What is the National Exercise Program (NEP)?

The National Exercise Program (NEP) is a cycle of exercises across the nation that examines and validates capabilities in all preparedness mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. FEMA's National Exercise Division manages the NEP.

Why Participate in the NEP?

- Receive technical assistance and support throughout design, development, conduct, and evaluation of your exercises from experienced exercise specialists.
- Pursue new exercise ideas and broaden the impact of your exercises to a wider group of stakeholders.
- Access exercise templates, tools, and other resources to help you design, conduct, and evaluate your exercises.
- Influence national preparedness policy and resource allocation decisions at all levels by contributing exercise findings.

How Does the NEP Work?

- State, local, tribal, and territorial government organizations are eligible to submit requests for exercise support. The NEP accepts requests twice a year, spring and fall.
- Exercises can be discussion based (e.g., seminars, workshops, tabletop exercises, games) or operations based (e.g., drills, functional exercises, full-scale exercises).
- Support could include assistance with exercise design, scenario development, planning, conduct, and/or evaluation in the form of subject-matter expertise, material production, and/or facilitation for selected exercises.
- All exercises submitted to the NEP will be considered; however, support depends on resource availability and a strong support request package. Local and tribal jurisdictions, as well as new sponsors who have not submitted support requests in the past, are heavily encouraged to apply.
- Exercises in the NEP contribute evaluation data to the National Preparedness System to provide a clearer picture of the nation's readiness.

How Do I Request Exercise Support?

- Visit fema.gov/nep to learn more about the NEP.
- Download and complete the Exercise Support Form.
- Submit completed forms with any required attachments by the deadlines to be considered for exercise support.
- The FEMA National Exercise Division will send support decisions approximately a month after the support round closes.

Fall Round: November 1st
Spring Round: April 1st

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