

Total Solar Eclipse Tabletop Exercise

Situation: A total solar eclipse is scheduled to occur in your area in two months. The event is expected to attract thousands of visitors to your city and surrounding regions, which could lead to traffic congestion, overcrowding, and safety hazards. Your organization has been tasked with developing a comprehensive plan to ensure public safety and manage the influx of tourists during the event.

Objectives:

- To evaluate the existing emergency response plans and identify gaps or weaknesses in the context of a total solar eclipse event.
- To develop strategies and tactics to mitigate risks associated with a total solar eclipse, including those related to public safety, traffic congestion, and communication.
- To enhance collaboration and coordination among different departments and agencies involved in the planning process.

The planning team should review the existing emergency response plans and capabilities to determine their suitability for the total solar eclipse scenario, identify potential risks, develop strategies and tactics to mitigate identified risks, and develop plans for coordination and communication among different departments and agencies involved in the planning process.

Inject questions are designed to stimulate discussion and challenge participants to think about different aspects of the scenario:

1. What are the potential risks associated with the total solar eclipse event, and how can they be mitigated?
2. How can we ensure that emergency response resources are effectively deployed in the event of an emergency during the total solar eclipse?
3. How can we effectively manage traffic and parking during the event to minimize congestion and ensure public safety?
4. How can we effectively communicate with the public and provide accurate information about the total solar eclipse event?
5. What role should law enforcement agencies play in managing the event, and how can they collaborate with other departments and agencies?
6. How can we ensure that medical resources are adequate to respond to any emergencies that may arise during the event?
7. How can we ensure that our plans take into account the needs of vulnerable populations, such as the elderly or individuals with disabilities?
8. What is the plan for managing waste generated by the event, and how can we ensure that it is disposed of safely and responsibly?
9. How can we effectively engage with the media to ensure accurate reporting of the event and to manage public expectations?
10. How can we ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their roles and responsibilities during the total solar eclipse event?

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Key planning considerations that should be taken into account when preparing for a total solar eclipse to help you identify potential gaps:

Risks: Review potential risks associated with a total solar eclipse, including traffic congestion, overcrowding, and safety hazards. How can risks vary depending on the location and scale of the event?

Transportation: One of the most important considerations when planning for a total solar eclipse is transportation. The influx of visitors to the area may result in traffic congestion and overcrowding. Consider developing a transportation plan that includes traffic flow management, parking, and shuttle services to and from the event site.

Communication: Effective communication is critical to ensure public safety and manage tourism during a total solar eclipse. Develop a communication plan that includes various channels, such as social media, email, and text messaging, to provide the public with important updates and information.

Emergency response: In the event of an emergency during the total solar eclipse, it's important to have a well-coordinated emergency response plan in place. This includes identifying potential risks, developing contingency plans, and ensuring that first responders and medical personnel are adequately trained and equipped.

Public safety: Ensuring public safety is a key priority during a total solar eclipse event. Develop a crowd management plan that includes security measures, such as crowd control barriers, and procedures for responding to incidents or emergencies.

Waste management: The influx of visitors to the area may result in increased waste production. Develop a waste management plan that includes the provision of sufficient trash and recycling receptacles and procedures for waste disposal.

Accommodation: Visitors may require accommodation during their stay. Consider developing a plan that includes accommodation options and availability, as well as any associated transportation needs.

Permitting: It's important to ensure that any necessary permits are obtained and that all regulations and guidelines are followed. This includes obtaining permits for the use of public spaces, such as parks or streets, as well as any permits required for the sale of food or merchandise.

Community engagement: Engaging the community in the planning process is critical to ensure a successful total solar eclipse event. Consider developing an outreach plan that includes meetings with community leaders and stakeholders, as well as public education campaigns.

Collaboration: Collaboration and coordination among different departments and agencies involved in the planning process is critical to ensure effective preparation and execution of the event. Consider developing a multi-agency planning committee and holding regular meetings to facilitate collaboration and communication.

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