



Critical analysis of components of The Joint Commission hospital exercise standards and their alignment to CVHC Coalition Surge Test Exercise

From The Joint Commission Standard EM.03.01.03 , this is a list of the hospital elements of performance that were addressed by this exercise.

1. *As an emergency response exercise, the hospital activates its Emergency Operations Plan plan twice a year at each site included in the plan.*
2. *For each site of the hospital that offers emergency services or is a community-designated disaster receiving station, at least one of the hospital's two emergency response exercises includes an influx of simulated patients.*
3. *For each site of the hospital that offers emergency services or is a community-designated disaster receiving station, at least one of the hospital's two emergency response exercises includes an escalating event in which the local community is unable to support the hospital.*
4. *For each site of the hospital with a defined role in its community's emergency response plan, at least one of the two emergency response exercises includes participation in a community-wide exercise.*
5. *Emergency response exercises incorporate likely disaster scenarios that allow the hospital to evaluate its handling of communications, resources and assets, security, staff, utilities, and patients.*
6. *The hospital designates an individual whose sole responsibility during emergency response exercises is to monitor performance and document opportunities for improvement.*
7. *During emergency response exercises, the hospital monitors the effectiveness of internal communication and the effectiveness of communication with outside entities such as local government leadership, police, fire, public health officials, and other healthcare organizations.*
8. *During emergency response exercises, the hospital monitors resource mobilization and asset allocation, including equipment, supplies, PPE, and transportation.*
- 9-12. *During emergency response exercises, the hospital monitors its management of the following: Safety and security, Staff roles and responsibilities, utility systems, and patient clinical and support care services.*
13. *Based on all monitoring activities and observations, including relevant input from all levels of staff affected, the hospital evaluates all emergency response exercises and all responses to actual emergencies using a multi-disciplinary process (which includes licensed independent practitioners).*



14. The evaluation of all emergency response exercises and all responses to actual emergencies includes the identification of deficiencies and opportunities for improvement. This evaluation is documented.

15. The deficiencies and opportunities for improvement, identified in the evaluation of all emergency response exercises and all responses to actual emergencies, are communicated to the improvement team responsible for monitoring environment of care issues and to senior hospital leadership.

16. The hospital modifies its Emergency Operations Plan based on its evaluation of emergency response exercises and responses to actual emergencies.

CVHC's Coalition Surge Test Exercise will address each of these as follows (numbers correspond to those in the previous section):

1. Participation in this exercise required activation of the hospital's emergency operations plan, assembly of an incident management team, and staffing of minimum essential ICS positions.

2. CVHC's Coalition Surge Test regional exercise will be a functional exercise that will simulate a hospital evacuation scenario, the cascading impacts of that evacuation on the entire healthcare delivery system, and will assess the capability of the facility to operationalize their facility command structure, and activate their emergency operations plan in response to the scenario. All participating facilities will operate under the assumption that they are preparing for a surge equaling 20% of their staffed bed capacity.

3. CVHC's Coalition Surge Test regional exercise is a parallel event to the 2018 National Level Exercise, and the scenario aligns with the Atlantic Fury portion of the event. During this scenario, local, state, and federal governmental entities will be overwhelmed and able to provide little/no assistance to the healthcare delivery system in Central Virginia. The exercise scenario will escalate from a potential/imminent evacuation situation to a simulated full evacuation of a Level 1 Trauma Center in an adjoining region.

4. Hospitals, healthcare coalitions, local/state emergency management, EMS, and the Virginia Department of Health participated in this exercise as part of the larger national level exercise (Vigilant Guard/Atlantic Fury). Additionally, CVHC hospitals participating in this exercise used the statewide VHASS platform to share bed availability and other information regarding their response. The VHASS platform is used by healthcare organizations, Virginia Department of Health (ESF-8 lead), and healthcare coalitions to share information during an emergency.

5. This exercise revolved around response a hurricane scenario- a highly ranked threat on the CVHC Regional HVA. Additionally, participating hospitals simulated a response to a hospital evacuation in an adjoining region. During the exercise, the hospital's incident management team participated in a facilitated discussion regarding communications, resources and assets, security, staff, utilities, and patients (see attached documentation).

6. Participating hospitals were required to designate a facilitator/evaluator for this exercise.



7. During this exercise, participating hospitals were required to utilize the statewide VHASS platform to communicate with external stakeholders such as healthcare coalition, other hospitals, Virginia Department of Health (ESF-8 lead), and EMS. See AAR for documentation.

8. As part of the exercise, participating hospitals were required to consider resource mobilization needs as part of the facilitated discussion. See AAR for additional documentation.

9-12. As part of the exercise, participating hospitals were required to consider needs related to safety and security, staff roles and responsibilities, utility systems, and patient clinical and support care services as part of the facilitated discussion. See AAR for documentation.

13. Participating hospitals were prompted to consider and respond to the needs/impact of the simulated patient surge/evacuation emergency using a multi-disciplinary approach. See exercise documentation and AAR for details.

14. See the hospital AAR for this exercise.

15. See the improvement plan contained within the hospital AAR for this exercise.

16. Request evidence of EOP changes/improvements as a result of the findings of the AAR.

Considering the above, CVHC feels confident in stating that meaningful participation in the CVHC Coalition Surge Test provides an opportunity for participating hospitals to partially or fully meet the elements of performance set forth in the Joint Commission Standard EM 03.01.03