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## Practice makes perfect

***Don Merriam, Operations Manager***

We conduct yearly training and exercise drills for all response teams, followed by an assessment. This process develops responder competencies, tests established procedures, develops confidence in participants and provides experience in using the plan's procedures in a real event.

Exercises help make people feel more comfortable in their roles and responsibilities before they are subject to the stresses of a real incident. Regular exercises and drills may bring to light deficiencies, such as lack of resources (e.g., equipment, trained personnel, supplies), which can be rectified before an activation occurs. This training also promotes safety awareness, and commitment to the safety of workers.

In addition to the mandatory annual training sessions, all teams are encouraged to hold their own training sessions; ERAC staff are available to help with tabletop sessions or provide subject matter expertise. Take the time to practice with your SCBA, review grounding and bonding, check out your gas monitor, think about fall protection or fill out a practice log – all valid subjects for review.

