



# NDMS Tabletop Exercise After Action Report (AAR) /Improvement Plan (IP)

August 2022

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## EXERCISE OVERVIEW

<b>Exercise Name</b>	NDMS Hurricane Tabletop Exercise
<b>Exercise Dates</b>	8/10/2022
<b>Scope</b>	This is a Tabletop exercise, planned for two and a half hours with the local, state, and federal partners. Exercise play is limited to identified stakeholders who play a role in preparation and execution of the NDMS for the Houston as a receiving area
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this exercise is to socialize and validate the NDMS plan in the event of a major hurricane affecting the upper gulf coast.
<b>HPP Capabilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capability 2 Health Care and Medical Response Coordination</li> <li>• Capability 4 Medical Surge</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure timely and accurate messaging / alerts are provided to the correct stakeholders.</li> <li>• Assess the process for the activation of the NDMS to include understanding the approval process.</li> <li>• Identify and understand roles and responsibilities for executing patient tracking.</li> <li>• Discuss the roles and responsibilities for reception, transportation, and disposition of evacuees.</li> </ul>
<b>Threat or Hazard</b>	Major Hurricane
<b>Scenario</b>	A rapidly developed category 5 hurricane made landfall in Biloxi, MS and continued a track to the northwest to El Dorado, AR spawning several tornadoes in Mississippi, Arkansas, and western Tennessee. The remnants are currently centered over Paris, TN, 50 miles west of Clarksville, TN moving to the NE at 24mph. Catastrophic damage has been reported to the upper gulf coast which includes the medical infrastructure. The Governors of Mississippi and Arkansas have requested the activation of the NDMS.
<b>Sponsor</b>	Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (RHPC), Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR).
<b>Participating Organizations</b>	Multiple Organizations. A complete list is included in Appendix B.
<b>Point of Contact</b>	<p>John Wingate Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator 1111 North Loop West Suite #160 Houston, TX. 77439 John.wingate@setrac.org</p> <p><b>VA Point of Contact and Plan Holder</b> Danny Shine Area Emergency Manager 713-794-8492 Danny.Shine@va.gov</p>

# SCENARIO OVERVIEW

## Scenario

### Major Hurricane

A rapidly developed category 5 hurricane made landfall in Biloxi, MS and continued a track to the northwest to El Dorado, AR spawning several tornadoes in Mississippi, Arkansas, and western Tennessee. The remnants are currently centered over Paris, TN, 50 miles west of Clarksville, TN moving to the NE at 24mph. Catastrophic damage has been reported to the upper gulf coast which includes the medical infrastructure. The Governors of Mississippi and Arkansas have requested the activation of the NDMS.

## ANALYSIS OF CORE CAPABILITIES

Aligning exercise objectives and core capabilities provides a consistent taxonomy for evaluation that transcends individual exercises to support preparedness reporting and trend analysis. Table 1 includes the exercise objectives, aligned core capabilities, and performance ratings for each core capability as observed during the exercise and determined by the evaluation team.

Objective	HPP Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
Ensure timely and accurate messaging / alerts are provided to the correct stakeholders.	Health Care and Medical Response Coordination	X			
Assess the process for the activation of the NDMS to include understanding the approval process.	Health Care and Medical Response Coordination	X			
Identify and understand roles and responsibilities for executing patient tracking.	Medical Surge		X		
Discuss the roles and responsibilities for reception, transportation, and disposition of evacuees.	Health Care and Medical Response Coordination		X		

**Table 1. Summary of Core Capability Performance**

**Ratings Definitions:**

**Performed without Challenges (P):** The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.

**Performed with Some Challenges (S):** The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. However, opportunities to enhance effectiveness and/or efficiency were identified.

**Performed with Major Challenges (M):** The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s), but some or all of the following were observed: demonstrated performance had a negative impact on the performance of other activities; contributed to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers; and/or was not conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.

**Unable to be Performed (U):** The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were not performed in a manner that achieved the objective(s).

The following sections provide an overview of the performance related to each exercise objective and associated core capability, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

## OBJECTIVE 1:

Ensure timely and accurate messaging / alerts are provided to the correct stakeholders.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

### HPP Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination

#### Strengths

The *full* capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

**Strength 1:** Active partnership and collaboration.

**Strength 2:** Processes established in the Federal Coordination Center (FCC) guidelines.

#### Areas for Improvement:

None Identified for this objective.

## OBJECTIVE 2:

Assess the process for the activation of the NDMS to include understanding the approval process.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

### HPP Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination

#### Strengths

The *full* capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

**Strength 1:** Streamlined tactics and operational responsibilities identified and shows that a team will come together to accomplish the mission.

**Strength 2:** The re-imburement process was clearly identified to all participating agencies.

#### Areas for Improvement:

None Identified for this objective.

## OBJECTIVE 3:

Identify and understand roles and responsibilities for executing patient tracking.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

### HPP Capability 4 Medical Surge Strengths

The *partial* capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

**Strength 1:** The process for patient tracking is clearly identified.

#### Areas for Improvement:

The following areas require improvement to achieve the *full* capability level:

**Area for Improvement 1:** Research and provide specific guidance and procedures for ambulatory patients arriving at the PRS who does not require hospitalization.

**Analysis:** What is the authorized disposition for this patient?

## OBJECTIVE 4:

Discuss the roles and responsibilities for reception, transportation, and disposition of evacuees.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

### HPP Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination

#### Strengths

The *partial* capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

**Strength 1:** Roles are clearly identified in the plan for all areas of response.

#### Areas for Improvement:

The following areas require improvement to achieve the *full* capability level:

**Area for Improvement 1:** Establish a commitment from local hospital partners for pediatric clinicians to fill the needed PRT members capability.

**Analysis:** The PRT does not include pediatric certified clinicians.

## Appendix A: REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This IP has been developed as a result of NDMS Exercise conducted on August 10, 2022

Objective	HPP Capability	Issue/Area for Improvement	Corrective Action	Primary Responsible Organization	Start Date	Completion Date
<b>Objective 3:</b> Identify and understand roles and responsibilities for executing patient tracking.	<b>HPP Capability 4:</b>	Research and provide specific guidance and procedures for ambulatory patients arriving at the PRS who does not require hospitalization.	Update the NDMS plan	Michael E. DeBakey VA	August 24, 2022	February 28, 2023
<b>Objective 4:</b> Discuss the roles and responsibilities for reception, transportation, and disposition of evacuees.	<b>HPP Capability 2:</b>	Establish a commitment from local hospital partners for pediatric clinicians to fill the needed PRT members capability.	Identify and develop partnerships with a pediatric clinician group	Michael E. DeBakey VA	August 24, 2022	February 28, 2023



## **Appendix B: EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS**

<b>Agency Name</b>
Houston Airport System
Houston Health Department
Fort Bend County EMS
Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Houston Fire Department
Houston Office of Emergency Management
Houston Police Department
Michael E. DeBakey VA Med Center
SETRAC
Texas Division of Emergency Management
Houston Health Authority
Harris County Public Health
Veterans Health Administration

Total exercise participants - 19