



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISES

## EPA Region 8 Program Quick Facts

### What are Exercises?

Exercises test and validate plans and procedures, test the readiness of response capabilities, and increase the confidence and skill of personnel. In addition, exercises allow emergency response staff to identify weaknesses so they can improve performance during an actual response. In-teragency exercises also allow the various agencies' personnel to become familiar with each other and learn to coordinate and operate together.

**EPA Region 8 can provide support to states, tribes and local agencies to help develop, implement and evaluate these exercises.**

### What is the scope of Exercises?

Exercises bring together and strengthen the whole community in its efforts to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all hazards.

### What is included in Exercises?

There are five phases to managing an exercise — the foundation, design and development, conduct, evaluation and improvement planning.

#### Types of Exercises:

##### Discussion Based Exercises:

- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Tabletop Exercises
- ◆ Games

##### Operations Based Exercises:

- ◆ Drills
- ◆ Functional Exercises
- ◆ Full-Scale Exercises

### Why Exercise?

- ◆ Improve response capabilities, coordination and communication
- ◆ Reveal planning weaknesses and gaps
- ◆ Clarify roles and responsibilities
- ◆ Meet regulatory requirements (EPCRA requires LEPC's to exercise their emergency response plans)
- ◆ Validate plans
- ◆ Practice
- ◆ Build relationships
- ◆ Gain public confidence



#### Contact Us:

##### Luke Chavez

- **Email:**  
chavez.luke@epa.gov
- **Phone:**  
303-312-6512

##### EPA Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, Colorado 80202