



STATE HOUSE  
Montpelier became the Capital in 1808, when the first State House was built. Amos B. Young's 2nd State House, built in 1833 and destroyed by fire in 1857, was similar to this 3rd structure on the site completed in 1859.

# Binary Blizzard Tabletop Exercise

Initial Planning Meeting

March 28, 2024

# Opening Remarks

## **Julie Benedict**

State Exercise Administrator

Vermont Emergency Management

## **Earl Galloway**

Exercise Program Manager

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Exercise Division (NED)



# Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- Role



# Trusted Agents

- Trusted Agents (TA) are the individuals on the Exercise Planning Team(s) who are trusted to not reveal exercise and scenario details to players or third parties before exercise conduct.
- TAs also develop pre-exercise materials, conduct exercise briefings, and support training sessions.
- Information in this presentation for the exclusive use of the exercise planners and is not to be released to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid need to know without prior approval from an authorized sponsor organization representative.
- This presentation is not releasable to any public website.



# Administrative Remarks

- Please remain on mute while not speaking
- Interactive Session



# Agenda

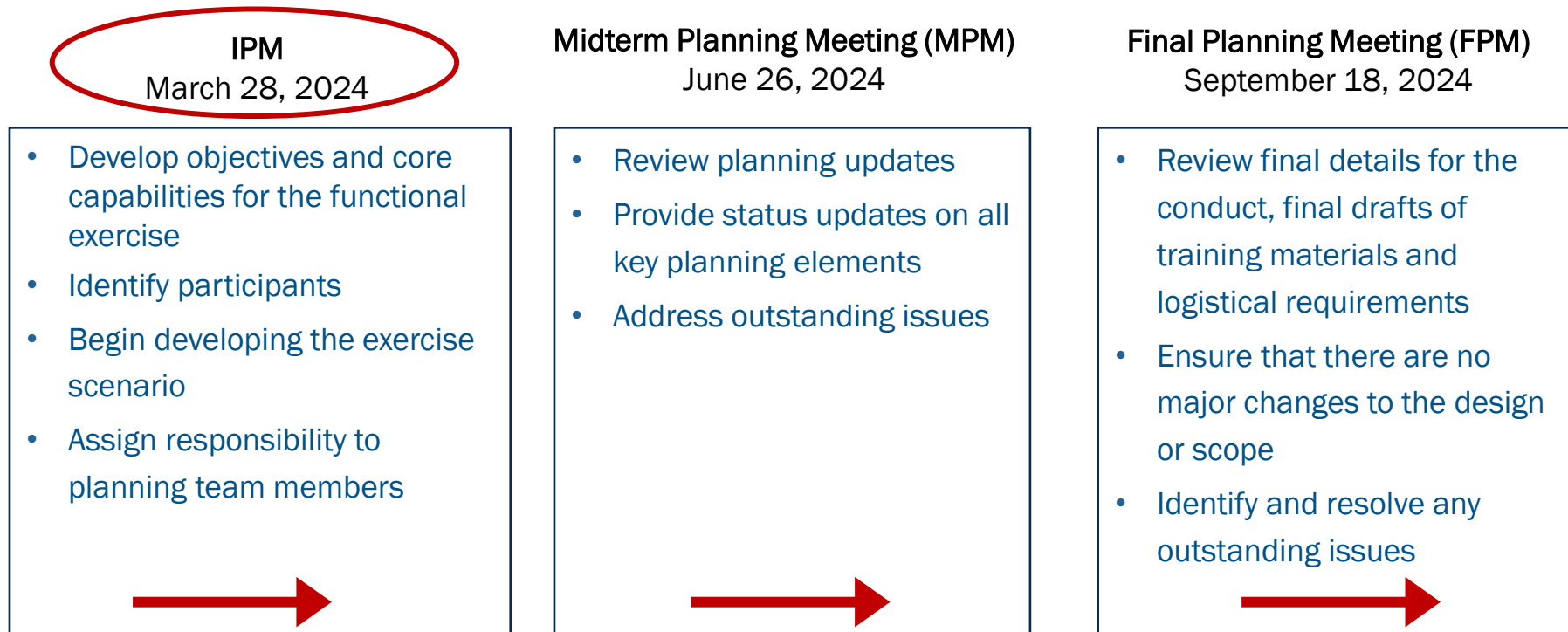
- Welcome and Introductions
- Trusted Agents
- Administrative Remarks
- Agenda
- Initial Planning Meeting (IPM)
- Meeting Objectives
- Exercise Scope
- Exercise Purpose
- Plans, Policies and Procedures
- Proposed Core Capabilities
- Proposed Overarching Exercise Objectives
- Exercise Design
- Planning Team Members
- Proposed Participation
- Exercise Roles
- Exercise Logistics
- Exercise Documentation
- Planning Timeline
- Questions
- Action Items
- Closing Remarks





# Initial Planning Meeting

The IPM is held to begin the exercise planning process and begin assigning exercise responsibilities.



# Meeting Objectives

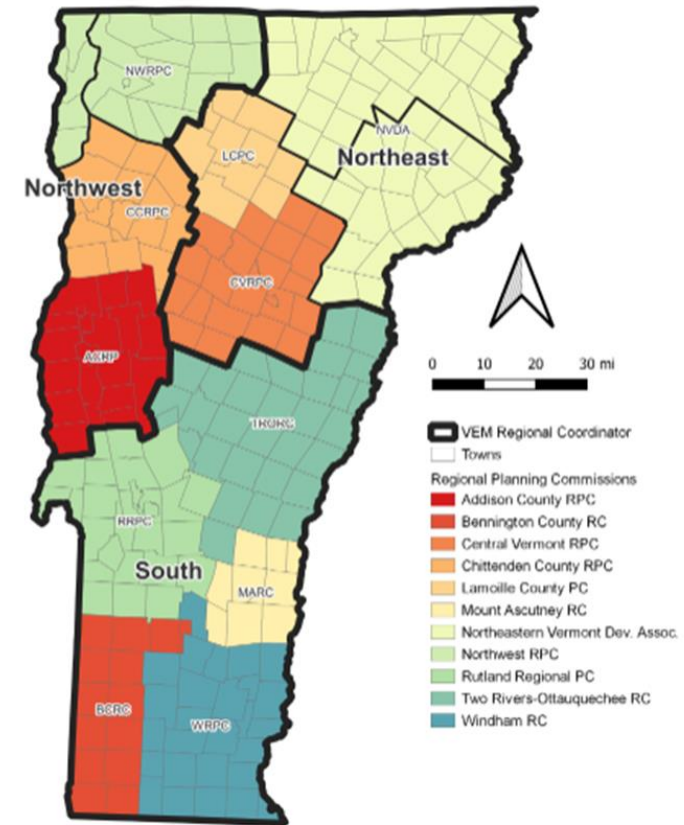
- Develop exercise design elements
- Review exercise objectives
- Develop an exercise planning timeline
- Discuss next steps and assign tasks





# Exercise Scope

- **Exercise Type:** Tabletop Exercise
- **Exercise Date:** Week of October 21, 2024
- **Exercise Duration:** 6 hours
- **Exercise Locations:** TBD



# Exercise Purpose

The exercise follows a functional exercise that occurred in March of 2023 called “Frosty Force.” The purpose of the exercise is to validate the state’s plans and to participate with as many municipalities as possible.



# Plans, Policies and Procedures

- Vermont State Emergency Management Plan
- State of Vermont Cybersecurity Annex
- State of Vermont Distribution Management Annex



# Proposed Core Capabilities

- Intelligence and Information Sharing
- Critical Transportation
- Infrastructure Systems
- Operational Coordination
- Situational Assessment
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Operational Communications



# Proposed Overarching Exercise Objectives

- **Operational Coordination:** Participants will discuss the capability to coordinate a response to a cyber attack impacting the power grid and a severe winter storm across all of Vermont between local, regional, state, and federal stakeholders using current plans and procedures.
- **Intelligence and Information Sharing:** Participants will discuss the methods, type, and extent of information shared between responders at local, regional, state, and federal levels using current operational plans, procedures, and mutual aid agreements to coordinate the response to a cyber attack by a hacking group utilizing ransomware.
- **Critical Transportation:** Local and regional entities, with the assistance of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will discuss the methods and plans for establishing physical access through available transportation vehicles and deliver required resources following a severe winter storm and a cyber incident.
- **Operation Communications:** Local municipalities, regional partners, and the State EOC will discuss the methods of communicating critical information requirements and situational awareness information throughout Vermont following a severe winter storm and cyber attack.
- **Infrastructure Systems:** Participants will discuss how to re-establish critical infrastructure across the state to support ongoing emergency response operations and community functionality during a cyber attack impacting the power grid and a severe winter storm.
- **Situational Assessment:** Participants will discuss how to reestablish critical information sharing networks and key infrastructure systems in response to a cyber attack impacting the power grid and a severe winter storm.
- **Logistics and Supply Chain Management:** The State EOC with local and regional partners will discuss the process for establishing commodity points of distribution throughout impacted areas of Vermont following a severe winter storm and cyber attack.



# Exercise Design

- **Scenario:** A severe early season winter storm impacts Vermont with heavy winds, several feet of snow, and significant icing. At the same time, a series of phishing attempts grant a hacker organization entry into Green Mountain Power's systems. They shut down the power grid demanding a ransom.
- **Participation Level:** Local, regional, state, and federal



# Planning Team Members

- Vermont Emergency Management
- FEMA Region 1
- State Partner Agencies
- Healthcare
- Municipality Representatives





# Proposed Participation

- Vermont State EOC
- Vermont State Agencies
- Local Municipalities
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Healthcare



# Exercise Roles

- **Players:** Respond to scenario events and discuss actions they would take in an actual event
- **Facilitators:** Present the exercise scenario and answer Player questions
- **Evaluators:** Document Player conversations and log observations and lessons learned
- **Exercise Director:** Oversee all aspects of exercise play, adjusting scenario and exercise flow, as necessary
- **Support Staff:** Perform administrative and logistical duties, as necessary. Staff the check-in table and act as additional notetakers



# Exercise Logistics

- Conduct Location(s)
  - Parking
- Exercise Format
- Access
- Exercise Invites
- Registration
- Exercise Signage/Notification
- Badging and Identification
- Observers and Very Important Persons



# Exercise Documentation

- Situation Manual
- Multimedia Presentation
- Participant Feedback Forms



# Planning Timeline

Meeting	Time/Date	Location
IPM	March 28, 2024	Virtual
MPM	June 26, 2024	Virtual
FPM	September 18, 2024	In-Person
Exercise Conduct	Week of October 21, 2024	In-Person
After-Action Meeting	Late November/Early December	In-Person



# Questions

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?



# Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party	Due
Distribute IPM Minutes	FEMA NED	April 3, 2024
Develop draft exercise documentation	FEMA NED	Ongoing
Review and finalize objectives and core capabilities	FEMA NED/Planning Team	MPM
Develop scenario	Planning Team	MPM
Identify planning team members	Planning Team	MPM
Identify participants	Planning Team	MPM





# Closing Remarks

**Julie Benedict**

State Exercise Administrator

Vermont Emergency Management

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FEMA NED

