



**All Hazards Plan Validation Table  
Top Exercise-Puerto Rico  
Earthquake and Tsunami Hazard  
Specific Annexes/FEMA Region II  
April 26-27, 2012  
After Action Report (AAR)**



---

**Incident Summary**

The Puerto Rico Earthquake and Tsunami Plan Validation Tabletop Exercise was the culmination of many months of planning for the Commonwealth and Federal Partners in FEMA Region II. It was part of the Catastrophic Planning Tabletop (TTX) Series consisting of FEMA Regional-level exercises to validate catastrophic planning efforts. The plan provides a tactical framework for decision making relating to a catastrophic earthquake occurring on-shore in Puerto Rico and a catastrophic earthquake off-shore resulting in a tsunami on Puerto Rico. The scope of the annex and TTX related to the first 72 hours, defining the resources to support 14 pre-defined response core capabilities necessary to stabilize response operations, while providing for inputs into long-term recovery decision making, given the geographic separation from the continental US. In addition, FEMA and its Federal Partners' capabilities were tested, to provide support to the government of Puerto Rico in order to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in a post-catastrophic incident environment.

The scenario for the TTX was a major earthquake impacting Puerto Rico and causing catastrophic and major damage throughout the central and eastern parts of the island. Thousands of homes and commercial buildings were destroyed or were severely impacted, resulting in over 450,000 people that needed sheltering and feeding. The San Juan harbor was filled with damaged cruise ships, pleasure boats, fishing boats, containers and other debris. The San Juan airport was severely damaged and planes were unable to land/take off with navigational aids down. Major roads were damaged or inaccessible. Utilities' infrastructures were severely impacted inoperable.

**Lessons Learned**

**Things that went well:**

The ESF11 Coordinator for FEMA Region II was offered invitational travel to attend the TTX in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This allowed for beneficial and productive networking with the Puerto Rico Emergency Management, the Government and Partner Agencies, along with ESF11's federal partner agencies. Topics discussed pertained to feeding; household pets and service animals; addressing livestock and facilities in the food chain. Another area of success was emphasizing that mass care response needs to be a priority in the time-phased resource deployment from the mainland, especially the human and material resources of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide sheltering and feeding. However, it would be a challenge to actually get the NGOs priority status in the federal transportation queue. Internally, the ESF11 Coordinator was able to obtain voicemail coverage on island, unlike the USVI trip, after applying for and obtaining international coverage a week before leaving for PR. Hopefully, it will not be a challenge in a real disaster with short notice/outside of business hours, to obtain special coverage.

**Things that could use improvement:**

Although it's said, "Don't fight the scenario" the 72-hour limit of the Plan was the challenge. In a real event it would probably take 72 hours to obtain situational awareness and most of the Federal Partners' response actions would be provided after this timeframe, and thus were not captured. In addition, until the airports and sea ports are operational, nothing will be "pushed" into Puerto Rico and items that the Federal family thought they needed, might not be what Puerto Rico would request, thus clogging up the logistical system and compounding confusion.