# 2023 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise

# Chemical Fire with Burn & Pediatric Surge Scenario

# Public Health Objectives

**How To Use This Document:** *The purpose of this document is to provide sample objectives and capabilities for exercise planners to select from in designing their Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE). These capabilities and their supporting objectives were identified based on the Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) (formerly MYTEP) developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). To access this document, visit* <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/EPO/Pages/swmhe.aspx>

*To use this document, insert your agency/organization’s name in the bracketed text in the header that reads “Insert Name of Agency/Organization Here.” Review the suggested capabilities and objectives and* ***consider them as options to create an Exercise Plan that is customized to the unique characteristics of your organization******and community****. Select and modify as needed. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),* ***ten or fewer objectives are recommended for a functional exercise****.*

## Applicable Capabilities

| **Type** | **Capability** | **Capability Goal** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| PHEP | Medical Surge | Ability to provide adequate medical evaluation and care during events that exceed the limits of the normal medical infrastructure of an affected community. |
| PHEP | Responder Safety and Health | Ability to protect public health and other emergency responders during pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment. |
| PHEP | Emergency Public Information and Warning | Ability to develop, coordinate, and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications to the public and incident management personnel. |
| PHEP | Information Sharing | Ability to conduct multijurisdictional and multidisciplinary exchange of health-related information and situational awareness data among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels of government and the private sector. |
| PHEP | Emergency Operations Coordination | Ability to coordinate with emergency management and to direct and support an incident or event with public health or health care implications by establishing a standardized, scalable system of oversight, organization, and supervision that is consistent with jurisdictional standards and practices and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). |
| PHEP | Community Recovery | Ability of communities to identify critical assets, facilities, and other services within public health, emergency management, health care, human services, mental/behavioral health, and environmental health sectors that can guide and prioritize recovery operations. |

# Proposed Objectives

## Objective One

Provide and receive situational awareness with inter and intra-jurisdictional stakeholders to determine impacts of a chemical/burn surge for the public health jurisdiction by evaluating local policies and procedures through the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) program. *Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Capability 6: Information Sharing*

Sample Task(s):

* Develop a common operating picture regarding a chemical/burn surge and pediatric surge
* Develop an operational picture of jurisdictional capabilities
* Identify potential impacts of scenario on public health in the jurisdiction

## Objective Two

Determine the need to activate public health emergency operations based on analyzed information. *PHEP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Validate decision-making processes for activation of the jurisdiction’s public health emergency management structure
* Establish emergency management structure based on received information and anticipated mission areas
* Develop a Rapid Needs Assessment[[1]](#footnote-1) to determine the existing and emerging healthcare needs of the affected population
* Potential Scenario-Based Mission Areas:
  + Mental & Behavioral Health
  + Environmental Health including radiation monitoring
  + Community Outreach
  + Veterinary Public Health
  + Providing consultation on the management of radiation/chemical injuries
  + Health Education

## Objective Three

Validate the processes used to develop a jurisdiction-wide public health response strategy. *PHEP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Develop an initial incident response strategy
* Develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for public health missions for the operational period, and conduct associated planning meetings
* Develop and implement an organizational structure that addresses the Incident Command System (ICS) / Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) positions

## Objective Four

Validate the processes used to respond to a public health emergency within a jurisdiction. *PHEP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Validate processes used to declare a local health emergency
* Implement mission areas identified within the previously developed IAP
  + Jurisdiction may choose to simulate field activities or operationalize portions of the IAP based on capability and capacity
* Validate processes to staff and support the mission areas identified within the IAP
* Consult with the local Health Officer to request the declaration of a Local Health Emergency
* Activate local Environmental Health resources to assist in developing resource requests for Enviromental Health capabilities and capacities not within the OA
* Draft and release any necessary public health advisories for potential threats and/or air quality and/or for radiation/chemical exposure emergencies and mitigation steps to be taken (as applicable)
* Identify protocols and policies to ensure equitable access to available services

## Objective Five

Provide and receive situational awareness with inter and intra-jurisdictional stakeholders to determine impacts of the incident for the public health jurisdiction. Evaluate local policies and procedures to communicate with field response forces to develop a common operating picture of the incident. *Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Capability 6: Information Sharing*

Sample Task(s):

* Develop an information sharing plan
* Develop a common operating picture of impacts by receiving and processing reports from the field
* Evaluate communication nodes from field to the operations center
* Establish a process for bi-daily Situation Report[[2]](#footnote-2) submissions to the Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) Program, Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS), EMSA Duty Officer, and CDPH Duty Officer as determined by Command and the needs of the operational period
* Coordinate with local Healthcare Coalition to establish a daily coalition conference call for situational awareness and information sharing

## Objective Six

Evaluate processes utilized to communicate with the public regarding scenario impacts and resiliency activities. *PHEP Capability 4: Emergency Public Information and Warning*

Sample Tasks:

* Evaluate jurisdictional ability to incorporate public health messaging into Joint Information Center (JIC) operations
* Utilize the JIC to combine information and coordinate internal and external messages per local policies and procedures
* Ensure Public Health Public Information Officer(s) (PIO) coordinate in the development of a standardized press release template per local policies and procedures
* Ensure the PIO and/or JIC are considering media for reaching vulnerable populations and those with other access and functional needs (AFN)
* Validate processes used to communicate through the Joint Information System (JIS) with any internal and/or external messaging for populations serving AFN
* Include at least one objective each operational period related to serving AFN populations
* Identify protocols and policies to ensure equitable access to available services.

## Objective Seven

Provide coordination and leadership in the provision of health and medical resources related to the surge of patients within the jurisdiction. *PHEP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* Activate medical surge plans
* Conduct HavBed polls for area hospitals
* Activate Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and/or health care coalition mutual aid agreements for shared resources
* Assess hospitals for diversion and staff shortages
* Coordinate with the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) and local responding agencies to determine the need for partners, additional behavioral and mental health services, and volunteers to provide an appropriate level of care to staff and displaced persons, and patient, responder, and population safety

## Objective Eight

Plan for the activation of mental and behavioral health services for all staff members as part of incident response and recovery planning. *PHEP Capability 14: Responder Safety and Health*

Sample Task(s):

* Coordinate with the MHOAC and local responding agencies to determine the need for additional behavioral and mental health services, partners, and volunteers to provide an appropriate level of care to staff and displaced persons
* Incorporate mental and behavioral health services and agencies in all situational awareness and/or information distributed to other agencies as part of incident response

## Objective Nine

Assess community needs and impacts as a result of the scenario including local assistance centers, mental and behavioral health services, and public information needs, and incorporate into an incident Recovery Plan. *PHEP Capability 11: Community Recovery*

Sample Task(s):

* Assess the need for a local assistance center to provide recovery services to the community
* Plan for the conduct of town halls and community meetings to provide additional information and identify additional needs
* Coordinate recovery services and resources with other responding agencies to avoid duplication in recovery efforts
* Share recovery planning information with other responding agencies and participants

1. Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA) are conducted immediately following a disaster to identify the needs of the population in an organized and coordinated fashion. One tool often utilized is the CDC’s Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER). More information on CASPER is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/casper/default.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. If applicable, jurisdictions may put forth a Flash Report in place of a Situation Report if it is not necessary to fill out the entire Situation Report [↑](#footnote-ref-2)