facilities are treating patients with chlorine gas exposure symptoms, while public health agencies are assessing the risks associated with the release of the toxic substance. The situation requires effective coordination among healthcare providers, public

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health professionals, and other response agencies to address the immediate medical needs and monitor the potential long-term health effects.

Key Issues

1. The focus shifts to the short-term medical response and public health monitoring following the hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas in a rural community.
2. Local hospitals and medical facilities are treating patients with chlorine gas exposure symptoms.
3. Public health agencies are assessing the risks associated with the release of the toxic substance and monitoring potential long-term health effects.
4. Effective coordination among healthcare providers, public health professionals, and other response agencies is required to address the immediate medical needs and monitor the potential long-term health effects in the affected community.

Discussion Questions

1. How do your organization's emergency plans address the unique challenges of providing medical care and managing public health risks in a rural setting following a hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas?
 - What specific resources, partnerships, or training programs are in place to support the provision of medical care in rural areas?
 - How does your organization plan to handle logistical challenges, such as transportation and communication, in a rural setting?
2. Given the potential for limited resources in a rural community, how would your organization prioritize medical care and public health interventions in response to the incident?
 - What criteria or guidelines are used to prioritize medical care and public health interventions?
 - How would your organization collaborate with other response organizations to maximize the use of available resources?
3. How would your organization coordinate with other healthcare providers, public health agencies, and response organizations to ensure a seamless and efficient short-term medical response?
 - What communication channels and coordination mechanisms are in place for inter-agency collaboration?
 - Are there any established agreements or partnerships to facilitate cooperation during a medical emergency?
4. What strategies and resources would your organization employ to monitor the long-term health effects of the chlorine gas release on affected individuals and the community?
 - What methods or tools would be used to track and analyze health data related to the incident?

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- How would your organization collaborate with other agencies or organizations in monitoring long-term health effects?
5. How would your organization address the mental health needs of those affected by the incident, including first responders, medical professionals, and community members?
 - What mental health services or resources are available to support those affected by the incident?
 - Are there any partnerships with mental health organizations or specialized agencies to assist in providing mental health support?
 6. How would your organization manage and share information related to the medical response and public health monitoring to ensure transparency and maintain public trust?
 - What communication strategies and platforms would be used to disseminate information to the public and stakeholders?
 - How would your organization handle any sensitive or confidential information related to the incident?

Injects

During this module, facilitators may introduce injects or additional scenario updates to challenge participants and stimulate discussion. These injects may include new information about the incident, changing conditions, or additional requests for assistance. Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise.

1. A local hospital reports a shortage of critical medical supplies and equipment needed to treat patients with chlorine gas exposure symptoms.
2. A nearby medical facility is at capacity and unable to accept additional patients, requiring coordination for patient transfers or alternative care options.
3. Public health officials identify a potential long-term health risk associated with the chlorine gas release, necessitating increased monitoring and targeted interventions.
4. A surge in mental health concerns arises among the affected population, including anxiety, stress, and post-traumatic symptoms.
5. Concerns about potential contamination of local food or water sources emerge, requiring further assessment and potential public health actions.
6. Healthcare providers report difficulties in accessing affected areas due to damaged infrastructure or ongoing response efforts, delaying the delivery of medical care.
7. Rumors or misinformation related to the medical response and public health monitoring circulate among the community, exacerbating fear and confusion.
8. The incident attracts attention from outside medical and public health experts, who offer assistance or recommendations that may conflict with local plans and procedures.

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9. A request for additional resources, such as specialized medical personnel, equipment, or supplies, is made to support the short-term medical response and public health monitoring efforts.
10. A responder or healthcare worker becomes exposed to hazardous materials during the response, requiring immediate medical attention and raising concerns about responder safety.

Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise. Injects can be tailored or modified to fit the specific goals and objectives of the exercise or to address particular issues that arise during the discussion.

MODULE 3: RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DECONTAMINATION

Module Overview

In this module, participants will focus on the recovery and environmental decontamination actions required to address the hazardous materials train accident scenario involving chlorine gas in a rural community. The module will assess the participants' ability to coordinate cleanup efforts, manage environmental risks, and engage with stakeholders throughout the recovery process. The primary objectives of this module are to examine recovery strategies, review environmental decontamination plans, and identify potential challenges and barriers.

Scenario

The hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas has left a significant environmental impact on the affected rural community. The focus now shifts to recovery and environmental decontamination efforts, which include cleaning up hazardous materials, assessing long-term environmental risks, and restoring the community to its pre-incident state. This situation requires effective coordination among local, state, and federal agencies, as well as environmental experts and community stakeholders.

Key Issues

1. The hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas has left a significant environmental impact on the affected rural community.
2. Recovery and environmental decontamination efforts are underway, including cleaning up hazardous materials and assessing long-term environmental risks.
3. Effective coordination among local, state, and federal agencies, as well as environmental experts and community stakeholders, is required to restore the community to its pre-incident state.

Discussion Questions

1. How do your organization's emergency plans address the unique challenges of recovery and environmental decontamination in a rural setting following a hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas?
 - What specific protocols or procedures are in place to address the unique challenges of rural settings during recovery and decontamination efforts?
 - How does your organization plan to handle logistical challenges, such as transportation and communication, in a rural setting during recovery operations?
2. What resources, equipment, and expertise would your organization need to effectively manage the cleanup and decontamination process in response to the incident?

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- What existing resources, equipment, and expertise does your organization have to handle hazardous materials cleanup and decontamination?
 - Are there any established partnerships or agreements with external organizations to provide additional resources, equipment, or expertise during a hazardous materials incident?
3. How would your organization coordinate with other agencies, environmental experts, and community stakeholders to ensure a seamless and efficient recovery process?
 - What communication channels and coordination mechanisms are in place for inter-agency collaboration during recovery operations?
 - Are there any pre-existing agreements, partnerships, or working groups to facilitate cooperation and coordination during recovery efforts?
 4. What strategies would your organization employ to assess and manage long-term environmental risks associated with the hazardous materials incident?
 - What methods or tools would be used to monitor and evaluate the environmental impacts of the hazardous materials incident over time?
 - How would your organization collaborate with other agencies or organizations to develop and implement long-term environmental risk management strategies?
 5. How would your organization communicate with the public about the recovery efforts, environmental risks, and plans for community restoration to maintain transparency and trust?
 - What communication strategies and platforms would be used to disseminate information to the public and stakeholders about recovery efforts and environmental risks?
 - How would your organization engage with community members and stakeholders to involve them in the recovery process and ensure their concerns are addressed?

Injects

During this module, facilitators may introduce injects or additional scenario updates to challenge participants and stimulate discussion. These injects may include new information about the incident, changing conditions, or additional requests for assistance. Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise.

1. A secondary release of hazardous materials occurs during the cleanup process, creating additional challenges and safety concerns for recovery personnel.
2. New information reveals that a nearby water source has been contaminated due to the hazardous materials train accident, posing a potential threat to public health and requiring immediate assessment and response.
3. Environmental experts identify a previously unknown endangered species habitat affected by the hazardous materials release, necessitating adjustments to the cleanup plan to minimize ecological impacts.

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4. Local community members demand greater involvement in the recovery and environmental decontamination process, requiring additional efforts to engage and inform stakeholders.
5. A state or federal agency announces new guidelines or regulations for hazardous materials cleanup and environmental decontamination, potentially impacting current plans and procedures.
6. A specialized cleanup crew encounters difficulties accessing the contaminated site due to damaged infrastructure, delaying the environmental decontamination process.
7. A conflict arises between different agencies or stakeholder groups over the prioritization of recovery efforts or allocation of resources, requiring negotiation and consensus-building.
8. A volunteer organization or private sector company offers support for recovery efforts, presenting potential opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing.
9. The discovery of historical or cultural artifacts at the contaminated site complicates the recovery and environmental decontamination process, necessitating additional precautions and expert consultation.
10. Public concern grows over the long-term environmental and health impacts of the hazardous materials release, requiring proactive communication and transparency from response agencies and officials.

Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise. Injects can be tailored or modified to fit the specific goals and objectives of the exercise or to address particular issues that arise during the discussion.

MODULE 4: LONG-TERM HEALTH MONITORING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Module Overview

In this module, participants will focus on the long-term health monitoring and community resilience strategies required to address the hazardous materials train accident scenario involving chlorine gas in a rural community. The module will assess the participants' ability to develop and implement health monitoring plans, communicate with affected populations, and support community recovery and resilience. The primary objectives of this module are to examine long-term health monitoring strategies, review risk communication plans, and identify potential challenges and barriers.

Scenario

The hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas has led to short-term and potential long-term health effects on the affected rural community. The focus now shifts to long-term health monitoring and strategies for enhancing community resilience. This situation requires coordination among healthcare providers, public health professionals, and other stakeholders to ensure ongoing health monitoring, risk communication, and support for community recovery.

Key Issues

1. The hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas has led to short-term and potential long-term health effects on the affected rural community.
2. The focus shifts to long-term health monitoring and strategies for enhancing community resilience.
3. Coordination among healthcare providers, public health professionals, and other stakeholders is required to ensure ongoing health monitoring, risk communication, and support for community recovery.

Discussion Questions

1. How do your organization's emergency plans address the unique challenges of long-term health monitoring and community resilience in a rural setting following a hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas?
 - What specific protocols or procedures are in place to initiate and maintain long-term health monitoring in rural communities affected by hazardous materials incidents?
 - How does your organization plan to support community resilience and adaptation in the aftermath of a hazardous materials incident?

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2. What resources, expertise, and partnerships would your organization need to effectively track and address health effects in the affected community?
 - What existing resources and expertise does your organization have for long-term health monitoring and community support?
 - Are there any established partnerships or agreements with external organizations to provide additional resources, expertise, or support for health monitoring and community resilience initiatives?
3. How would your organization coordinate with other agencies, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to ensure effective risk communication and public engagement throughout the long-term health monitoring process?
 - What communication channels and coordination mechanisms are in place for collaboration and information sharing among relevant agencies, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders?
 - Are there any pre-existing working groups or platforms designed to facilitate coordination and public engagement in long-term health monitoring efforts?
4. What strategies would your organization employ to support community recovery and enhance resilience in the aftermath of the hazardous materials incident?
 - What community-based initiatives or programs could be implemented to address the health, social, economic, and environmental impacts of the incident?
 - How would your organization collaborate with other agencies, organizations, or community groups to develop and implement community recovery and resilience strategies?
5. How would your organization address potential public concerns, misinformation, or mistrust related to the incident and its long-term health impacts?
 - What communication strategies and platforms would be used to provide accurate and timely information to the public about the incident and its health impacts?
 - How would your organization engage with community members and stakeholders to address concerns, correct misinformation, and build trust throughout the long-term health monitoring process?

Injects

During this module, facilitators may introduce injects or additional scenario updates to challenge participants and stimulate discussion. These injects may include new information about the incident, changing conditions, or additional requests for assistance. Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise.

- New information reveals an unexpected increase in the number of people exhibiting health issues potentially related to the hazardous materials train accident involving chlorine gas, requiring additional resources for health monitoring.

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- A healthcare provider or public health agency identifies a new, previously unrecognized long-term health risk associated with the chlorine gas exposure, necessitating updates to monitoring plans and risk communication strategies.
- Local community members report difficulty accessing healthcare services or obtaining information about long-term health monitoring, requiring targeted outreach and support.
- Misinformation or rumors about the incident and its long-term health impacts begin to circulate on social media, creating public concern and mistrust that must be addressed by response agencies and officials.
- A mental health crisis emerges in the affected community due to stress, trauma, or anxiety related to the hazardous materials incident, requiring additional resources and support for mental health services.
- A non-governmental organization or community group offers to assist with long-term health monitoring, public engagement, or recovery efforts, presenting potential opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing.
- A conflict arises between different agencies or stakeholder groups over the allocation of resources or priorities for long-term health monitoring and community recovery, requiring negotiation and consensus-building.
- The affected community demands additional financial compensation or resources to support ongoing health monitoring and recovery efforts, necessitating engagement with local, state, or federal officials.
- Public health officials identify a potential link between the hazardous materials incident and a subsequent increase in chronic health conditions in the affected community, requiring further investigation and response.
- A long-term study or report about the health impacts of similar hazardous materials incidents in other communities is published, offering valuable insights and lessons learned that could inform monitoring and recovery efforts in the affected community.

Facilitators should use their discretion in introducing these injects, based on the progress of the discussion and the needs of the exercise. Injects can be tailored or modified to fit the specific goals and objectives of the exercise or to address particular issues that arise during the discussion.

APPENDIX A: EXERCISE SCHEDULE

Note: Because this information is updated throughout the exercise planning process, appendices may be developed as stand-alone documents rather than part of the SitMan.

Time	Activity
[Month Day, Year]	
08:00 - 08:30	Registration
08:30 - 09:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:00 - 10:00	Module 1: Briefing, Caucus Discussion, and Brief-Back
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:15	Module 2: Briefing, Caucus Discussion, and Brief-Back
11:15 - 12:15	Module 3: Briefing, Caucus Discussion, and Brief-Back
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch
14:15 - 14:30	Break
14:30 - 15:30	Hot Wash
15:30 - 16:00	Closing Comments

APPENDIX B: EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS

Participating Organizations
Federal
State
[Jurisdiction A]
[Jurisdiction B]

APPENDIX C: RELEVANT PLANS

[Insert excerpts from relevant plans, policies, or procedures to be tested during the exercise.]

APPENDIX D: ACRONYMS

Acronym	Term
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
HSEEP	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
SitMan	Situation Manual
SME	Subject Matter Expert
TTX	Tabletop Exercise

APPENDIX E: PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Scenario

A freight train carrying hazardous materials, specifically chlorine gas, has derailed in a rural community of 5,000 residents. The accident has resulted in a significant release of chlorine gas, posing immediate and long-term risks to public health, the environment, and infrastructure. The rural community is characterized by limited resources and infrastructure, including a small volunteer fire department, a remote health clinic, and minimal equipment to handle hazardous materials.

Objectives

1. Assess the preparedness and ability of emergency management, government officials, public health professionals, public safety, and EMS personnel to respond to a hazardous materials train accident in a rural setting.
2. Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of communication and coordination between local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private sector organizations and community partners.
3. Identify challenges and barriers in coordinating response efforts, including resource limitations, infrastructure constraints, and communication gaps.
4. Examine short-term medical response capabilities and public health monitoring in the aftermath of the incident.
5. Review and evaluate recovery and mitigation strategies, including environmental decontamination and long-term health monitoring.

Preparation:

Before participating in the exercise, please familiarize yourself with the following:

- Your agency or organization's roles and responsibilities in the event of a hazardous materials incident.
- Your agency or organization's plans, procedures, and protocols for responding to a hazardous materials incident.
- Communication channels and coordination mechanisms with other agencies, organizations, and stakeholders.

During the Exercise:

- Engage actively in discussions and perform your regular roles and responsibilities as you would in a real-life situation.
- Consider the limitations and constraints specific to the rural community described in the scenario.
- Be prepared to share your agency or organization's plans, procedures, and protocols, as well as any challenges or barriers you may face in implementing them.
- Offer suggestions and recommendations for improving response efforts and overcoming challenges or barriers.
- Collaborate with other participants to identify best practices and lessons learned from previous incidents or exercises.

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After the Exercise:

- Participate in the hotwash to share your key takeaways and lessons learned from the exercise.
- Provide feedback to the facilitators and evaluators to inform the development of the After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan.
- Discuss the exercise outcomes and lessons learned with your agency or organization to inform updates to your plans, procedures, and protocols, as well as identify training or resource needs.

APPENDIX F: EVALUATOR GUIDE

As an evaluator for the Hazardous Materials Train Accident Tabletop Exercise, your primary role is to observe and document the exercise, focusing on the participants' discussions, decisions, and actions. Your observations and insights will be instrumental in the development of the After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan.

Before the Exercise:

- Familiarize yourself with the exercise scenario, objectives, and participant roles and responsibilities.
- Review your agency or organization's plans, procedures, and protocols related to hazardous materials incidents to understand expectations and guidelines.
- Coordinate with the Exercise Planning Team (EPT) to clarify your specific evaluation responsibilities and any areas of focus.

During the Exercise:

- Observe the discussions, decisions, and actions of the participants, taking detailed notes on the following aspects:
 1. Adherence to plans, procedures, and protocols.
 2. Communication and coordination between agencies, organizations, and stakeholders.
 3. Challenges or barriers encountered and potential solutions or recommendations.
 4. Best practices and lessons learned from previous incidents or exercises.
 5. Any areas for improvement or further discussion.
- Refrain from participating in the discussions or making decisions, as your role is to observe and document the exercise objectively.
- If necessary, ask clarifying questions to ensure a thorough understanding of the participants' actions and rationales.

After the Exercise:

- Participate in the hotwash to gather additional feedback and insights from the participants.
- Analyze your notes and observations, identifying key themes, patterns, strengths, and areas for improvement.
- Coordinate with other evaluators and the EPT to share your findings and develop a comprehensive AAR and Improvement Plan.
- Provide recommendations for improving plans, procedures, and protocols, as well as addressing training or resource needs.
- Support the dissemination and implementation of the AAR and Improvement Plan, as appropriate.

Remember that the goal of the exercise is to improve preparedness and response capabilities, so your observations and insights are critical to identifying areas for improvement and enhancing overall performance.