

THE GREAT SHAKE OUT 2017

19 October 2017

AFTER EXERCISE REPORT/IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Exercise: The Great Shake Out 2017

Date: 19 October 2017

This exercise: Drill

Duration: 12 hours

Exercise location: Conducted as an Internet exercise.

Exercise play: Limited to alerting and initial reporting.

Mission area: Response

Core capabilities: Operational Communications
Situational Assessment

Exercise objectives: 1. Test ability to alert Team 6247 membership and other exercise participants by e-mail delivery of radio messages.
2. Test ability to collect reports of earthquake damage.
3. Test ability to generate a daily Situation Report and transmit it to REACT International headquarters.
4. Train members to correctly assess and report earthquake effects using the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.

Hazard: Multiple large earthquakes

Scenario: Earthquakes were felt in locations approximately 100 miles from each of the exercise participants at 1019 EDT on 19 October 2017. At 1030 EDT, the Team watch Officer generated an initial alert message to exercise participants, followed at 1100 by a request for availability and for a Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale assessment of impacts at the participant's location.

Sponsoring organization: REACT Warning Team 6247

Participating organizations: 4 individuals, one internet based REACT Team.

Point of contact: Walter G. Green III, Watch Officer, REACT Warning Team 6247

Objective 1. Test ability to alert Team 6247 membership and other exercise participants by e-mail delivery of radio messages.

Core capability: Operational Communications

Objective 1: Performed with some challenges.

Strengths:

1. The message generator on Team 6247's website worked as designed.
2. Individual participants had previously completed REACT standard training on message formats and were able to read and understand the wording of ARRL/IARU/RRI radiogram format messages.

Areas for improvement:

1. Messaging volunteers on Thursday, a work day, resulted in delays in the individuals accessing their e-mail ranging from 4 to 12 hours. This is realistic, but reflects an inherent limitation of volunteers. To increase operational capability, the Team needs to recruit and train additional members.
2. Members need additional practice in understanding and composing messages with telegraphic wording.
3. The message generator was assigning an incorrect format to Priority message precedence. This was a programming error and has been corrected.

Objective 2: Test ability to collect reports of earthquake damage.

Core capability: Situational Assessment

Objective 2: Performed with major challenges.

Strengths:

1. The individual who submitted a Modified Mercalli assessment did so accurately and exhibited initiative in locating additional sources describing the scale to improve the quality of her interpretation.

Areas for improvement:

1. Only 2 assessments were received. The Team needs to either locate or develop appropriate training to increase awareness of earthquake characteristics and to clarify the wording of requests for assessment data in events.

Objective 3: Test ability to generate a daily Situation Report and transmit it to REACT International headquarters.

Core capability: Operational Communications

Objective 3: Performed without challenges.

Strengths: 1. The Team SITREP was generated using the ICS 213B form on the Team website, and transmitted at ENDEX. The SITREP generator worked as designed.

Areas for improvement: 1. All Team members should be trained to develop the SITREP.

Objective 4. Train members to correctly assess and report earthquake effects using the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.

Core capability: Situational Assessment

Objective 4: Performed with major challenges

Strengths: 1. Exercise instructions included a copy of the Modified Mercalli Scale as published on the US Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards website.

Areas for improvement: 1. The Team should conduct hazard specific training for its members or direct them to available online training.
2. Key hazard scales should be included in Team standard operating procedures.