



**DAKOTA COUNTY**  
Exercise Design Team

## **Review of October 31, 2009 Emergency Exercise**

# *Dakota County Emergency Exercise*

- *Full Scale Exercise conducted at the Flint Hills Refinery and Dakota County Law Enforcement Training Area (Across Hwy 52 from the Refinery) on Saturday, October 31 from 7:30 am to 1 pm*
- *Scenarios*
  - *FHR*
    - *Power Outage resulting in vapor release with off-site impact*
    - *Process leaks and explosion resulting in fires and multiple injuries – MCI*
      - *Conducted at FHR Fire Training Grounds simulating process unit scenarios*
  - *Law Enforcement – outside FHR*
    - *Hostage situation*
    - *Negotiations*

# *Exercise Objectives*

- Coordination of emergency response actions by PB Refinery personnel and local emergency response agencies to an event that moves off-site
- Unified command decisions and logistics following the National Incident Management System – (NIMS)
- Off-site monitoring capabilities, strategies and logistics
- Public Information Coordination – Joint Information Center (JIC)
- EMS Response capabilities for Mass Casualty incidents
- Dakota Communications Center capabilities to deal with multi-agency response to two large scale incidents
- Exercise the FHR portion of the Code Red community notification system
- Exercise training and resources gained by local responders for large scale incidents of this nature



# *Exercise Design Team*



- Dave Gisch      Dakota County Emergency Manager
- Mike Pott      Dakota County Special Operations Team & South Metro Fire
- Marty Forseth      Dakota County Emergency Medical Services
- Diane Lind      Operations Director - Dakota Communications Center
- Ron Jansen      Radio Systems Coordinator – Dakota County
- John Morison      Emergency Management Specialist – City of St Paul
- Jim Smith      Assistant Fire Chief – City of St Paul
- Judy Thill      Fire Chief – Inver Grove Heights
- Dan Carlson      Burnsville Police Department
- Jeremy Klein      Eagan Emergency Management
- Jake Reint      Director of Communication – Flint Hills Resources
- Don Kern      Facilities & Engineering Manager – Flint Hills Resources
- Dave Grovum      Project Manager – American Security
- Becky Kenow      Regulatory Affairs Manager – Flint Hills Resources
- Rolf Peterson      Fire Chief – Flint Hills Resources
- Pete Herpst      Deputy Fire Chief – Flint Hills Resources

# *Exercise Preparation*

- The Exercise Design Team, led by Dave Gisch, has been meeting since September 2008.
- Monthly meetings from September of 08 through July of 09
- Weekly meetings from August 5<sup>th</sup> through October 21<sup>st</sup>
- All meetings have been at FHR's North Administration Building
- FHR Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) has conducted three Tabletop Exercises
  - One with external resources
  - Two internal to FHR
- Dakota Communications Center facilitated a Tabletop exercise for the Exercise Controllers and Evaluators on October 7<sup>th</sup>



# Number of Participants

- Players - 300
- Controllers - 6
- Evaluators - 22
- Facilitators - 4
- Observers - 12
- Victim Role Players - 25



# Participating Organizations

- Apple Valley Police & Fire
- Allina Ambulance
- Bloomington Fire (Eval)
- Burnsville Police & Fire
- Carver County Sheriff's Office (Eval)
- Dakota County Sheriff's Office
- Dakota County Sheriff Command Trl.
- Dakota County Special Operations Team
- Dakota Communication Center
- Dakota County Emergency Communicators
- Dakota County EMS Coordinator
- Dakota County Incident Mgt. Team
- Dakota County Law Enforcement MAAG Tm.
- Eagan Police & Fire
- Eagan Incident Command Van
- Eden Prairie Fire (Eval)
- Farmington Fire
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Flint Hill Resources
- Goff & Howard – Support FHR PIO
- Hastings Fire
- Health East Ambulance
- Inver Grove Heights Fire
- Lakeville Police
- Mendota Heights Police & Fire
- Minneapolis Fire Assistant Chief (Eval)
- Minnesota PCA
- Minnesota State Duty Officer
- Minnesota Air Guard, 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing-Lt. Col. Deputy Cmdr. (Eval)
- Minnesota InfraGard-P2Cat-Deputy Director (Eval)
- Rosemount Police & Fire
- St Louis Park Fire (Eval)
- St Paul Fire Chemical Assessment Team
- St Paul Fire Assistant Chief (EDT)
- Saint Paul Emergency Mgt.
- South Metro Fire
- Twin Cities Red Cross (Eval)
- USCG – Observer
- Washington County Emergency Mgt.
- West Metro Fire (Safety Officer)
- Winona County Sheriff's Officer (Observer)
- 55th Civil Support Team



**7:30 am** Check-in of exercise participants begins at north contractor lot

**7:45 am** Volunteer actors  
are deployed to the various  
training sites and briefed by  
their controllers

**8:00 am** Dave Gisch and Rolf Peterson provide an exercise and safety briefing to participants in north contractor lot.

**8:15 am** Participants move to their staging areas.

8:30 am      Exercise began

**12:00pm**      Hotwash/Lunch

**1:00pm** Exercise  
**concluded**





- Overall Unified Command of all incidents was set up in the North Contractor Lot. IC was the Rosemount Fire Assistant Chief.
- FHR set up a media center in the NAB Lobby Conference Room.
- Post Incident Critique/Hot Wash and Lunch was at the FHR Fire Station 2.
- Law Enforcement scenarios were conducted at their training center on Pine Bend Trail.
- Haz Mat monitoring and mitigation was conducted in the SWS parking area.
- Emergency Medical Services (Ambulances) staged on the north side of the SWS interior lot.
- Fire incidents was conducted at the FHR Fire Training Grounds.
- Medical Helicopter in the north interior SWS parking lot.



# Fire/Rescue Operation

## Strengths:

- Realistic props
  - Live burns
  - Water Flow
- Significant participation

## Areas of Improvement:

- Interoperability communications.
- Players could have been given a more detailed briefing.
- FHR Fire and neighboring departments need to interact more frequently.
- Refinery Orientation.





# EMS

## Strengths:

- Good participation from area services.
- Able to allocate resources between events

## Areas of Improvement:

- Communications
- Refinery Orientation





# Training

- Integrated live training scenarios into the exercise.
- Were able to rotate some of the visiting fire departments through hands-on live fire evolutions.



# Helicopter – North Air Care

## Strengths:

- Designated Landing Zones pre-established at FHR.
- FHR ER leadership has trained with North Air Care

## Areas of Improvement:

- Communications





# Haz Mat Operation

## Strengths:

- Well organized SOT.
- Utilized ICS
- Able to exercise air monitoring equipment and protocols.

## Areas of Improvement:

- Command area too small for IC personnel.
- Interoperability of equipment.
- Refinery orientation.





# Law Enforcement

## Strengths:

- Well Organized
- Players understood their roles – good briefing by controller.
- Incorporated law enforcement into Unified IC Structure with Fire, EMS and Haz Mat.



## Areas of Improvement:

- Some delays in transporting victims.
- Communications coordination with DCC and Unified IC.



# Media - JIC

## Strengths:

- Established a JIC w/Rosemount IGH, Dakota CO. & PCA.
- All PIO participants were able to actively participate

## Areas of Improvement:

- Scenario required a more substantial and focused media briefing than what was simulated.
- Press conf. should have occurred earlier with ground rules established
- Introductions should have been more descriptive – include credentials
- More thought given to order of speakers
- Chronological description of events.





# FHR Emergency Operations Facility (EOF)

## Strengths:

- Area well organized
- EOF IC established
- Assignments clearly designated
- Regular briefings
- Good documentation

## Areas of improvement:

- Better understanding of mutual aid and beyond fence-line decisions
- Need representation from FHR Operations in JIC press briefing
- Leverage local responders for off-site issues and concerns



# Recommendations

- Smaller and more focused discipline-specific exercises should be conducted.
- Focus on establishing strong, Unified Command Structure early in exercise.
- Continued emphasis on Communication