

NOTIFICATION OF PLANNED EXERCISE/DRILL AND AFTER ACTION REPORT
North Chicago VA Medical Center

EXERCISE PLANNING INFORMATION

Name of Agency Reporting Exercise: North Chicago VA Medical Center		
Date(s) of Exercise: February 27, 2009 9:16 AM	Location of Exercise: Fire, Bldg. 133CA, Lab Restroom, Room BD116	Type of Exercise: ___ Functional ___ Table Top <u> x </u> Natural
Is a contractor/vendor involved? ___ Yes <u> x </u> No		If yes, provide name of contractor/vendor:
List all public health and response entities that will participate in the drill: VA Police, GLFD,		Specify which entity will serve as the lead agency in planning and conducting the exercise/drill:
Identify your agency's role during the exercise: <u> x </u> Lead Agency ___ Participating Agency		List the name and phone number of the point of contact for your agency: Nancy Brann, Safety and Gene Deener EM, 83782

Identification of Plans/Systems to be Exercised

Place an "X" in the first column below to identify the response plan/system to be exercised. List the objectives and criteria to be used to determine if objective(s) has been met during the exercise.

Selected Plan or System	Plan/System	Objectives MET	Evaluation Criteria
Standard EM.01.01.01	N/A	N/A	N/A
Standard EM.02.01.01	EP 1, EP 3, EP4,EP 8	YES	Leadership involved, EOP utilized to enable plan, EOP utilized for recovery, and response procedures.
Standard: EM.02.02.01	EP 1, EP4,	YES	EOP utilized for notification of staff and patients. EOP used to contact GLFD,
Standard: EM.02.02.03	EP 12	YES	EOP used for providing of back up of resources
Standard: EM.02.02.05	EP 7	YES	EOP utilized for control of incident scene,
Standard: EM.02.02.07	EP 2 through 10	YES	EOP used to conduct Incident Management during incident.
Standard: EM.02.02.09	N/A	N/A	N/A

Standard: EM.02.02.11	EP 3-11	YES	EOP used to conduct evacuation and readjustment of services.
Standard: EM.02.02.13	N/A	N/A	N/A
Standard: EM.02.02.15	N/A	N/A	N/A
Standard: EM.03.01.01	N/A	N/A	N/A
Standard: EM.03.01.03	N/A	N/A	N/A

Date After Action Report will be completed and submitted:

11 March 09

Permission is given to NCVAMC to share this exercise notification with other jurisdictions that may wish to observe (if appropriate).

Yes No

AFTER ACTION REPORT

Place a "Y" in the first column below to indicate that the objective(s) outlined above were successfully met during the exercise/drill. Place an "N" in the first column below to indicate that the objective(s) outlined above were not successfully met. For those objectives that were not met, list the gaps/weaknesses that were identified during the exercise, and the recommendations for improvement.

Selected Plan or System	Plan/System	Gaps/Weakness/Strengths	Recommendation for Improvement
Standard EM.02.01.01	EP 1, EP 3, EP4,EP 8	There is still some confusion with occupants of the building as to when they need to evacuate, where to evacuate to, or stay put when the fire alarm is activated.	Re-orientation of alarm system for staff More fire drills for facility
Standard: EM.02.02.01	EP 1, EP4,	It took several calls via radio by VA Dispatch before anyone from Environmental Management Service reported to the site due to staff being on break.	EMS response team needs to be established
Standard: EM.02.02.03	EP 12	Excellent Staff in the immediate area of the fire alerted occupants in the waiting area and other staff that there was a fire. Staff followed R.A.C.E. and in a quick and organized manner horizontally evacuated all occupants in this area to a safe location.	None

<p>Standard: EM.02.02.05</p>	<p>EP 7</p>	<p>VA Police, Safety, and Engineering quickly responded to this location. Engineering located the sprinkler shut-off valve for that zone and shut the system down. The sprinkler head was replaced immediately and the system was turned back on. VA Police roped off the area to keep staff and visitors away until clean-up was completed.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Standard: EM.02.02.07</p>	<p>EP 2 through 10</p>	<p>Engineering removed the fixture from the site. Due to the fact that the ballast was changed approximately a half hour prior to the fire the engineers wanted to conduct some test on this unit. The two porcelain bi-pin lamp holders were replaced and the fixture was energized for several hours. No further incidents took place. Contact has been made with the company and a rep will be here on Thursday, March 12 to inspect the unit.</p>	<p>None, however Engineering has provided a comprehensive check of all bi-pin lamp holders and has consulted with the manufacturer</p>
<p>Standard: EM.02.02.11</p>	<p>EP 3-11</p>	<p>Environmental Management Service staff was contacted to report to the area. Clean up was started and staff was able to return back to this area within a few hours of the incident taking place. Excellent Great Lakes Fire Department arrived on scene. The fire was extinguished prior to their arrival. Upon arrival they were able to start their investigation as to the cause of the fire.</p>	<p>None</p>

Specify the date the above recommendations will be incorporated into the plan(s) or system(s):
13 March 09

AFTER ACTION REPORT
VA Medical Center – North Chicago

Report Title: Fire, Bldg. 133CA, Lab Restroom, Room BD116

Date of Report: March 11, 2009

Brief Statement of Incident: On Friday, February 27, 2009 9:16 AM there was an activated fire alarm for the lab area in Building 133CA. VA Police, Safety, and Engineering responded to area. Upon arrival we found that there was a single sprinkler head activated in the bathroom, room BD116 due to a fire in the prismatic lens cover of the light fixture. Fire was extinguished immediately by the sprinkler head. Great Lakes Fire Department arrived at location 9:28 AM

Strengths:

Staff Response: Excellent Staff in the immediate area of the fire alerted occupants in the waiting area and other staff that there was a fire. Staff followed R.A.C.E. and in a quick and organized manner horizontally evacuated all occupants in this area to a safe location.

VA Police, Safety, and Engineering quickly responded to this location. Engineering located the sprinkler shut-off valve for that zone and shut the system down. The sprinkler head was replaced immediately and the system was turned back on. VA Police roped off the area to keep staff and visitors away until clean-up was completed.

Engineering removed the fixture from the site. Due to the fact that the ballast was changed approximately a half hour prior to the fire the engineers wanted to conduct some test on this unit. The two porcelain bi-pin lamp holders were replaced and the fixture was energized for several hours. No further incidents took place. Contact has been made with the company and a rep will be here on Thursday, March 12 to inspect the unit.

Environmental Management Service staff was contacted to report to the area. Clean up was started and staff was able to return back to this area within a few hours of the incident taking place.

Fire Response: Excellent Great Lakes Fire Department arrived on scene. The fire was extinguished prior to their arrival. Upon arrival they were able to start their investigation as to the cause of the fire.

Improvements and recommendations:

Improvements: There is still some confusion with occupants of the building as to when they need to evacuate, where to evacuate to, or stay put when the fire alarm is activated.

Recommendation: Additional training by the Safety Office will take place for each service. In addition, building/service specific fire plans will be established and posted in all areas.

Improvements: It took several calls via radio by VA Dispatch before anyone from Environmental Management Service reported to the site due to staff being on break.

Recommendation: Management needs to make staff aware that during an emergency situation, if they are contacted to respond to an area, this response needs to be immediate and not when break/lunch is completed.