

WFO Memphis Participation in DeSoto County Exercise

Andrew Snieszak
WFO Memphis TN

Topics Covered

- Lessons Learned From Previous Exercises
- Scope of Exercise
- Day 1 of Exercise
- Day 2 of Exercise
- New Lessons Learned

Previous Experiences

- SONS07/TNCAT07
Federal, state and local emergency response agencies gained experience in working with NWS employees within the Incident Command System.

Previous Experiences

- SONS07/TNCAT07

Demonstrated the ability to deploy and operate portable weather forecast and warning software for “on site” support.
(FX-Connect)

DeSoto County Exercise Details

- Two day event
- Outside of Horn Lake High School
- Terrorists overtake school where church campers are staying
- Terrorists take hostages and eventually release hazardous materials before being captured

Exercise – Day 1

- Conducted by Mississippi Army National Guard's 47th Civil Support Team
- Large command post set-up
- Person experienced with plume modeling on site
- Had HPAC model available to determine effects of hazardous materials

Exercise – Day 1

- Davis Weather Station installed for real time temperature, wind and humidity data
- HPAC model run several times using both real and canned data
- SDM at NCEP contacted to run HYSPLIT model successfully
- ALOHA model run after type of hazardous material was determined

Exercise – Day 1

- Internet access existed but could not use office laptop due to security issues

Exercise – Day 2

- Conducted by DeSoto County E.M.A.
- Smaller set-up than Day 1
- No on-site weather data
- Only internet access was through a laptop provided by local fire department
- Not everyone was aware NWS was at site

What we learned

- Not every event is the same so they can't be handled the same
- Be flexible
- Have ability to bring own equipment as needed
- Do not count on others for internet access

Steps taken

- Schedule one day to set up office weather station to maintain proficiency
- Acquire wireless internet card