**Georgia Mountains Healthcare Coalition**

**Active Shooter/Mass Casualty Incident**

**EXERCISE PLAN (ExPlan)**

The Georgia Mountains Healthcare Coalition Active Shooter/Mass Casualty Incident Full Scale Exercise (FSE) is designed to provide a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to an active shooter incident precipitating a mass casualty incident requiring a regionally-coordinated response. An FSE is a complex event that requires detailed planning. To conduct an effective exercise, subject matter experts and local representatives from numerous agencies have taken part in the planning process and will participate throughout the exercise and subsequent evaluation.

This ExPlan was produced with the input, advice, and assistance of the members of the Georgia Mountains Healthcare Coalition. The Georgia Mountains Healthcare Coalition FSE is evidence of the growing partnerships among healthcare facilities and emergency responders and their overall commitment to regional cooperation and coordination during a mass casualty event.

# Exercise Scenario

It is a pleasant spring day just before lunchtime with temperatures approaching 76F. A landscaping crew notices a red Ford Mustang approach a crowded strip mall/office building at an accelerated speed and park illegally in front of the building. A white male exits the vehicle dressed in blue jeans and a red flannel shirt. Upon exiting the car, he reaches into the backseat and pulls out a black backpack and is soon observed entering the shopping center through the front door of one of the stores. A front seat passenger appears to move over to the driver’s seat after the backpack is retrieved.

Shortly after the male enters the building, the landscaping crew hears loud screams and “popping noises” similar to gun shots coming from inside the building. Several visitors and workers are then seen fleeing the building. Local law enforcement officials arrive on scene within five minutes of the first 911 call from an employee cell phone inside the building. Police quickly enter the shopping center/office building and confirm that the popping noises were indeed gun shots as they have encountered several wounded or dead patrons and staff members on the floor. They begin a systematic search of the building for the intruder and clear the scene for safety. The landscaping crew remains outside at the Incident Command Post to give the police officers more information about the intruder.

Local news agencies pick up the chatter from law enforcement agencies on police scanners and begin to broadcast news of the incident “LIVE”. Initial reports indicate that dozens of citizens, many of them children, have been shot and killed. Emergency Medical Service ambulances have been dispatched and begin to arrive on location at the incident staging area. Several staff members run from the rear of the building, shouting that the man is no longer in the building and has shot and killed several people. The staff members along with the landscaping crew are providing information about the shooter to law enforcement personnel.

Meanwhile, first responder teams enter the building, and begin evacuation and triaging victims. Law enforcement remains on scene, securing the perimeter.

This incident has the potential to cause a regional mass casualty event which will require extensive communication and resource coordination in order to provide an effective regional response.

# Exercise Objectives

The GMHC FSE Exercise Planning Team selected objectives that focus on evaluating existing emergency response procedures and identifying areas for improvement. The drafted regional objectives for this exercise are as follows:

* GMHC members will **coordinate response strategy, resources, and communications and maintain a common operating picture** during an active shooter response in accordance with regional plans and protocols.
* The GMHC will **utilize available, interoperable communications systems, procedures, and platforms** to maintain situational awareness and identify/coordinate resource needs throughout a regional active shooter incident in accordance with the GMHC Coordination Plan.
* The GMHC members will **provide** **continuity of health care service delivery and/or coordinate health care delivery system recovery** during a regional active shooter response according to regional and individual organizational plans and protocols to request, mobilize, and demobilize regional assets.
* GMHC healthcare facilities and response partners will **coordinate the placement of and clinical care for a surge of patients/residents throughout the region** during an active shooter incident in accordance with applicable surge plans.

# Exercise Schedule

### May 3rd, 2019

| **Time** | **PERSONNEL** | **ACTIVITY** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| All personnel should report to their assigned **areas 30 minutes prior** to exercise start time. | Assigned Internal Evaluators and Exercise Staff | Setup of exercise site |
| Controllers and Evaluators | Check-In and Briefing |
| Controllers and Evaluators | Communications Check |
| Participants/Players | Positioned in your assigned area for Exercise play |
| **9:00 am** (or as designated) | **All** | **Exercise Play Start (StartEx) for Region**  NOTE: Due to scenario development, some specific organizations may specify later start times. |
| **12:00 pm** (or sooner) | **All** | **Exercise Play End – (EndEx) FSE Active Shooter**  NOTE: Due to the different extent of play at each healthcare facility, the Lead Controller will decide when to terminate the exercise. |
| (To begin **immediately following end of exercise play** at respective facility) | **All** | **Internal Hotwash\*** |
| **2:30 pm** | **Lead Controllers and Emergency Coordinators**  (Anyone can call in and listen; only Lead Controllers will speak.) | **Regional Hotwash Conference Call Briefing**  Conference Call Number: (800)617-4268 (toll free)  Participant Pin Code: 44983442# |

*\*A “hotwash” is a quick debriefing where exercise leaders and participants meet together to discuss things they thought went well and items that could be improved upon following the exercise. The hotwash is led by the Lead Controller at each facility.*

# Safety

### General

Exercise participant safety takes priority over exercise events. Although the organizations involved in the GMHC Regional Active Shooter/MCI FSE come from various response agencies, they share the basic responsibility for ensuring a safe environment for all personnel involved in the exercise. In addition, aspects of an emergency response have the potential to be hazardous. Professional health and safety ethics should guide all participants to operate in their assigned roles in the safest manner possible. The following general requirements apply to the exercise:

* All exercise controllers, evaluators, and staff will serve as safety observers while the exercise activities are underway. Any safety concerns must be immediately reported to the Lead Controller.
* Participants will be responsible for their own and each other’s safety during the exercise. It is the responsibility of all persons associated with the exercise to stop play if, in their opinion, a real safety problem exists. Once the problem is corrected, exercise play can be restarted.
* All organizations will comply with their respective environmental, health, and safety plans and procedures, as well as the appropriate federal, state, and local environmental health and safety regulations.

### Real-World Emergencies

For an emergency that requires assistance, the phrase will be *“****Real-World Emergency.****”* The following procedures should be used in case of a real emergency during the exercise:

* Anyone observing a participant who is seriously ill or injured will first advise the nearest controller then, if possible, render aid, provided the aid does not exceed his or her training.
* The controller who is made aware of a real emergency will initiate the communication of *“****Real-World Emergency****”* to all other controllers/evaluators by providing the following information to the Lead Controller and/or Exercise Director:
  + Venue/function
  + Location within the venue/function
  + Condition
  + Requirements
* If the nature of the emergency requires a suspension of the exercise at the venue/function, all exercise activities at that facility will immediately cease. Exercise play may resume at that venue/function once the *“****Real-World Emergency****”* situation has been addressed.
* Exercise play at other venue/functions should not cease if one venue/function has declared a *“****Real-World Emergency****”* unless they are reliant on the affected venue.

If a real emergency occurs that affects the entire exercise, the exercise may be suspended or terminated at the discretion of the Exercise Director and Lead Controller.

# Player Guidelines (For All Exercise Participants)

### Before the Exercise

* Review the appropriate emergency plans, procedures, and exercise support documents.
* Be at the appropriate site at least 30 minutes before the start of the exercise. Wear appropriate uniform/identification badge.
* If you gain knowledge of the scenario before the exercise, notify a controller so that appropriate actions can be taken to ensure a valid evaluation.

### During the Exercise

* Respond to the exercise events and information as if the emergency were real, unless otherwise directed by an exercise controller.
* Controllers will only give you information they are specifically directed to disseminate. You are expected to obtain other necessary information through existing emergency information channels.
* Do not engage in personal conversations with controllers, evaluators, observers, or media personnel while the exercise is in progress. If you are asked an exercise-related question, give a short, concise answer. If you are busy and cannot immediately respond, indicate so, but report back with an answer at the earliest time possible.
* If you do not understand the scope of the exercise or if you are uncertain about an organization’s or agency’s participation in an exercise, ask a controller.
* Verbalize out loud when taking an action. This will ensure that evaluators are made aware of critical actions as they occur.
* Maintain a log of your activities. Many times, this log may include documentation of activities missed by a controller or evaluator.

### Following the Exercise

* At the end of the exercise at your facility, participate in the Hotwash with the controllers and evaluators.
* Complete the Participant Feedback Form. This form allows you to comment candidly on emergency response activities and effectiveness of the exercise. Please provide the completed form to the Lead Controller at the conclusion of the Hotwash, before leaving.
* Before leaving the exercise, please provide any notes or materials generated from the exercise to your controller or evaluator for review and inclusion in the AAR.