

"Operation Tornado" EX

*Heartland Extension Disaster Education Network
(Heartland EDEN)*



"Operation Tornado" EX

Day -3 - Saturday, Feb 25, 6 p.m.

- National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a statement for possible severe storms with wind & rain have in your area for Feb 28.
- The statement has listed high winds and possible tornados for your community.
- By Feb 27 the NWS has changed the language from possible to likely strong storms.
- The NWS has your community in "orange" colored risk level.
- The county emergency Manager (EOC) has shared the statement that now is a tornado watch over their warning system.

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Discussion Questions – 5 minutes

- *Are there any decisions your local extension office/unit should make at this time?*
- *Who will make those decisions?*

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Day 1 - Tuesday, Feb 28, 12 p.m.

- Severe storms with wind & heavy rains have started in an area SW of you.
- The NWS has issued a severe storm warning for your community.
- The NWS has expanded the orange threat level to include a wider area.
- The county emergency manager has shared the warning with your community.
- The NWS has changed the language from strong storms to tornados are likely.

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Discussion Questions – 5 minutes

- *Are there any decisions your local extension office/unit should make at this time?*
- *Who will make those decisions?*

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Day 1 - Tuesday, Feb 28, 8 p.m.

- Severe storms with high wind & moderate rains have entered your area. Rotation is being seen on radar in you area.
- The National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for your community. Tornadoes are likely.
- The county emergency manager (EOC) has also issued the warning.
- Residents are advised to go to their safe room.
- Weather spotters have sighted a tornado 3 miles west of town.
- Radar shows a debris ball that is extremely large. Tornado is a big EF-3 or EF-4.
- The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated.

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Discussion Questions – 5 minutes

- *Are there any decisions your local extension office/unit should make at this time?*
- *Who will make those decisions?*

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Day 2 - Wednesday, March 1, 7 a.m.

- Overnight the State Task Force 1 has deployed to search and rescue the tornado path.
- The tornado path is 14 miles long and ¼ to ½ mile wide. One developed rural area was hit along with a small area of town. About 100 homes are destroyed, about half are farm community.
- Emergency Management has contacted you for the help you can provide.
- A local community center has been set as a staging center. Volunteers are starting to show up and they are swarming in by 10 am.

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Discussion Questions – 5 minutes

- *As a Technical Specialist or Cooperating Agency, identify resources your local extension office/unit can provide during this early phase of response and recovery?*
- *Are there any decisions your local extension office/unit should make at this time?*
- *Who will make those decisions?*

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Day 2 - Wednesday, March 1, 12 p.m.

- Several semi-trucks with donations of Drinking water and cleaning materials are approaching your community.
- A leader from the Faith Community has reached out to the extension office for resources in Spanish on food safety due to intermittent power outages in affected neighborhoods.
- The Emergency Manager contacted the extension office for assistance with donations and volunteer management.
- A Multi-agency Resource Center (MARC) is being stood up in the community next week to assist residents.

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Discussion Questions – 5 minutes

- *How do you prioritize the requests coming in from your community and local emergency management?*
- *Are these requests beyond the capacity of your office? Discuss your response options.*

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Day 15 - Wednesday, April 19, 2 p.m.

- Semi-trucks with all sorts of donations continue to come to your community.
- A leader from the Faith Community has reached out to the extension office for help with the Long Term Recovery Committee.
- The Emergency Manager has called the final situation group meeting and is asking for a group to take over assistance with donations and volunteer management.
- A community donation management group is being stood up in the community for continued assistance to survivor residents.

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Discussion Questions – 5 minutes

- *How do you prioritize the requests coming in from your community and local emergency management?*
- *Are these requests beyond the capacity of your office? Discuss your response options.*

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Exercise Debrief - 10 minutes

- *What challenges did you face addressing this scenario?*
- *How did you adapt to the challenge?*
- *Do you understand your role as a Technical Specialist and/or Cooperating Agency in the Incident Command System?*
- *Did you have another role in this incident? What was that role?*