



Eagle Horizon Continuity Preparedness Exercise

Eagle Horizon is a mandatory, annual, integrated continuity exercise for all federal executive branch departments and agencies (D/As), as required by National Continuity Policy. The Eagle Horizon series of exercises allows the executive branch to implement integrated, overlapping national continuity concepts in order to ensure the preservation of our government and the continuing performance of essential functions. These services provided by governments at all levels and the private sector affect the everyday lives of citizens and customers.

Eagle Horizon Exercise Objectives

The Eagle Horizon overarching objectives are set by the principles committee and cover a two year period. During the odd numbered year FEMA National Continuity Programs designs a building block exercise to prepare participants for a full scale exercise that is conducted on even numbered years. Each D/A is allowed to develop internal objectives to stress certain areas of their continuity program. Some general objectives that are used in these exercises include:

- Assess/Demonstrate the implementation of continuity and devolution plans in accordance with Federal Continuity Directives;
- Assess/demonstrate the continuity capability of D/As including the ability to perform all Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs)/Mission Essential Functions (MEFs);
- Assess/demonstrate communication capabilities;
- Assess/demonstrate the ability to execute and communicate all applicable emergency authorities;
- Assess/demonstrate the accountability of resources and emergency contracts; and
- Examine broader national continuity capabilities, specifically communications, with state, territorial, tribal, local and private sector partners.

Exercise Highlights

Eagle Horizon has demonstrated the ability for D/As to recover from and respond to scenarios such as hurricanes, improvised nuclear device detonations, earthquakes and cyber-attacks. Each year the exercises are evaluated to confirm the D/A ability to meet the exercise objectives as well as the ability to operate in less than optimal conditions while maintaining mission essential functions.

Validation of Continuity Programs

These operations-based exercises allow agencies and jurisdictions to ensure consistency across continuity plans, establish consistent performance metrics, prioritize implementation plans, promulgate best practices and facilitate consistent cross-agency continuity evaluations.

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