

Spring 2024 After Action Report

Held on April 27, 2024 9AM to Noon

The presumed disaster for this exercise was an earthquake.

The objectives were Building Size-up and injury Triage. We did not have AROs nor MCARES involved this time around.

Activities Conducted Based on Objectives

All teams made progress on the objectives outlined for the exercise:

- Each team met at a building site selected by the Planning Committee – this was the first time that we have done a CDE in buildings
- This CDE focused on Building Size-up and Triage
- Teams were divided in half – one group played NETs the other half injured – they switched roles later
- Each team used FRS/GMRS radios for intra-team communication;

Teams

We had six physical teams for the Spring 2024 CDE, including West Salem CERT (they held their CDE on May 18th). This time around there was no Zoom team. Fifty-three neighborhoods were represented.

Each team had an exercise coordinator who was a member of the Planning Committee.

Locations

Close to Downtown	PCC Climb Center
Inner Southeast	Smile Station
North/Inner Northeast	St Johns Church
Outer East	Scenario Village
Southwest	West Portland United Methodist Church

The Numbers

Total number of registrants	128
Participants (registered)	128
Participants (day of registered)	128
Participants (day of, actually participated)	100
Number of teams	6
Exercise Coordinators	6
Subnets	0

Hours

374 hours logged

Feedback Scores

CDE Feedback Scores - Perfect Score is 5.00							
Date	The exercise was well structured and organized.	The overall exercise was plausible and realistic.	The individual scenarios were plausible and realistic.	The exercise will help me be a better NET member.	I felt that my participation was valued and necessary.	The Incident Commander built a strong plan.	Total Score
Spring 2024	4.63	4.3	4.31	4.72	4.5	4.09	4.43
Fall 2023	4.41	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.67	4.06	4.41
Spring 2023	4.45	4.28	4.49	4.64	4.45	4.35	4.44
Fall 2022	4.28	4.21	4.16	4.47	4.4	4.05	4.08
Spring 2022	3.14	3.14	3.26	3.05	2.86	2.52	3.00
Fall 2021	4.31	3.79	4.32	4.03	4.35	4.08	4.15
Spring 2021	3.86	3.86	3.83	4.08	3.82	3.43	3.81

What do participants want to focus on for the Fall 2024 CDE

Exercise participants identified several items that need continued focus in the next CDE:

- Working with forms, forms, forms...this continues to be an area we need to continue to practice
- ICS Structure
- FRS Radio Techniques
- Nighttime response
- More medical training

Comments from participants

Reminder of how anxiety provoking this situation will be and getting the practice staying focused. Got to see what things are extremely important in terms of getting accurate counts of "victim/survivors", by making mistakes.

Mixing neighborhoods made everyone adapt and take on roles they might not have otherwise, which was great! We also had a great facilitation/leadership team at Scenario Village; The post-exercise hotwash on-site was great.

My buddy wandered off after neglecting to finish with a survivor. I finished and caught up. Some NETs missing clearly stated gear on the brief like lights, radios, tape, gloves, PPE wearing. Need everyone to carry colored tape to avoid having to stop and write statuses. Too lax in some steps that will always be a part of any real world S&R. Our team lead scribed and then transcribed, creating inconsistencies-stay on your assigned task.

The building was complex enough to be challenging and being able to do the exercise several times with different roles was helpful. I learned things both when serving as a survivor and also when on the search team.

A strength was that we had to form ourselves into teams and come up with our plan.

We still need to work on staying calm and to use our words sparingly so that we don't fill the space with our own noise and miss commands, calls for help or radio transmissions.

I thought it was really beneficial to be in a new team of NETs I don't know to learn from them and also have the added real-world hurdle of quickly assembling and navigating different personalities.

Exercise Follow-up

The planning committee encouraged each team to conduct a brief "hot wash" immediately following the exercise to report on their experience, give initial reactions to the planning committee through their exercise coordinators, and begin to identify areas where individual teams need to work on improvement and also where the team currently excels so that their skills can be maintained. It appears that most teams were able to have an on scene (or nearby) hot wash.

The planning committee conducted a follow-up survey offered to all exercise participants to gather more in-depth feedback on various aspects of the exercise. The summary feedback is presented in the chart on page two of this report in the Feedback Scores section.

This after-action report will be used in planning future exercises.

Notes From Spring 2024 CDE Hotwash

- What was the crisis before we started?
- Write persons name on the tape we put on them
- Many liked being in the various buildings
- Should decide on some type of ID for injured to track them
- Dusting off the basics
- Stay together as pairs
- The noise level increased – take time to breathe
- What should we say to people when we are triaging rather than treating them
- Some teams did not set an area as a Staging Area
- Communications – 1 person per team on radio – radio person does not triage, they radio
- Silence on radio unless something urgent happens
- Knock on doors before entering a building or home – call out if doing a 360 of building





Close to Downtown Team

Inner Northeast/North Team



Outer Eastside Team