



Off The Shelf Exercises

The OTSE library is part of the Public Health England funded programme directed by the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Partnership Group chaired by the Department of Health. These exercise frameworks are designed to be used by NHS funded providers, Public Health England and other key local partners as a resource to help review and enhance emergency preparedness, resilience and response within health. These exercises have been written in conjunction with subject matter experts to provide an adaptable exercise framework (including scenarios, suggested questions and facilitator notes) to assist health EPRR leads in organising their own local one-day event.

All titles will be provided as an e-version on a USB flash drive.

Current OTSE titles

Business Continuity All organisations need effective business continuity planning and preparedness to identify vulnerabilities and prepare strategies to ensure an effective recovery from a disruptive incident. This OTSE has been updated with the learning from the Exercise Dark Star series of NHS England regional table top exercises, and the learning from the Industrial Action events in 2016.

Chemical HazMat This exercise is designed to explore the health responses to a chemical plume incident. The objectives concentrate on health command and control arrangements, including co-ordination with mutual aid arrangements. It will help to assess communications between staff, partner agencies and the public.

Burns This OTSE is designed to help the review of local plans for managing a burns major incident and to explore the implications for sustainability and recovery.

Communicable Disease Using a botulinum neurotoxin scenario, this exercise explores the capacity and resilience of the local health community to respond to an outbreak of disease.

Fuel Disruption This exercise is designed to explore the impact on the local health systems from either a potential or actual major disruption to fuel supplies, requiring contingency measures and business continuity prioritisation to continue to maintain effective critical patient care.

Heatwave This exercise reviews heatwave planning, response and recovery within local health and social care and regional capabilities. This will also raise awareness of the current Heatwave Plan for England.

Hospital Evacuation This exercise reviews the immediate and on-going response of a NHS Trust hospital to a major fire and the implications for the wider health community and partner agencies. This OTSE includes the learning from the Exercise Swift Haven series of NHS England North regional table top exercises.

Care Home Evacuation. Building on the Hospital Evacuation OTSE this exercise reviews the immediate and longer term implications of a full evacuation for care home residents and staff.

Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA) The aim of this OTSE is to practise the health response to a major incident involving traumatic injuries resulting from a Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack, focusing on health major incident plans and the arrangements for mutual aid and recovery across health EPRR capabilities.

Pandemic Influenza Pandemic Influenza remains the UK's most significant civil emergency risk and this OTSE practises the local health response. The exercises focus on health command and control arrangements, including co-ordination with the local authority, mutual aid arrangements and the plans for local partners to manage an influenza pandemic.

Viral Haemorrhagic Fever The risk of a suspected case of Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF), such as Ebola, at a UK port of entry remains constant. The purpose of this OTSE is to review local preparedness and response arrangements to an importation of a single suspected Ebola case.

Winter Pressures This exercise reviews winter pressures planning and considers arrangements for response, mutual aid and recovery within the context of the local health sector capabilities and, where appropriate regional capabilities.

Future OTSE titles

Mass Casualty This exercise reviews the immediate and on-going health response a Mass Casualty incident. It will capture the learning from Exercises Alcazar and Fortuna Mass Casualty table top exercises, as well as the lessons identified from the NHS England 2017 regional Mass Casualty recovery workshops.

Additional titles are being considered by DH EPRR

Who to contact

To request these titles on a USB flash drive, please contact the ERD Exercises Team at exercises@phe.gov.uk or search 'ERD Exercises' on Resilience Direct.