

### **1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:**

Using Tabletop Exercises as an Effective Training Tool to meet Federal OSHA Training Requirements of HAZWOPER 1910.120

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### **2. Workshop Summary**

The objective of this 90 minute training exercise was to allow participants to simulate how communities can assessment their ability to respond to HazMat incidents. These exercises provide the opportunity to identify response and coordination issues that could arise during various HazMat scenarios and make the decisions to resolve those issues.

### **3. Methods**

This exercise is a tabletop training delivery that draws upon the expertise of the participants, allowing them to demonstrate their knowledge of the Incident Management System, as well as the OSHA HAZWOPER Standard, 29 CFR 1910.120. The instructor must be knowledgeable about the general subject, versed in the specifics of IMS, and experienced in leading tabletop exercise.

This session will focus on three popular HazMat training scenarios:

1. Fixed Facility in a rural area - accident involving a chlorine leak in a water treatment plant.
2. Highway Accident in a suburban area - describing an acetone release.
3. Urban Rail Accident -involving release of chlorine.

The exercises simplify and sequence events during a timeframe that, in reality, would be characterized by a series of complex issues occurring nearly simultaneously.

### **4. Main Points**

#### Key lessons from the Tabletop Exercise

The goals of these exercises were to:

- Validate coordination and communication capabilities during HazMat incidents.

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- Verify policies and procedures for responding to HazMat incidents.
- Identify the overall strengths and weaknesses of HazMat plans.

Responses from the participants

- Participants have an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to direct, coordinate, and control emergency activities using the Incident Command System (ICS) during the exercise.
- Participants have an opportunity Demonstrate the ability to alert, mobilize, and activate personnel and deploy equipment for emergency response and maintain operations until the situation is brought under control during the exercise.
- Participants have an opportunity to coordinate and disseminate timely/accurate information to the media and public during the brief exercise.
- Participants saw the effective it takes to put on a tabletop exercise
- Participants recognized that advanced Incident Management Training was needed to complete a full tabletop training exercise.

**5. References**

None were used for this brief workshop of 90 minutes

**6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources**

Handouts: Using Tabletop Exercises as an Effective Training Tool to meet Federal OSHA - PPT