

[INSERT YEAR] STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

# FLOOD SCENARIO

**Please Read This First:** *This scenario is intended as a “95% solution” Local exercise planners should customize the scenario according to their objectives and unique hazards exercised by your jurisdiction. This document is meant to exercise capabilities identified in the Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP). Local exercise planners* ***are not required*** *to use the scenario suggested. All components of the scenario are optional.*

*Bracketed text* ***[your jurisdiction]*** *in gray highlight is to aid with customization. This scenario information will be reflected in the Situation Manual to prompt discussion questions based on the objectives, as well as in the Master Scenario Events List to prompt response among exercise participants. For the functional exercise, it is recommended that exercise planners leverage the Master Scenario Events List in addition to this document.*

## SCENARIO

**Customizing the Scenario with Additional Components**

* All jurisdictions should consider adding or revising the components of the scenario according to their objectives, participants, and most likely hazards. The following is a list of additional, optional components that your exercise planning team may consider adding:
  + Water testing (Boil Water Notices, etc.)
  + Local sanitation procedures (notify public)
  + Health hazards related to standing water (contaminated water, hazards materials, power lines, etc.)
  + Local Communicable Disease Plan policies and procedures
  + Local laboratory testing and reporting protocols
  + Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recommendations and messaging to healthcare facilities (standing water, loss of water, etc.)
  + Medical Examiner/Coroner’s Office involvement and roles
  + Patient and/or Facility Evacuations, if there is a need to test this function
  + Deployment of Behavioral Health staff as deemed appropriate

## PRE-INCIDENT INFORMATION

***[One Month Pre Exercise]***

* Your region has had an unusually wet season, with a record amount of rainfall. Extended rainfall has saturated the soil and caused runoff directly into streams and rivers, causing small area floods. Wet weather is expected to continue, and a slow-moving low-pressure storm system continues to produce heavy rainfall. Local street flooding has been continuous throughout the past month.
* The persistent rainfall has caused a **[levee, dam, aqueduct, river, etc.]** in your area to exceed the normal water elevation, and has been compromised. Officials have concerns that a failure could occur during future storms and this could result in a flash-flood scenario.
* Consider information regarding sand bag quantities, use, filling locations, delivery of sand bags, muscle walls, plastic sheeting, etc.

**[One Week Before Exercise]**

* During an intense and sudden rainstorm, flash flooding occurred on a **[Main Local Highway].** Two vehicles were caught in the storm waters. One vehicle, a truck, was pushed off the road and the driver was rescued by local authorities. The other vehicle was pushed off the road and unfortunately was struck with debris and the driver was unable to exit the car and drowned.
* The **[Local Health Department]** and news stations are reminding the public with “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” messages.
* Flooding of a local recreation area has caused the mass relocation of a homeless camp. **[Your jurisdiction]** has had to establish a shelter for this newly displaced population.
* Local media is reporting widely on the storms headed to your area, and there are concerns that there may be additional flooding in the area.
* **[Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]**

## EXERCISE INFORMATION

**[Week of Exercise]**

* The National Weather Service issues a [**Flood Watch]** for **[Your jurisdiction].** The forecast calls for additional heavy rainfall, perhaps as much as 2-6 inches during the next 72 hours.
* The primary road used to access your facility is flooded and impassable.
* **[Your facility, organization]** has been contacted by the media to discuss the impact the road closure is having on your ability to provide services.

**[Day before Exercise]**

* As the storm continues, the National Weather Service issues a **[Flash Flood Warning]** for **[Your jurisdiction].** It is estimated that flash flooding may occur within 12 hours.
* Areas around the facility are experiencing minor flooding, including the parking lot and garage.
* The **[local authority]** has issued a voluntary evacuation for **[insert County, City, Agency, Facility]** and as a result, **[Your facility, organization]** is beginning to experience staffing problems. Road closures have affected the ability of some staff to report to work. Other staff are asking to return home.
* Many local schools and child care facilities are closing early today. Your **[Agency, Facility]** is experiencing staffing problems.
* Delivery drivers are unable to access your facility and you are not receiving critical shipments. Facilities on generator power may need extra fuel but delivery may not be plausible.
* **[Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]**

**[Day of Exercise]**

* The **[local authority]** has issued a **[mandatory evacuation]** for **[insert County, City, Agency, Facility]**.
* Floodwaters reach your facility and cause significant damage on the first floor and supply storage areas.
* Large parts of **[insert County, City]** are without power, and some areas are without water.
* In some areas, residents have to be rescued from flooded homes and vehicles.
* Roadways remain flooded and impassable.
* Police officers have established a perimeter around heavily damaged areas, including your organization, and are not allowing anyone to enter for safety reasons.
* **[Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]**

## ONLINE RESOURCES

| **Agency / Department** | **Web Address** |
| --- | --- |
| **Department of Homeland Security** | <https://www.ready.gov/floods> |
| **United States Environmental Protection Agency** | <https://www.epa.gov/natural-disasters/flooding> |
| **Federal Emergency Management Agency: Flood Safety Lessons Learned** | <https://www.fema.gov/blog/2013-03-21/my-time-water-flood-safety-lessons-learned> |
| **National Weather Service – Flood Safety Tips and Resources** | <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood> |
| **California Department of Water Resources – Flood Emergency Response Information Exchange (FERIX)** | [http://ferix.water.ca.gov/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__ferix.water.ca.gov_&d=DwMFAg&c=Lr0a7ed3egkbwePCNW4ROg&r=iZXjR7_S1dvfdCUPdc7IQz4exGRZfAA7BjyNFICmUc4&m=ed2lmC6fJUgXKmo4V5ln11sTKjDHHJmBf60XxMd04OY&s=Y9zUU29CsOC-gUAwzl2FoYpYI1PeaWXXeSF1iBIcqlw&e=) - Main page  [http://ferix.water.ca.gov/webapp/lv/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__ferix.water.ca.gov_webapp_lv_&d=DwMFAg&c=Lr0a7ed3egkbwePCNW4ROg&r=iZXjR7_S1dvfdCUPdc7IQz4exGRZfAA7BjyNFICmUc4&m=ed2lmC6fJUgXKmo4V5ln11sTKjDHHJmBf60XxMd04OY&s=bUELeHe04kEvTlFyXb-444fMtRSkRb0eJ4sKeGeMuFs&e=) - Levee Vulnerabilities (annual erosion site evaluations)  [http://ferix.water.ca.gov/webapp/cvfed2/?d=floodemergencyresponse](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__ferix.water.ca.gov_webapp_cvfed2_-3Fd-3Dfloodemergencyresponse&d=DwMFAg&c=Lr0a7ed3egkbwePCNW4ROg&r=iZXjR7_S1dvfdCUPdc7IQz4exGRZfAA7BjyNFICmUc4&m=ed2lmC6fJUgXKmo4V5ln11sTKjDHHJmBf60XxMd04OY&s=g-pJT210XAiwhmPBa3bUuWkJSvbY7UovcN1Naf1TGkQ&e=) – Flood Inundation Simulations  [http://ferix.water.ca.gov/webgis/?appid=CriticalSites](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__ferix.water.ca.gov_webgis_-3Fappid-3DCriticalSites&d=DwMFAg&c=Lr0a7ed3egkbwePCNW4ROg&r=iZXjR7_S1dvfdCUPdc7IQz4exGRZfAA7BjyNFICmUc4&m=ed2lmC6fJUgXKmo4V5ln11sTKjDHHJmBf60XxMd04OY&s=-asWlO72sc6IvQ8S6rKqrzLVRILOERQLJcI6fDeKpnQ&e=) – Contingency plans for known emergency sites |

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Flood Advisory**: Issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur, may become a nuisance. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

**Flash Flood Warning**: Issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.

**Flood Warning:** Issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent or already happening.

**Flood Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.

**Forced Evacuation:** Is issued and will apply to the public in general and may include personnel designated as essential or critical workforce. Forced evacuations are designed for small geographic areas affected by local disaster or emergency. These are issued as a “last resort” when a disaster or emergency has been declared and danger of loss of life is imminent, and conditions exist that critically imperil or endanger the lives of those in the defined area.

**Mandatory Evacuation:** Is issued when danger is imminent and conditions exist that seriously imperil or endanger the lives of those in a defined area. People are “strongly urged” to relocate to a safer location. Personal discretion is not to be considered a deciding factor. A person who refuses to comply with a “mandatory” evacuation order shall not be forcibly removed from his home; however, all public services will be suspended during a mandatory evacuation and those failing to comply with a mandatory evacuation order shall not be rescued or provided with other lifesaving assistance.

**Voluntary Evacuation**: Is issued when the threat to lives is not yet imminent but conditions exist or such circumstances may exist in the near future. It is “recommended” that persons relocate to a safer location.