

TABLETOP EXERCISE EARTHQUAKE

Use these questions to guide discussion with regard to the following events:

1. What should classroom teachers be doing now?
2. What actions do you take with your students at this time?
3. What is the status of school emergency response teams at this time?
4. Where is your command post at this time?
5. What transition in the incident command system is taking place now? How?
6. What information do you need?
7. What action can you take to get the needed information?
8. What information to provide to the staff, students, parents, etc.?

H hour: Your school just shook violently. As students and staff went into duck and covered protection, items were falling from shelves and the ceilings. The sound of buildings collapsing is unmistakable.

H+4 min: Your NOAA radio has just notified you that your city has experienced a significant earthquake. Citizens were advised to stay off roadways. All bridges are to be considered impassable.

H+6 min: Search & Rescue initial size-up identifies collapse of the northeast corner of the school. There are some students and staff trapped within the rubble. There is the smell of natural gas in the area around the collapse. There is no water pressure. Electricity is out.

H+8 min: Your Communications team has been unable to make contact with the District Command Post/Central Office.

H+12 min: Cell phone service has been unreliable. The landline telephone system is not in service. Your school receives a cell phone call from a teacher whose class is on a field trip. They had departed to head back to the school. She wants to know what she should do.

H+15 min: The first significant aftershock just impacted the neighborhood around the school. More structures, to include your primary alternate shelter site, experienced partial collapses.

H+20 min: The First Aid Team reports ___ Immediate (Red), ___ Delayed (Yellow), ___ Walking Wounded (Green), and ___ Dead (Black).

H+25 min: Most of the cars in the staff parking lot appear to have been damaged by falling debris.

H+30 min: There are definitely ___ students and ___ staff members under the rubble at your school. A few parents have arrived by foot at the school looking for their children. They are reporting “terrible destruction” in the area. The roads are obstructed with collapsed buildings, destroyed bridges and overpasses, and downed trees, electrical and phone lines.

H+35 min: A fire has been detected in the damaged part of the school. There is smoke blowing into the remaining structure.

H+40 min: Parents for around ¼ of your students have shown up at the school to get their children. Cell phone communications have improved but are sporadic.

H+45 min: Teachers report that 3 students from neighborhoods near the school have departed your school on their own. A teacher trips and falls at your school and suffers a head injury. The teacher is unconscious.

H+50 min: The first emergency vehicle (a law enforcement officer) arrives to check your school. Routes are still obstructed.

H+58 min: Limited medical evacuation will now begin utilizing a van from the neighborhood with police escort. The two most critical patients are to be taken. Round trip is expected to be 45 minutes.

H+2 Hr: A TV news reporter from a national news affiliate arrives at the school.

H+3 Hrs: 1/3 of the students at your school remain at the school. All the rest have been released to their parents or are in the hospital. A needed staff member has notified the Incident Commander that she is departing without permission.

Conclude the exercise with an After Action Review:

- What did we do well?
- What could we do better next time?
- What changes should we make in our plan?