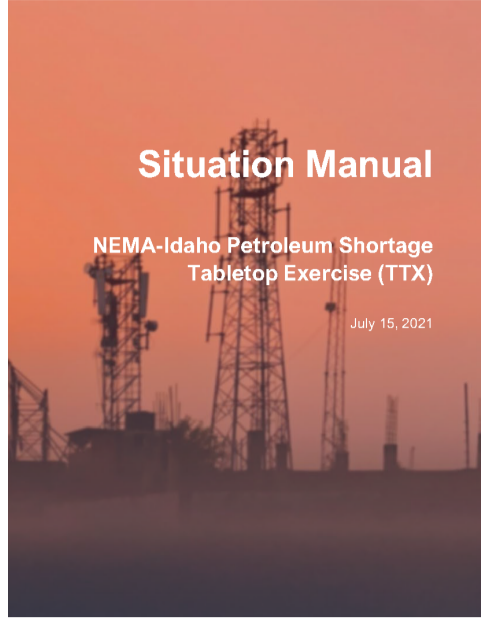




August 18, 2021

## EXERCISES AREN'T ABOUT IF, BUT WHEN



At 7:06 am on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake along the Wasatch Front near Salt Lake City, Utah causes major damage to pipelines and refineries that supply fuel from Utah, temporarily disrupting fuel supply into Idaho. The earthquake also disrupts highway traffic along Interstate 15, as inspectors must inspect overhead bridges before traffic can resume. Approximately three hours later, around 10:15 am, an opportunistic adversary conducts cyberattacks on petroleum terminal supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, further impacting energy resources.

This was the scenario played out in a joint tabletop exercise hosted by the **Idaho Emergency Management and State Energy Offices** with funding support from **NEMA and the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response/U.S. Department of Energy**. Hagerty Consulting provided contract support for the exercise. Idaho was selected for the project through a competitive application process by NEMA.

“Given real-world fires occurring in Idaho at the time, the state planning team added a focus on issues related to fuel transportation, storage, and distribution. There were several areas where aviation fuel issues impacted firefighting activities,” said Brad Richy, IOEM Director. “Airports were reporting jet fuel shortages and concerns about the need to wave off planes and helicopters that drop fire retardants. With the recent cyber breach of a major petroleum provider, aviation fuel distribution concerns for wildfire suppression, the timing of the exercise could not have been better.”

This very timely exercise allowed Idaho to focus on these key issues:

- Petroleum shortages
- Earthquake response
- Cybersecurity
- Operational coordination

According to Richy, one important aspect of the exercise was to include industry representatives. “We had strong support and participation by our private sector providers, as well as our state and local energy sector representatives. The exercise discussion was engaging and enlightening for everyone who participated. The value of having had the private sectors reps in the room was huge. Their ability to discuss the impacts of fuel shortages on so many diverse sectors including transportation, health and safety, food stability, etc. was integral to the success of the exercise,” he said.

Exercise participants included:

- Emergency Management
- Energy and Mineral Resources
- Department of Lands
- Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
- Public Utilities Commission
- State Police
- Transportation Department
- Marathon Pipe Line
- Phillips 66
- Veterans Health Administration
- CESER/DOE
- FEMA Region X
- NEMA

The [NEMA-Idaho Petroleum Shortage TTX Sitman](#) is available to download free of charge from the NEMA website. States are welcome to modify the materials to fit your own exercise needs. NEMA would like to thank CESER for providing funding to support the exercise and the Idaho Emergency Management and Energy Offices for the time and effort invested in planning and delivering such a timely scenario that reflected current real-world events occurring within the state.

**Excellence is not a gift, but a skill that takes practice. We do not act 'rightly' because we are 'excellent', in fact, we achieve excellence by acting 'rightly'.**

- Plato

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