

ALASKA'S NEXT BIG EARTHQUAKE  
a workshop

MAY 9-11, 2017

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Anchorage, AK

# Facilitated Discussion

TTX

**Practice the importance of your plan and continuity of planning with other agencies**



# Practice the importance of your plan and continuity of planning with other agencies

**Dan Belanger**

SOA Earthquake & Tsunami Program Manager

Facilitator

**Kathy Cavyell**

SOA Lead Exercise Planner

Facilitator

- Introductions

# Purpose

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this discussion is to provide participating agencies an opportunity to review, practice, troubleshoot and finalize plans, policies, procedures and capabilities for response and recovery during a catastrophic event affecting their public and private agencies/sectors.

In addition we will give participating agencies the opportunity to examine:

- How your agencies action effect other agencies
- How your agencies requirements effect, not only your agencies resiliency, but how they positively and/or negatively affect other participating agencies.,
- How your agency coordinates critical needs between local, State and other partners,
- How to identify and overcome command and control challenges,
- How your agency will identify and overcome operations and information flow challenges associated with a catastrophic event.

# Exercise Objectives

- Assess your organizations plan, policies and procedures for identifying and prioritizing resource needs during a catastrophic event
- Examine plans, policies, procedures and capabilities for coordinating an effective response to a widespread disruption of Alaska's supply chain
- Review your ability to identify, request, track, and record human and material resources in accordance with current plans and procedures in response to a catastrophic event effecting Alaska

# Exercise Rules

- This discussion will be a facilitated event.
- **This will be held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.**
- Your response should be based on your knowledge of current plans, policies, procedures and capabilities (i.e., you may use only existing assets) and insights derived from your training and operational events.
- 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.
- Suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response and preparedness efforts should be the focus of discussions.
- The situation updates, written material, and resources serve as the basis for discussion. There are no situational injects.
- As you participate, draw on your experience and knowledge of how local, State, and federal agencies work together in an emergency response situation.

# Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted. During this exercise, the following apply:

- The scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- There is no hidden agenda, and there are no trick questions.
- All players receive information at the same time.

# Scenario 1

- 12 hours ago a magnitude 7.1 earthquake occurred in Southcentral Alaska. Approximately 2 minutes of ground shaking was felt in the initial shock, with an epicenter determined to be near the town of Hope, Alaska, at a depth of 22 miles.
- Landline and cell phone communications have been disrupted throughout the region; there are some areas with limited capabilities. Hospitals were quickly overwhelmed. Power services are diminished, and gas has been shut off to most of Anchorage.
- State and local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) have activated and has asked locals to support response and recovery efforts in the Anchorage area, while the State resources focus on rural communities.
- Ted Stevens International Airport and the Port of Anchorage have both been closed due to damage, with currently unknown estimates on repair time. JBER airport is operational and can support priority resource requests, including requests from agency partners, through the SEOC Liaison.
- The Seward Highway suffered multiple avalanches and will take days or weeks to clear. The Glenn Highway is clear and operational into Mat-Su, although minor damage slow traffic. Initial reports indicate minor-to-moderate damage to private and public structures and infrastructure throughout the region.
- Multiple neighborhoods in Anchorage have received major damage leaving thousands of residents displaced. The Red Cross and the Municipality of Anchorage are reporting minimal shelter availability in the local area. Local residents are being referred to the Mat-Su Borough for emergency sheltering. Many Mat-Su shelters are operating on generators and need fuel until power is restored within 72 hours. With the rise in traffic, Anchorage businesses are being urged to reduce their daily schedules to “essential operations only”, consider diminished work hours and, when possible, shelter their employees in place.
- Mutual aide agreements between the Municipality of Anchorage and area food suppliers have been implemented.

# Organizational Structure (1/3)

1. Who are the decision-making authorities for your organization?
2. What are your priorities at this time?
3. How will your organization communicate with Local or the State Emergency Operation Centers to ask for assistance?
4. What are your secondary methods of communication? When did you last test those secondary methods of communications?
5. Do you have a satellite phone and what is your satellite phone capability?



## Organizational Structure (2/3)

6. If primary lines of communication are down, how will the local/state or federal agencies communicate with you?
7. What communications methods would be used for public notifications?
8. Describe the critical information that would be required for the public service announcements.
9. As an employer do you have a plan for tracking your employees? Do you, as an employer, have any responsibility to track displaced employees?
10. Can your agency operate with a 50% reduction in staff? How will this affect your operations?
11. If your organization is sheltering in place how will the necessary food, water, and medicines be replenished to employees?

# Organizational Structure (3/3)

12. Does your agency have a plan, policy or procedure to address increased employee absenteeism during a catastrophic event (due to stress, injury, etc.)?
13. What are your back-up plans, policies or procedures for disruption of utilities?
14. Describe the critical information that would be required for the public service announcements
15. What other agencies/utilities do you rely on to maintain operations? Do you have agreements with them to support your agency?
16. What if these support agencies are impacted, do you have another source or response plan?

Network/Break

# Scenario 2

- 24 hours ago a magnitude 8.2 earthquake occurred in the Cascadia Region of Washington State. Approximately 4 minutes of ground shaking was felt in the initial shock, with an epicenter off the coast triggering a tsunami and destroying or damaging all main ports in the Puget Sound area.
- Multi-State and local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) have activated and has asked locals to support response and recovery efforts in the Seattle area, while the Washington state resources focus on rural communities.
- Landline and cell phone communications have been disrupted throughout the region; there are some areas with limited capabilities. Hospitals were quickly overwhelmed. Power services are diminished, and gas has been shut off to most of Seattle and Tacoma.
- Sea-Tac Airport and the Port of Seattle/Tacoma have both been closed due to damage, with repair time estimates estimated taking months. Local military airports have limited operations and can support local priority resource requests.
- The I-5 Highway suffered multiple failures and will take days or weeks to clear. Roads across the area are damaged and limited to response activities. Initial reports indicate moderate- severe damage to private and public structures and infrastructure throughout the region.
- Multiple harbors in Puget Sound have received major damage leaving thousands of vessels displaced. Local Marine traffic is dedicated to response and recovery actions in the immediate area. All shipping has stopped through any ports of Washington. The Red Cross is reporting minimal shelter availability in the local area. Many shelters are operating on generators and need fuel until power is restored within 72 hours. Businesses are being urged to reduce their daily schedules to “essential operations only”, consider diminished work hours and, when possible, shelter their employees in place.

# Discussion Questions (1/2)

Players are not required to address every question. Take a moment to review the questions in their entirety, and then focus on the critical challenges and major concern at this point in the exercise.

17. How does this new event affect your operations?
18. Will your agency be impacted by this distant event?
19. Are the decision-making authorities the same for your organization?
20. What are your new priorities at this time?

# Discussion Questions (2/2)

21. What considerations do you need to make for products or services that you receive through Washington State?
22. Does your organization have a plan to support employees who may have family in the affected area?
23. Do you have secondary supply options or agreements in place?

That's it!

What other concerns can you think of?