# **DHS&EM Weapons and Safety Guidance**

## Safety:

Exercising participant safety takes priority over exercise events. The following general requirements apply to the exercise:

* The exercise presents a potential safety hazard to all participants. For this reason, an exercise safety controller position has been established to identify those hazards and make appropriate recommendations to ensure participant safety at all times.
* Every exercise venue will have one or more persons identified as a safety controller.
* A Safety Controller is responsible for participant safety; any safety concerns must be immediately reported to the Safety Controller. The Safety Controller and Exercise Director will determine if a real-world emergency warrants a pause in exercise play and when exercise play can be resumed.
* The exercise Safety Controller will be identified by a white vest or other visible identification and will be responsible for participant safety at each venue. All participants will follow the safety controller’s directions.
* All exercise controllers, evaluators, and staff will serve as safety observers while the exercise activities are underway. Any safety concerns must be immediately reported to the Safety Controller.
* Participants will be responsible for their own safety as well as the safety of other participants during the exercise. It is the responsibility of everyone associated with the exercise to stop play if, in their opinion, a real safety problem exists. Once the problem is corrected, exercise play can be resumed.
* All organizations will comply with their respective environmental, health, and safety plans and procedures, as well as the appropriate local, state, and federal environmental health and safety regulations.
* For an emergency that requires assistance, use the phrase “real-world emergency.” The following procedures should be used in case of a real emergency during the exercise:
* Anyone who observes a participant who is seriously ill or injured will immediately notify emergency services and the closest controller, and, within reason and training, render aid.
* The controller aware of a real emergency will initiate the “real-world emergency” broadcast and provide the Safety Controller, Senior Controller, and Exercise Director with the location of the emergency and resources needed, if any. The Senior Controller will notify the Venue Control Cell as soon as possible if a real emergency occurs.

### Accident Reporting

All injuries, incidents, and accidents, regardless of severity, will be reported immediately to the nearest controller. Anyone observing a participant who is seriously ill or injured will first advise the nearest controller and then render first aid, if possible, provided the aid given does not exceed his or her training.

## Use of Alcohol and Marijuana

Alcohol and/or marijuana consumption will not be allowed during the exercise. If a controller detects the presence of alcohol or marijuana on a participant or if a participant is believed to be under the influence, the controller will remove the participant from the exercise and report the participant to his or her supervisor for appropriate follow-on action.

## Prescription Medication

Participants taking prescription medication will report this information through their chain of command. Supervisors should inform the exercise safety controller of the decision to allow such an individual to participate.

## Illegal Drugs

The use of illegal drugs is prohibited. If a controller detects the presence of drugs on a participant or if a participant is believed to be under the influence, the controller will remove the participant from the exercise and report the participant to his or her supervisor for appropriate follow-on action.

### Use of Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) may be needed for various operations during the exercise. PPE will be provided by the participant’s organization if required. Use of respiratory protection, if needed, will be allowed only for participants who have been medically qualified, trained, and fit-tested. Use of simulated munitions/paintballs will require a minimum of facemask with eye protections, neck protection and groin protection for all participants, controllers and safety officers. Participating organization safety officers will ensure the proper and authorized use of PPE by their individual participants.

## Fire Safety

Standard fire and safety regulations relevant to each jurisdiction, venue, or organization will be followed during the exercise. The local fire department will be notified and should provide support in case of fire. The following are fire safety requirements for <Exercise Name>:

* Firefighting equipment will be readily available and in close proximity.
* Particular care will be given to ensure no exercise venue operations cause unintentional fires.
* Resupply fuels (e.g., gasoline, kerosene, and diesel fuel) will be stored in approved containers, clearly labeled for content, and stored away from combustible materials. These fuels will not be stored within 50 feet of an ignition source (e.g., open flames or electrical or gas-operated equipment). “No Smoking” signs will be posted near the storage area. Fire extinguishers and other safety equipment will be stored close to the storage area, but not with the containers. Fuels will be handled using safe handling methods.

## Emergency Medical Services

The sponsor organization will coordinate with local emergency medical services in the event of a real-world emergency. If required, the venue lead exercise planner will coordinate with local emergency medical services to ensure there are adequate emergency medical services available.

## Electrical and Generating Device Hazards

All applicable electrical and generating device safety requirements should be documented prior to the start of the exercise. All electrical and generating devices will be clearly marked to prevent inadvertent contact. All generating devices will be located in areas where exhaust gases will not pose any potential for exposure to exercise participants (i.e., located away from buildings to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide inside).

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## Weapons Policy

It is the policy of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) to ensure that every effort is made to provide a safe and secure environment at all DHS&EM sponsored exercises for its participants, observers/Very Important Persons, control/evaluation staff, volunteers, and the general public.

Exercise planners and controllers will plan for and promulgate control measures with regard to weapons, whether introduced as a simulated device during exercise play or utilized by law enforcement officers in their normal scope of duties.

For the purpose of this policy, a weapon will include all firearms, knives, explosive devices, less than lethal weapons/tools/devices, and any other object capable of causing bodily harm.

Qualified personnel (law enforcement, security, military, etc.) with legal authority to carry weapons that have an assigned exercise role (responder, tactical team, etc.) and have the potential for interaction with other exercise participants will **NOT** carry a loaded weapon within the confines of the exercise play area. They may continue to carry their weapon only after it has been properly cleared and rendered safe (i.e., no ammunition in chamber, cylinder, breach, or magazines) and only after being marked or identified in a conspicuous manner (i.e., bright visible tape around the visible stock or holster) and verified by the exercise venue safety officer. The use of an area clearly marked as “off limits,” and with assigned armed personnel to secure weapons in a container, vehicle, or other security area is acceptable, and should be consistent with host jurisdiction weapons security policies.

Qualified personnel (law enforcement, security, military, etc.) with legal authority to carry weapons that are utilized to provide “real world” perimeter security for the exercise and have no assigned or direct interaction with exercise participants may continue to carry loaded weapons as part of their normal scope of duty.

All other personnel with no legal authority to carry weapons will not bring, introduce, or have in their possession any weapon of any type in any area associated with the exercise. Safety briefings will be provided to all exercise participants specifying provisions and policies regarding weapons prior to the start of the exercise.

Simulated explosive devices, such as flash bangs, pyrotechnics, flares, smoke grenades, etc., will be handled and/or detonated only by qualified exercise staff or bomb technicians.

Aggressive behavior will not be tolerated during exercise conduct, except in matters of self‑defense. Examples of aggressive behavior may include, but are not limited to, excessive speeding; uncontrolled animals (i.e., K-9s, horses, etc.); employment of defense products (i.e., mace, pepper spray, stun guns, Taser guns, batons, etc.); and forceful use of operational response equipment or tools (i.e., pike poles, hose lines used at full stream on victims, etc.).

Exceptions to this policy specifying special mitigating circumstances will be directed, in writing, to DHS&EM 30 days prior to the exercise.