

4 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISES TO TEST & ASSESS YOUR EOP

Emergency response exercises are an important part of emergency preparedness (EP). These provide hospital staff with a way to practice their responsibilities in the case of an emergency, evaluate the effectiveness of the hospital's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and identify changes that should be made to the EOP in the future.

WHAT TYPE OF EXERCISES SHOULD YOU BE CONDUCTING? READ ABOUT FOUR EXAMPLES TO TEST AND ASSESS YOUR EOP BELOW.



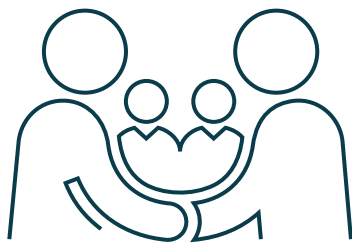
Seminars & Workshops

- > **What they are:** These sessions are basic, oftentimes initial training for team members. They are designed to familiarize teams with the facility's emergency response plan and the role they play in said plan.
- > **Benefits:** Easiest training to execute; quick educational opportunity



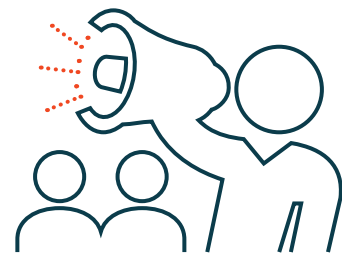
Tabletop Activities

- > **What they are:** These are discussion-based sessions, often in a classroom setting, where teams get together to talk about their role during an emergency and their responses to a certain situation. A facilitator should guide the discussion and offer scenarios for the group to discuss.
- > **Benefits:** Performed in a few hours; cost-effective method to validate plans



Operations-Based Exercises

- > **What they are:** These exercises allow people and teams to validate their EOP by performing their duties in a simulated environment. Activities for these are scenario-driven, such as running through a specific type of emergency.
- > **Benefits:** Exercise specific teams, procedures and resources; more realistic experience than seminars and tabletop activities



Full-Scale Exercises

- > **What they are:** A full-scale exercise is as close to the real thing as possible. These involve multiple first responders and community agencies to identify strengths and weaknesses of an EOP across the board.
- > **Benefits:** Take place on-site with the equipment and personnel that would be used during a real emergency; best way to thoroughly test all parts of an EOP

The Joint Commission requires most organizations to conduct emergency management exercises twice a year. You should always check your manual for your specific requirements, exceptions and clarifications.

**EC Made Easy: Your Key to Understanding EC, EM, and LS, The Joint Commission. 2017.*

***Exercises," Ready.gov. <https://www.ready.gov/business/testing/exercises>*