



Vermont Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition

Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE)

Participant Handout

May 11, 2022 | 1:00PM – 4:00PM | Virtual

Scenario Overview

During a large wedding event at popular ski resort in northern Vermont, an outdoor balcony holding approximately 350 guests collapses. The wedding guests ages range from 12 – 80 years old. There expected to be many trauma injuries, resulting in a large medical surge impacting the Vermont healthcare system.

Exercise Objectives

1. Assess the VHEPC's capacity to support a large-scale, community-wide medical surge incident.
2. Identify data source(s) used to obtain performance measure reporting as required by the HPP Cooperative Agreement.
3. Evaluate the VHEPC members' ability to communicate critical information and coordinate to quickly place victims in appropriate facilities after a medical surge incident that overwhelms the healthcare system in the region
4. Identify the support needs (i.e., Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), equipment, supplies, staff, transport, beds, space, community partners, telemedicine/telehealth, etc.) within the VHEPC to accommodate a medical surge incident.

Exercise Purpose & Scope

VHEPC Medical Response and Surge Exercise

- **Exercise Play:** 1:00PM – 4:00PM
- **Exercise Purpose:** The purpose of the MRSE is to provide healthcare coalitions (HCCs) with an opportunity to test their surge response and preparedness capabilities.¹
- **Exercise Participants:** All Core Members- hospitals, EMS, emergency management organization and public health agencies are required participants¹. VHEPC encourages the State Hospital Association, VHEPC Clinical Advisors and other HCC members to participate.
- **Virtual Platform:** Zoom

Pre-Registration is Required by May 2, 2022. While play will happen at an organizational level, all players should individually register so that VHEPC can document player participation. [Registration Link or use the QR code](#)



Scope:

- The MRSE is a functional exercise, which HSEEP describes as “an operations-based exercise designed to test and evaluate capabilities and functions while in a realistic, real-time environment.”¹
- The MRSE will test VHEPC and its members’ capacity to accommodate a surge of patients equal to at least 20% of its staffed bed capacity and to ensure availability of staffed beds, supplies and equipment, and personnel across its membership.
- Exercise play is limited to VHEPC Members and Partners that register to participate in the exercise.

Player Expectations

- Participants are expected to act in their real-life roles when considering this scenario, offering observations to the forum, making strategic and operational decisions, and complying with real-world procedures.¹
- The MRSE requires VHEPC and its members to follow as closely as possible its real-world procedures for managing a surge incident and **no real patients will be moved or otherwise disturbed.**¹ No real resources such as supplies, equipment, or EMS response resources will be moved or otherwise disturbed.¹
- Players are expected to activate and assemble their respective Incident Management Teams prior to the start of exercise. This includes reserving a venue at their facility to conduct exercise play and make their facility players aware of the date and time of the exercise.
- All exercise play is virtual and will occur at each player’s respective facility. Players will receive exercise injects via alerts and notifications.
- Hospital players are expected to use existing data sharing platforms to provide real-time updates on bed availability and other resource availability during the exercise.
- VHEPC is required to compile ASPR performance metrics during the exercise.

What you need to do now

- Register to participate in the exercise by May 2, 2022.
- Reserve your respective emergency operations center and invite your organization’s key point of contacts to register for the exercise.
- Review the [ASPR MRSE Situation Manual](#).
- Review the VHEPC MRSE Exercise Plan- *scheduled to be distributed on May 6, 2022 and uploaded to the [MRSE calendar event](#).*
- Contact VHEPC at VHEPC@allclearmg.com with any questions

References and Links

1. ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program. September 2021 Medical Response and Surge Exercise Situation Manual. Accessed online April 11, 2022
<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Documents/mrse-situational-manual-508.pdf>

