

Emergency Management Training and Exercises for Transportation Agency Operations, MTI Report 09-17.

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Emergency Management Training Exercises for Transportation Agency Operations, MTI Report 09-17

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Description

Training and exercises are an important part of emergency management. They have been developed based on threat assessment, but they are not useful unless people are trained on how to use the plan, and then practice that training. Training is essential for ensuring that the plan is effective, and outcomes are achieved. Exercises improve the plan. Exercises have been an important part of government and emergency response organizations since Civil Defense days when full-scale exercises were held for the community. Today there are various types of exercises that test the preparedness of public agencies and communities: seminar exercises, functional exercises, facilitated exercises and full-scale exercises. Transit and transportation agencies have long used drills and full-scale exercises to evaluate their use of equipment, protocols and plans. Transit and transportation agencies have been included in these plans, and have little guidance for their exercises. A research plan was designed to determine whether holding exercises, and whether they have the training and guidance, are needed to be successful. The main research question was whether a practical handbook to guide the development of transit system exercises is needed.

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