



Plan Implementation and Program Evaluation

This group of sessions will take place after the main planning effort has been completed. It will provide opportunities for plan validation, exercise planning, and conducting an after-action review (AAR) and briefings to senior leaders and other stakeholders. FEMA works collaboratively with communities to set their own goals and objectives. Below are common session outlines and results.

Exercise Planning Toolkit

To support dam emergency exercise community planning for a dam-related exercise, the CTA delivery team may develop an exercise planning toolkit, which will focus on helping dam owners and operators conduct dam emergency exercises. The toolkit will assist dam owners/operators and emergency managers with identifying what elements of their dam Emergency Action Plans or Emergency Operation Plans they want to test, and providing example scenarios, injects, and strategies for engaging community partners in the exercise and beyond. This toolkit would be developed in coordination with FEMA's National Exercise Division (NED) and ensure compatibility with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.

The Exercise Planning Toolkit may include the following elements:

- **Guide and Templates:** These documents would be developed similarly to the Dam Incident Planning Guide and include specific guidance for dam officials in creating dam incident exercises including topics such as scoping, stakeholder engagement, exercise building and exercise conduct. FEMA would develop a Dam Owner/Operator Emergency Action Plan Exercise Guide and adapt existing templates from the NED. Alternatively, the National Exercise Division may be able to adapt their own guidance for the dam owner/operator audience.
- **Web-based Planning Tools:** Existing exercise planning and organization tools that may be useful for dam officials and will work with the National Dam Safety Program, National Integration Center Technical Assistance, and NED will be used to evaluate existing tools and determine if any may be easily adaptable for use in an exercise planning toolkit.
- **Result:**
 - ✔ The CTA delivery team will develop an exercise planning toolkit to help dam owners and operators conduct dam emergency exercises.



Tabletop Exercise and Joint AAR

The participants will engage in a one-day tabletop exercise aimed at exercising and examining revised Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and dam incident annexes to local Emergency Operation Plans (EOPs). Using local emergency operations centers, players will receive information from their dam owners or operators about one or more emergency situations. Players will be expected to use the skills, models, tools, and plans they have developed throughout the CTA process to “respond” to the emergency.

- **Format:** In-person
- **Results:**
 - ✔ Lessons learned will be generated from the tabletop exercise. An after-action report will be developed.
 - ✔ The core team will be able to use the AAR to inform plan revisions as appropriate, as well as brief senior officials.

Joint AAR Review and Stakeholder Closeout

The AAR will be reviewed. Plans may be updated based on the AAR (as practicable). The TA delivery team and participants will also discuss lessons learned and participant recommendations to improve future TAs.

- **Format:** Online or in-person
- **Results:**
 - ✔ Actionable items to improve EAPs and dam incident and evacuation and shelter-in-place annexes to local EOPs.
 - ✔ CTA close-out report.

Results

The CTA program will result in:



New or renewed partnerships between dam owners and operators, public safety officials, and individuals, communities, and organizations that are at-risk of dam related emergencies.



Greater understanding of the operational considerations for dam owners and operators before, during, and after dam-related emergencies and the associated consequences of these actions.



Enhanced risk communication strategies and better protective action decision-making for all dam owners and operators, public safety officials, and stakeholder organizations and communities.



Training on modeling and analysis of dam failure scenarios—including how to coordinate with State representatives to use the Decision Support System for Water Infrastructural Security Web (DSS-WISE) to understand likely consequences of dam emergencies and how to integrate the results into future planning or situational awareness products.



New or revised plans and assessments, such as emergency operations plans, emergency action plans, hazard mitigation plans, floodplain management plans, business continuity plans, and Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (THIRA) that give greater consideration to dam-related emergencies.