

The County Training and Exercise Program remained heavily influenced by Multnomah County's response to COVID-19 - either through direct individual involvement with pandemic-related operations, or re-engaging with routine county operations that may have been significantly reduced or set aside during the pandemic response.

Upcoming training and exercise events are not included in this Mid-Year Update. Those can be found through the [MCEM Training Calendar](#), MCEM Monthly Newsletter, or outreach to the Training & Exercise Specialist (contact information at the end).

--- What we Accomplished ---

Trainings

The training program remained slim for the first half of Fiscal Year 2022. The return to work for many County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) workers and state of unknown with in-person offerings limited the program's capabilities. Here are some participation highlights of recurring trainings:

ICS-100: An Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS)			
FY '21 Q1 & Q2	FY '21 Q3 & Q4	FY '22 Q1 & Q2	Change
13	15	8	Down 57%
ICS-700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS)			
FY '21 Q1 & Q2	FY '21 Q3 & Q4	FY '22 Q1 & Q2	Change
8	8	10	Up 125%
Disaster Resource Center Online Training			
FY '21 Q1 & Q2	FY '21 Q3 & Q4	FY '22 Q1 & Q2	Change
32	20	65	Up 250%

*Note: Change category is based on the previous two half-year average.

Exercises

Multnomah County was able to maintain an active exercise program, hosting the following eight (8) emergency preparedness and response-related events:

August 31: Power Outage Workshop (Virtual)

Participants: 45

Overview: This virtual workshop brought together over 40 individuals from 11 different county-wide public, private, and non-profit organizations to determine the Essential Elements of Information (EIs) that will guide response operations and priorities. The collected EIs have been added to the MCEM EI Tool for reference during EOC activation(s). This event also provided participants an opportunity to engage in a question and answer session with the utility companies that service Multnomah County.

September 3: Emergency Management Windshield Assessment Workshop (Virtual)

Participants: 4

Overview: The Office of Emergency Management and Department of Assessment, Recording, and Taxation (DART) met to discuss internal expectations and review potential tools and resources for use. This meeting was used to kick-off internal windshield assessment discussions, build awareness for DART project managers, and determine which resources and tools to move forward with. *Note: This internal effort is currently on hold with the Regional Building Disaster Assessment Project (RBDAP) kicking-off in January 2022.*

September 7: Q1'22 Countywide Radio Drill

Participants: 20

Overview: The first quarter radio drill included 20 county-wide partners practicing the MCEM Tactical Communications Plan. Drill participation was at 46% of expected participants, dropping from 61% during the Q4'21 drill.

September 9: Hacienda CDC Tabletop Exercise 1.0 (Virtual)

Participants: 12

Overview: The County assisted Hacienda CDC conduct an evacuation tabletop exercise to test their Emergency Action Plan (EAP). This was the organization's first tabletop exercise event, and consisted of representatives from their leadership team, facilities, human resources, building management, and finance. This exercise was only able to address half the hopeful discussion topics, a second tabletop exercise was scheduled for October 2021.

September 9: Department of County Assets (DCA) Cybersecurity Tabletop (Virtual)

Participants: 25

Overview: DCA, in collaboration with the U.S. DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) hosted a cybersecurity tabletop exercise focused on an attack to the County cyber infrastructure. This exercise brought representatives from DCA-IT team, MCEM, and County Risk Management in a four-hour discussion facilitated by the DHS CISA.

September 22: Department of County Assets (DCA) Damage Assessment Full-Scale

Participants: 50

Overview: The DCA-Facilities Team hosted their annual damage assessment full-scale exercise in September 2021. This exercise involves facilities staff performing visual assessments of all county facilities and relaying that information back to Facilities Dispatch. This event has been hosted since 2017 by the DCA Facilities Team and integrated AAR-IPs to track lessons learned from each. The 3 main objectives of the exercise are:

1. Practice conducting post disaster building assessments with the goal of providing an initial report to the EOC within 48 hours after a disaster.
2. Test ability to relocate and set up a mobile operation
3. Test ability to communicate exclusively via our 2 way VHF radio system.

October 12: Hacienda CDC Tabletop Exercise 2.0 (Virtual)

Participants: 10

Overview: A second tabletop exercise with Hacienda CDC continued the discussion from September 2021. A similar group was brought together to address questions relating to a fire incident at their main facility, requiring an evacuation. This event also provided participants an opportunity to review lessons learned from the first discussion. An After-Action Report (AAR) was developed in collaboration with the project manager and was distributed with the instructions to implement a Corrective Action Program (CAP), specifically an Improvement Plan (IP).

December 14: Q2'22 Countywide Radio Drill

Participants: 18

Overview: The second quarter radio drill utilized an updated participant list, reducing the number of County Government Department call-outs. The MCEM is collaborating with the County Departments to coordinate separate internal radio drills to better align the quarterly radio drill with expected radio communications processes per the MCEM Tactical Communications Plan. While the number of participants dropped from 20 to 18, drill participation was at 50% of expected participants. The overall call-outs for these drills dropped from 56 to 38.

December 16: Winter Weather Preparation Workshop (Virtual)

Participants:

Overview: The MCEM hosted a winter weather preparation workshop, the first held following the decision to hold both annual summer and winter preparation exercises. The 2021 Winter Weather Workshop intended to build awareness for operational priorities 24 hours prior to, and 48 hours following, a significant winter event. This meeting ended with a number of action items and essential elements of information used in the recent inclement weather.

--- What we Missed Out On ---

Port of Portland Triennial (Functional Exercise): The September 2021 Port of Portland Triennial was suspended by the COVID-19 delta variant.

- Next Step - This event has been rescheduled for May 18th, 2022, and will include County participation from the Health Department (MCHD), Sheriff's Office (MCSO), Medical Examiners (MCME), Emergency Management (MCEM), and Department of County Human Services (DCHS).

Five (5) Incident Command System (ICS) Position-Specific Courses: The MCEM planned to host 5 All-Hazards Position-Specific courses during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2022, however due to the travel restrictions at the State and local levels these courses were paused.

- Next Step - All 5 courses will be offered in the Spring of 2022, keep an eye on the [MCEM Training Calendar](#) and this newsletter for more specific information.

Disaster Resource Center/Shelter Exercise Series - National Level Exercise: The County Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) included a Mass Care & Shelter Exercise Series in preparation for the June 2022 National Level Exercise. With the scope of this event being significantly reduced, the exercise series was also placed on hold.

- Next Step - The Regional Domestic Preparedness Organization (RDPO) plans to host a Mass Care Exercise Series locally to be held in Fiscal Year 2023, likely Q2 and Q3.

Disaster Resource Center/Shelter Coordinator Training: Due to the significant focus on preparing for the 2021 winter weather season, Multnomah County was unable to host a DRC Coordinator Training during Q1 and Q2. The DCHS and MCEM had set a date for Mid-December, however this event was unable to be held.

- Next Step - The DCHS and MCEM plans to host at least one offering of this course in Q3 of this fiscal year. This offering will take into consideration the wind down of operations from the activation over the New Year and the assessment of upcoming winter weather needs.

--- Program Point of Contact ---

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