

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES RESOURCE SHEET

Type of Calls

- Natural Disasters (i.e. earthquakes, eruptions, flooding, pandemics)
- Large Scale incidents
- Large air, water, or ground transportation accidents
- Terrorism Incidents
- Riots/ Civil disturbances

Exercise

- Read the Emergency Resource Guide and watch the Katrina videos
- Answer these questions:

1. What do these kinds of calls have in common?

- Large in scale
- Involves potential property damage, injury or death
- Can be more high-risk for both the officer/citizens
- Unscheduled and/or unpredictable
- Chaotic – may disrupt services
- Require more than law enforcement response
- Require a larger number of officers to respond than usual
- High media response and interest
- May require a flexible response as situations change (sometimes very quickly)
- Has a devastating impact on the community

2. Where might these types of incidents occur?

- natural- coasts, near volcanoes, along fault lines; pandemics may have a higher impact on high-population areas
- terrorism - power plants, nuclear reactors, Boeing or other large corporations that supply other government agencies
- riots – populated areas, controversial areas such as navy bases, animal labs;
- weather – depends on area; hazmat – chemical plants, nuclear reactors, along rail and other major transportation lines; accidents – near airports, rural lines, Puget Sound)
- additional responses as provided

3. What types of resources might be involved in each of these incidents?

Unlimited (to some degree depends on type of event and scope) but may include:

- All government service providers – police, fire, medical, schools, public works; EOC
- All public health entities – hospitals, coroners, morgues
- All private and public utilities – power, communications, transportation, water, waste disposal
- Assistance organizations – Red Cross, community groups (CERT), churches
- Construction businesses (to close gas lines, clear roads, provide large equipment)

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4. What might be some of the major barriers to operations could affect the response to such incidents?

- You may be isolated by the event – unable to obtain additional units or resources – your only help may be untrained volunteers
- You may not be able to get to the actual event location
- You have family concerns as well
- The event may also be a crime scene
- Communication systems may not work or may work inconsistently (phones, RF, and all other technology based systems)
- Roads/transport may be impassible either within a specific area, or widespread – transportation problems can effect all resources – ability to transport patients, ability to get fire equipment in place – this may be temporary (flooding, snow, trees down) or long-term (earthquake damage)
- Airports may be closed – delaying relief efforts and trapping people within the region (over 80,000 people use SeaTac to arrive or depart during an average day)
- Special needs populations – elderly/medically dependent and the disabled – often depend on electricity to provide medical interventions, need frequent availability of medicines and specialists, and generally can NOT get help for themselves
- Inability to get off-duty personnel where they are needed due to communications and/or traveling problems
- Childcare concerns disrupt all businesses...schools will be closed, so everyone with young children will be affected
- Homes may be uninhabitable – shelters will be necessary
- With pandemics, levels of police, fire and EMS staffing will be affected as well – hospitals will be overwhelmed. In home care will be necessary and citizens will be calling for medical assistance at their homes and reporting in-home deaths (body storage). At the same time, police may be directed to assist with forced quarantines. Medicines may be in short supply (commonly hospitals keep only just enough – depending on overnight deliveries – which may not come under some circumstances). Support businesses may close (gas stations, grocery stores) as they either haven't the employees to remain open, or fear spread of the disease. Suppliers may be unwilling to enter the region to make needed deliveries.
- Limited federal help may be immediate, but it will take days for more help to arrive
- Some events are combined – plane down into bldg is a terrorist event with hazmat! Earthquake then tsunami.

5. What is your primary goal to these types of incidents?

Preservation of lives – responders, citizens, and suspects

6. What are your primary responsibilities on the scene of one of these unusual occurrences?

- Leadership
- Quick and safe assessment
- Verify the nature of the emergency
- Confirm the location and other broadcast information – to include the extent of the problem
- Identify resources needed
- Take control of the scene
- Establish perimeters
- Isolate hazards
- Safeguard ingress and egress to the incident
- Initiate notifications

7. What about your family?

- Access to resources, facilities, or even from home
- Communications

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- Choose a place for your family to meet after a disaster.
- Choose a person outside the immediate area for family members to contact in case you get separated. This person should live far enough away so he or she won't be involved in the same emergency.
- Know how to contact your children at their school or daycare, and how to pick them up after a disaster. Let the school know if someone else is authorized to pick them up. Keep your child's emergency release card up to date.
- Put together an emergency supply kit for your home and workplace. If your child's school or daycare stores personal emergency kits, make one for your child to keep there.
- Know where the nearest fire and police stations are located.
- Learn your community's warning signals, what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.
- Learn first aid and CPR. Have a first aid kit, a first aid manual and extra medicine for family members.
- Learn how to shut off your water, gas and electricity. Know where to find shut-off valves and switches.
- Keep a small amount of cash available. If the power is out, ATM machines won't work.
- If you have family members who don't speak English, prepare emergency cards in English with their names, addresses and information about medications or allergies. Make sure they can find their cards at all times.
- Conduct earthquake and fire drills every six months.