TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Exercise in a Box

[Date]

# exercise overview

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| --- | --- |
| **Exercise Name** | [Insert the formal name of exercise, which should match the name in the document header] |
| **Exercise Dates** | [Indicate the start and end dates of the exercise] |
| **Scope** | This exercise in a box is planned for [exercise duration] at [exercise location]. Exercise play is limited to [exercise parameters]. |
| **Mission Area(s)** | Response and Recovery |
| **Core Capabilities** | Operational Coordination, Critical Transportation, Operational Communications, Intelligence and Information Sharing |
| **Objectives** | For a full list of exercise objectives, refer to Table 1. |
| **Threat or Hazard** | The Total Solar Eclipse (TSE) in 2024 will result in a mass influx of visitors to Indiana, straining resources and critical infrastructure. |
| **Scenario** | Solar event attendance has reached peak levels across various Indiana counties. Hundreds of thousands of visitors have arrived to view the eclipse, congesting area roadways and taxing local supplies. |
| **Sponsor** | [Insert the sponsor of this exercise] |
| **Participating Organizations** | [Insert participating organizations here] See the separate sign-in sheet for the full list of participants. |
| **Point of Contact** | [Insert the name, title, agency, address, phone number, and email address of the primary exercise POC (e.g., exercise director or exercise sponsor)] |

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## EXERCISE OBJECTIVES AND CORE CAPABILITIES

The following exercise objectives shown in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to core capabilities, which are distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the specific mission area(s). The objectives and aligned core capabilities are guided by elected and appointed officials and selected by the exercise planning team.

| Objective | Core Capability |
| --- | --- |
| Players will discuss coordination efforts with key stakeholders (law enforcement, medical services, fire departments, government agencies, non-profit and private partners) to ensure that there is a unity of effort in understanding each agency’s/organization’s objectives for the event and available staged resources. | Operational Coordination |
| Players will discuss the major emergency routes in the areas of operations for the TSE. | Critical Transportation |
| Players will discuss the establishment of interoperability between participating agencies during the TSE. | Operational Communications |
| Discuss the procedures and systems used to share information during the TSE. | Intelligence and Information Sharing |

Table 1. Exercise Objectives and Associated Core Capabilities

## Participant Roles and Responsibilities

The term *participants* encompasses many groups, not just those playing in the exercise. Groups involved in the exercise, and their respective roles and responsibilities, are as follows:

* **Facilitator(s).** Facilitators provide situation updates and moderate discussions. They also provide additional information or answer questions as required. Facilitators should possess a general awareness of appropriate plans, policies and procedures, as well as the ability to listen and summarize player discussion. The facilitator is responsible for recording the answers in the SitMan if a notetaker is unavailable.
* **Players.** Players have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.

**Observers.** Observers visit or view selected segments of the exercise. Observers do not play in the exercise, nor do they perform any control or evaluation functions. Observers view the exercise from a designated observation.

## Exercise Structure

This exercise in a box will be a facilitated discussion regarding the Total Solar Eclipse event set to occur on April 8, 2024. The goal of this event is for players to review their plans, policies and procedures in responding to various incidents that could occur during this event. Players will answer questions in response to a given scenario.

This exercise will be a facilitated exercise. Players will participate in the following module:

* Module 1: Eclipse

The module begins with a scenario that summarizes key events occurring within that time. After the updates, participants review the situation and engage in functional group discussions of appropriate response and recovery issues. The questions have been structured to cover each subcommittee topic. For this exercise, the functional groups are as follows:

* Communications and Operations
* Education
* Public Safety and Health
* Resources and Logistics
* Transportation
* Viewing, Lodging and Local Support

After these functional group discussions, participants will engage in a moderated plenary discussion in which a spokesperson from each group will present a synopsis of the group’s actions, based on the scenario.

## Exercise Guidelines

* This exercise will be held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.
* Respond to the scenario using personal knowledge of current plans and capabilities (i.e., only existing assets can be used) and insights derived from training.
* Decisions are not precedent setting and may not reflect the organization’s final position on a given issue. This exercise is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.

Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve response efforts. Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.

## Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificialities are inherent in any exercise and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation. During this exercise, the following apply:

* The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems and processes will be evaluated.
* The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
* There is no “hidden agenda”, nor any trick questions.

# Module 1: Eclipse

### Monday, April 8, 2024

Solar event attendance has reached peak levels across various Indiana counties. Hundreds of thousands of visitors have arrived to view the eclipse, congesting area roadways and taxing local supplies.

## Key Issues

* Congested roadways, extreme traffic, stress to local infrastructure
* Strain on local and state resources due to the influx of visitors
* [Summarize the key scenario events provided in this module.]

## Questions

Based on the information provided, participate in the discussion concerning the issues raised in Module 1. Identify any critical issues, decisions, requirements or questions that should be addressed at this time.

The following questions are provided in correlation to the TSE subcommittees developed to prepare Indiana for the TSE event. These questions are not meant to constitute a definitive list of concerns to be addressed, nor is there a requirement to address every question.

### Communications and Operations

1. Do you anticipate communication challenges in the days leading up to eclipse events?
   1. If so, how will these challenges be mitigated?
   2. Are there secondary or alternative means of communicating between emergency personnel?
   3. Will there be challenges related to the interoperability of communications between agencies and disciplines?
2. What processes are in place to provide situational updates to emergency personnel and other critical stakeholders during the response to a multi-jurisdictional incident?
3. How does your agency/organization typically coordinate emergency preparedness and response efforts with other local, state and federal agencies/organizations?

### Education

1. What plans are in place to provide shelter or mass evacuation for visitors in campsites or various eclipse venues in case of an emergency and how would those be communicated?
2. What mechanisms are in place to communicate with out-of-town visitors at various eclipse venues, including campsites, viewing sites and events?
3. How are you monitoring and responding to social media activity?
   1. Do you attempt to dispel rumors and clarify information via social media? If so, how? Which ones?
   2. Do you share social media activity and information with your partners?

### Public Safety and Health

1. For special events, are food vendors periodically inspected to ensure compliance?
2. What are potential medical assistance needs from observers?
3. What, if any, procedures are in place for local police departments to request assistance from state police for traffic management and crowd control operations?
   1. Can local police departments request assistance from other local police in less affected regions?
4. Have you checked in with community mental health center(s) and mobile crisis availability?

### Resources and Logistics

1. Do you have an updated and accurate list of resources available for potential deployment?
2. What MOUs/MOAs does your organization/agency have in place that will not be as strained during the TSE event that could be called upon in case of emergency?
3. What resources do you predict you will need to request from other counties/state agencies because your organization/agency does not have that resource?
4. Do you have the ability to view and use the State Emergency Operations Center WebEOC resource catalog tool?

### Transportation

In the event of heavy traffic on major roadways, what alternate routes are available to assist visitors in reaching their destinations?

* 1. What mechanisms are in place to communicate detours?

1. How do you ensure responders are able to access incident sites given traffic conditions?
2. How would you coordinate across counties to alleviate traffic congestion for special events?
3. Discuss the major emergency routes in the areas of operations for the TSE event.

### Viewing, Lodging and Local Support

1. How will you engage your community-based organizations to assist those within your community before, during and after the TSE event?
2. What efforts, if any, have been made between the EMA, local tourism office, chamber of commerce and other private entities on developing a list of event observation sites for government services to be aware of?

**HOTWASH**

The hotwash is an important aspect of the exercise because it provides the opportunity for participants to reflect on the strengths and gaps of their plans and capabilities to respond to the incident described in the scenario.

1. Currently, does your organization/agency have the capability and resources available to support this scenario?
2. What gaps, if any, did you notice that need to be addressed before the TSE occurs?
3. What are potential corrective actions you can take to address these gaps?

# appendix a: after-action summary report

## recorded observations

The recorded observations have been developed specifically for [jurisdiction X] as a result of the Total Solar Eclipse exercise.

| **Objective** | **Participant Observed Strengths** | **Participant Observed**  **Gaps** | **Participant Observed**  **Corrective Actions** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Players will discuss coordination efforts with key stakeholders (law enforcement, medical services, fire departments, government agencies, non-profit and private partners) to ensure that there is a unity of effort in understanding each agency’s/organization’s objectives for event and available staged resources. |  |  |  |
| Players will discuss the major emergency routes in the areas of operations for the TSE. |  |  |  |
| Players will discuss the establishment of interoperability between participating agencies during the TSE. |  |  |  |
| Discuss the procedures and systems used to share information during the TSE. |  |  |  |

# Appendix B: RELEVANT PLANS

[Insert excerpts from relevant plans, policies or procedures to be tested during the exercise.]

# Appendix C: ACRONYMS

| **Acronym** | **Term** |
| --- | --- |
| EMA | Emergency Management Agency |
| FOUO | For Official Use Only |
| HSEEP | Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| SME | Subject Matter Expert |
| TSE | Total Solar Eclipse |
| VIP | Very Important Person |