

National Exercise Program

Regional Exercise Support Program

MONTANA VIGILANT GUARD 09

What is the Montana Vigilant Guard 09 Exercise?

The *Montana Vigilant Guard 09* is Full-Scale Exercise with both civilian and military exercise components. The exercise is being conducted on September 15 – 17, 2009 in the City of Helena in Lewis and Clark County as well as in Butte/Silver Bow, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties. It is sponsored by the Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Division (MT DES) and the Montana National Guard (MT NG). This exercise is designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to a terrorist event.

Scenario

The scenario involves a 6.5 Mw earthquake along Helena's Prickly Pear fault system with strong shaking occurring for 30 seconds. There is severe damage including landslides, liquefaction, pipeline ruptures, road and bridge damage, and building and infrastructure damage. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), medical, fire, and communications assets are requested to respond.

Scope and Parameters

Montana Vigilant Guard 09 is a 3-day exercise designed to test the capabilities of the State of Montana, including Continuity of Operations (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG), mutual aid systems, and Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). It will require the establishment of an incident scene and require responders in the field to perform those actions usually associated with an initial response to an earthquake. These actions include command and control, communications, USAR, victim rescue, and triage and treatment.

Exercise Capabilities and Objectives

Communications. Demonstrate the ability of military and civilian agencies and organizations to effectively provide and receive interoperable voice and electronic communications in response to a catastrophic earthquake incident.

Emergency Operations Center Management. Demonstrate the ability of participating EOCs to follow existing written procedures for operational management in response to a catastrophic earthquake incident, including EOC activation, notification, and staffing; as well as EOC management, direction, control, and coordination of response activities in accordance with emergency management plans.

On-Site Incident Management. Demonstrate the ability of MT National Guard and federal agencies to effectively integrate and collaborate with MT civilian authorities to successfully direct and control incident management activities, including establishment of full on-site incident command and development of an incident action plan (IAP) in accordance with the Incident Command System (ICS) as outlined by the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Emergency Triage and Pre-Hospital Treatment. Test the ability to appropriately dispatch emergency medical services (EMS) resources; to provide feasible, suitable, and medically acceptable pre-hospital triage and treatment of patients, including transport as well as medical care en-route to an appropriate receiving facility; and to track patients to a participating hospital, as needed, in a mass-casualty incident.

Critical Resource Logistics and Distribution. Demonstrate the ability of participating agencies to coordinate with each other in order to identify, mobilize, dispatch, and accurately track and record available human and material resources during a catastrophic earthquake incident.

Emergency Public Information and Warning. Demonstrate the timely establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC) and the ability of its personnel to coordinate with internal and external organizations to combine their operations, information, and resources in order to provide the public with the most accurate, consistent, and timely information possible.

Search and Rescue (Land-Based). Demonstrate the ability of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams to coordinate and conduct response efforts in the event of a catastrophic earthquake incident, including searching affected areas for victims and locating, accessing, medically stabilizing, and extricating victims trapped in damaged or collapsed structures in accordance with established plans and procedures.

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Exercise Participants

Federal	
Army Reserve	US Air Force, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Civil Air Patrol	US Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA Region VIII	US Geologic Survey
National Weather Service	US Northern Command
National Guard Bureau	Veterans Hospital
Navy Reserve	
State of Montana	
Helena Regional HazMat Team	MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
Legislation Services	MT Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS)
Missoula Regional HazMat Team	MT Department of Revenue
MT All Threats Intelligence Center	MT Department of Transportation
MT Department of Administration (DOA)	MT DES
MT Department of Agriculture	MT Governor's Office
MT Department of Commerce	MT Highway Patrol
MT Department of Corrections	MT NG
MT Department of Environmental Quality	Office of Public Instruction
MT Department of Labor and Industry	Secretary of State
MT Department of Military Affairs	
Other States	
Colorado NG	North Dakota NG
Idaho NG	South Dakota NG
Kentucky Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)	Utah NG
Nevada NG	Wyoming NG
Local	
Augusta Ambulance	Helena Public School District
Broadwater Ambulance	Helena Public Works
Broadwater County	Helena Regional Airport
Butte/Silver Bow Emergency Management	Interoperability Montana
City & County of Butte/Silver Bow	Jefferson County
City of East Helena	Jefferson County Public School District
City of Helena	Lewis and Clark County Coroner's Office
Eagle Ambulance	Lewis & Clark County DES
East Helena Fire Department (FD) and Police Department (PD)	Lewis & Clark County Health Department
East Helena Public School District	Lewis & Clark County Public Works
Helena Christian School	Lewis & Clark County Rural Fire Council
Helena Police Department FD and PD	Lewis & Clark County Sherriff's Office
Private Industry	
Bear Tooth TV Station	NorthWestern Energy
Boyd Andrew	Qwest Communications
Carroll College	St. James Health Care
Conoco/Phillips	St. Peter's Hospital
Montana Rail Link	Yellowstone Pipeline
Volunteer Agencies	
Amateur Radio Emergency Services	Noah's Wish
American Legion of MT (Veterans Affairs)	Salvation Army Northwestern Division
American Red Cross (ARC)	Southern Baptist Disaster Relief
HOPE Animal's Assistance Crisis Response	Tri-County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Humane Society of United States (from Billings, MT)	United Methodist Committee on Relief
Lutheran Disaster Relief	United Way Montana
MT Food Bank Network	Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)