

# King County OTP Earthquake Tabletop Exercise



KING COUNTY  
Healthcare  
Coalition

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

# What is a Tabletop Exercise?

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- ❑ Informal discussion using a scripted disaster scenario as a catalyst
- ❑ No time pressures, designed to promote free and open exchange of ideas
- ❑ Familiarizes players with roles, responsibilities, functions, plans, and procedures
- ❑ Identify issues requiring further work



# Exercise Play

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- ❑ Introductory narrative, followed by “problem statements” and subsequent updates
- ❑ Put yourself in the position described in the scenario
- ❑ When asked, describe your actions as if this were “real,” following organizational plans and procedures
- ❑ There are no “right” or “wrong” answers
- ❑ Identification of issues, but not necessarily trying to solve them



# Objectives

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- ❑ Determine ability to support timely decisions regarding operations of the Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) in an emergency.
- ❑ Demonstrate ability to coordinate communication and resources among key stakeholders.
- ❑ Evaluate process for activating and implementing mutual aid between OTP providers.
- ❑ Discuss protocols and rules of regulatory agencies.



# Scenario – Friday, May 29

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- ❑ A very large earthquake occurred at 0759, rumbling through the entire Puget Sound Region for 2 minutes
- ❑ Damage is visible in all areas of the County.
- ❑ All phones (landlines and cellular) are jammed.



# Scenario – Situation Update

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- ❑ Electricity is out in the SODO region, Capital Hill and First Hill.
- ❑ Employees are concerned about their families and are attempting to contact schools/homes, but cannot get through.
- ❑ Upon conducting an initial assessment of your facility some staff and visitors appear to be injured.
- ❑ Ceiling tiles, fixtures and other building materials have fallen or come loose throughout the facility.



# Scenario – Situation Update

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- Ron Jackson is presenting at a conference in Miami, thus is unaware of the situation.
- Jim Vollendroff is on vacation camping in the Canadian Rockies and out of cell phone range.
- Patricia-Edmond Quinn is on her way to the Shoreline branch for a meeting, but traffic is at a standstill.



# Questions for OTPs

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- ❑ Have your staff been trained to “drop, cover & hold” in the event of an earthquake?
- ❑ Within each facility, is it clear which staff member would take the lead in an emergency?
  - What tasks have he/she been trained to do in this situation?
- ❑ Does your organization have a clear process to assess damage to your facilities and infrastructure?



# Questions for OTPs

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- ❑ Does your organization have protocols and easily accessible First Aid supplies to manage injuries to patients, staff and visitors?
  
- ❑ Do your facilities have easily accessible flashlights and other safety equipment?
  - How would staff know where to find them?
  - How often is the equipment inventoried and batteries changed?



# Scenario – Situation Update 8:45 AM

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- ❑ Media reports a shallow 6.8 magnitude earthquake occurred in the Black Diamond area. Media helicopters report extensive damage in Kent, Auburn & Renton.
- ❑ The 520 bridge has collapsed.
- ❑ The Alaskan Way viaduct is closed.
- ❑ Media are strongly recommending citizens to not drive due to unsafe roadways.



# Scenario – Situation Update

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- ❑ CRC Health in Renton has extensive facility damage and is unable to occupy the building.
- ❑ Evergreen Treatment Services (ETS) has lost water and power.
- ❑ Therapeutic Health Services (THS) Summit & Rainier branches are without power.
- ❑ Harborview Medical Center (HMC) & VA



# Questions for OTPs

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- What communication options do your sites have? (i.e. walkie-talkies, HAM, bullhorn, non-electrically dependent telephones/AM Radio, WPS/GETS, text messaging)
- What is your organization's policy regarding staff who want to leave?
  - Who are your essential staff in this scenario?



# Questions for OTPs

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- How would the damage to your facility alter operations?
- What actions would you take in order to continue critical functions and deliver essential services?
- Who would take the lead to ensure that your on-site pharmaceuticals were secure?



# Scenario – Situation Update

## Saturday, May 30th

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- ❑ Phones: cell phone and land lines are working sporadically. Text messages are getting through.
- ❑ Limited power returns to SODO neighborhood. ETS has power, but no water.
- ❑ THS Summit & Rainier branches are still without power.
- ❑ Security identified as high priority need for CRC and the ETS mobile dispensary.
- ❑ Only 30% of patients are showing up at OTP facilities for dosing. Hundreds are calling your facility to report that they cannot get to the clinic and need to know what to do.



# Questions

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- ❑ Could patients be dosed at a facility that did not have power? Water?
- ❑ How would your facility address patient's request for guidance?
- ❑ How would the OTPs in King County communicate and coordinate between each other?
  - How would the Memorandum of Agreement for mutual aid be activated?
  - How would you access patient medical records?
  - How would you communicate critical patient data to the receiving provider?



# Questions

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- ❑ How would the provider screen “walk-in” patients requesting guest status?
- ❑ How would security needs for CRC & THS be addressed?
- ❑ What steps would the King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADS) staff be taking in response to this situation?
- ❑ What steps would DASA be taking at this point?
- ❑ Other key stakeholders?...



# Questions

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- Which key partners would you communicate your status and changes in operations (locations, hours, etc.) and how?
- How would you communicate status and changes in operations (locations, hours, etc.) to patients?
  - Prevent rumors?



# Scenario – Situation Update

## Monday, June 1st

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- A Presidential disaster declaration has been signed.
- HMC contacts the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PH EOC) to report OTP patients presenting to ED for dosing. HMC is referring them back to their providers.
- Power has been restored to both THS facilities.



# Scenario – Situation Update

## Monday, June 1st

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- Ron Jackson & Jim Vollendroff are back in Seattle.
  
- Because of guest dosing, ETS is serving a large number of patients and report they will be out of methadone by the end of the day if they do not receive a supply.
  - CRC agreed to transport their supply of methadone to ETS.



# Questions

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- How would transport of methadone happen between providers?
  - Would security be an issue?
- How would the DEA paperwork process be completed?
- What if a guest patient is prescribed something other than methadone as an opioid replacement?
- How will you address “take-home” patients who are in an emergency shelter and not allowed by shelter operators to bring methadone into the facility?



# Questions

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- What regulations, protocols, etc. would MHCADS, DASA and the DEA be concerned about at this time?
  - What Federal resources might be requested in order to assist the situation?
  - What is the procedure for requesting those resources?
- What assistance might the City of Seattle EOC be able to offer to the providers?





# Congratulations!

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You have successfully responded to  
a major earthquake!



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# Debrief

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- ❑ What went well?
- ❑ What areas need improvement?
- ❑ What items can be corrected immediately?
- ❑ Would further training or explanation address any of the improvement areas?
- ❑ Were there items not covered in the scenario that should be considered?



# Next Steps

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- ❑ Draft After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan developed and presented to the OTP Preparedness Workgroup.
- ❑ Final AAR distributed.
- ❑ Improvement Plan will drive further preparedness & mitigation efforts.

