

IDAHO'S CLEARINGHOUSE EXERCISE

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“Concentrate on what WILL produce results rather than on the results, the process rather than the prize.”

-Bill Walsh

Basic Exercise Premise:

Maximizing the implementation of any plan or action is best achieved by being familiar with and having practiced that plan or action.



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- **Exercise Components:**
 - Have a plan prepared and in place
 - Completed January 2019
 - Note – multiple conference calls to review the plan with participants and partners
 - Identify partners and participants
 - Identified within the plan and via outreach to other partners
 - Identify resources
 - (Funding) FEMA/NEHRP State Assistance Grant 2018
 - (Physical) Idaho state agency buildings
 - (Support) WSSPC
- Determine type of exercise
 - “Teleconference Tabletop”
 - Functional
- Develop scenario
 - Completed
- Identify measurable components
 - Test team coordination
 - Maximizing information sharing
 - Test Communications
 - Effectively and efficiently use the capabilities/capacities of those available
- Schedule and Implement Exercise
 - “Teleconference Tabletop” on 2/21/2019
 - “Functional on 3/5-7/2019



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Scenario

- A large, damaging earthquake occurred near Emmett, Idaho at 7:05 am Mountain Time on March 5, 2019. The initial magnitude is reported to be M7.0. The state and Gem, Canyon, and Payette Counties have opened their EOCs. Aftershocks that occurred caused issues, including flooding, to the city of Boise and surrounding areas.



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Note – A key aid developed as a result of the “Teleconference Tabletop” was a checklist for both “Operational” (establishment of) and “Management” of the Clearinghouse



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- **After Action Report considerations/questions**
 - Was the Clearinghouse Plan implemented?
 - Identify areas of improvement to tweak/finalize the plan.
 - Did the Clearinghouse successfully coordinate post-earthquake reconnaissance efforts?
 - Was information maximally shared and availability in the case of an earthquake in Idaho?
 - What is the most efficient way to use the talents of those present immediately after a significant seismic event in Idaho?



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Major Strengths identified during this exercise are as follows:

- Engaged, willing, supportive, and knowledgeable partners
- Checklists proved helpful in both implementing the plan and sustaining processes
- Tasks and assignments were efficiently distributed
- Processes for information gathering and sharing were effective



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Opportunities for improvement and sustainment in the Clearinghouse Plan and its functionality were identified:

- Develop a better communication process for an earlier, faster, and clearer outreach to partners and neighboring states
- Maintain accountability with people deployed in the field
- Develop deactivation and possible re-activation criteria for the Clearinghouse and put it into the plan
- Engage additional partners, i.e. division of building safety/code officials, structural engineers, etc. to get a greater range of expertise for the clearinghouse
- Implement a regular review process for the Clearinghouse Plan
- Early and often engagement/coordination with the IDEOC Joint Information Center (JIC)
- Develop and implement Clearinghouse Plan training for additional personnel to support long-term operations and/or unavailability of primary personnel



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Questions?

