



GEMEx 2012

Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise



Guwahati

Be Prepared... Stay safe

Assam, which was well known as "Pragjyotishpura" in Mahabharata times, has a rich green land of rolling plains and dense forests. Assam is the gateway to the north eastern part of India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. These states are connected to the rest of India via Assam's border with West Bengal and a narrow strip called the "Chicken's Neck." Assam also shares international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh. It spans around 78,438 km² and population over 31,169,272 (census 2011). The mighty Brahmaputra River that has its origins in Tibet flows through the state.

Assam is a multihazard State prone to floods, earthquake, storms and landslide besides man made disasters. It falls under seismic zone V making the entire State prone to earthquake of moderate to very high intensity. Also the State faces acute flood & erosion problem. Assam has a history of disasters ranging from large earthquakes to severe floods. This has impeded the development gains of the State by many times.

Therefore, to sustain the pace of development initiative by minimising losses, the Government of Assam envisages building a State Prepared and Disaster Resilient.



Vulnerability Analysis

- * Guwahati city falls under Seismic Zone V. High density urban population combined with haphazard growth exposes the city dwellers to high risk.
- * Rainfall ranges between 1500 mm to 2600 mm under normal circumstances. However, the city also experiences high intensity rainfall in short durations which results in Urban Flooding.
- * Unplanned land use pattern in surrounding hills aggravate the landslide risk in the city
- * The city experiences multiple waves of storms on the onset of the monsoon season impacting public utilities.
- * Besides, natural hazards, the city is also vulnerable to human induced hazards like accidents, fires, bomb blasts etc

Profile of Guwahati City

City at a Glance: Statistics

1 Guwahati City Altitudes	: 49.5 Meters to 55.5 Metres (above MSL)
2 Total Metro District Area	: 811.98 sq. km
3 Total Metro District Area Brahmaputra River	: 867.25 sq. km
4 Total No. of Wards	: 60 nos.

Type of hazards	Time of occurrence	Vulnerable areas
Urban Flood	May-October	RG Baruah Road, Nabin Nagar, Anil Nagar
Storm	March-May	Entire District
Earth Quake	Anytime	Entire District
Landslides	May-October	Nilachal, Kharguli, Dhirenpara, Noonmati and Kalapahar
Fire Accidents	November- March	Noonmati, Fancy Bazar, Paltan Bazar, Dispur, Beharbarietc.



Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise

29th October - 4th November 2012

OBJECTIVE

The Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise (GEMEx 2012) is a week-long preparedness exercise which is being conducted by the State Government and scheduled between 29th October and 4th November 2012. This exercise is designed to harness the strengths and capabilities of the State emergency responders, educational institutions, hospitals, humanitarian agencies etc as they prepare to meet the urban catastrophes of the city of Guwahati.

The initiative is planned by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority, Kamrup Metro, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India and the support of United Nations Children's' Fund. The exercise is conducted in association with a number of leading Private and Humanitarian Institutions and International faculty.

This is a week long learning and capacity building exercise with thirteen parallel tracks to be held at Cotton College State University for the first four days of the event. The fifth day would see all the trained participants come together for a table-top exercise followed by a city-wide disaster/crisis - simulation drill and a

“hotwash” on the last day. Emergency Management Exercises (EMEx) is designed as a capability enhancement exercise with learning tracks and practice sessions for fourteen number of Urban Emergency Support Functions (EFS). It will assist all the ESFs rehearse coordinated emergency management.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

This course has been carefully designed to give first responders - EMS or Paramedics, the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to provide the highest level of immediate care in a disaster setting. Beginning with basic but critical skills like CPR, log-rolling and extrication, participants will learn the theory and physiological basis of life support, early trauma management, and triage.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

While EMS and other first responders provide initial trauma care in the disaster setting, the hospital will be the ultimate destination for majority of survivors. This course is aimed at improving the ability of hospital management to organize intra-hospital care during mass casualty events. With considerations of surge capacity and local physical conditions at the forefront, participants will be able to develop unique plans to coordinate the delivery of care at all levels and effectively assess and mobilize hospital resources. This course is targeted at hospital administrators, Emergency Physicians and casualty medical officers.

EMERGENCY NURSING SERVICES:

This course has been carefully designed to give the nursing staff working in the emergency department, the confidence, skills and knowledge they need to provide at the highest level of immediate care in a disaster setting in the Emergency Department.



COMPREHENSIVE TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT

Comprehensive Trauma Life Support is an initiative of ITACCS India, supported by International Trauma Care (ITACCS). CTLS course is an authentic course on acute trauma management being organised in India. This course will be delivered over three day period, similar to 'ATLS' style but with case presentation/ evidence based discussions/ skill stations in a very interactive style. This course will teach participating doctors how to assess, resuscitate and deliver initial care in a systematic algorithmic manner to patients with major trauma

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

This intensive course trains participants in mass casualty decontamination, use of personal protective equipment, essential skills and mass casualty incident information systems and technology applications. Using simulated all-hazards scenarios, interactive sessions and drills with high-fidelity mannequins and volunteer patients, the course creates a true-to-life, practical experience in treatment and response. It is spread over three days and includes both classroom instruction and hands-on training distributed over four ADLS course training stations.

COMMUNITY BASED RELIEF and PUBLIC HEALTH TRACK:

This course will impart to senior level public health practitioners, community medicine PG's and disaster management personnel the skills needed to evaluate disaster response systems. The course will include an overview of various components of disaster response, and practical tools to evaluate these components.

TRAINING ON COORDINATION OF RESPONSE FOR SENIOR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

This training will focus on the Inter-agency communication/ protocol coordination within agencies and communication with the media during the occurrences of disasters, effectively. Current global trends in communication technology will also be discussed.

MULTISECTORAL NEED ASSESSMENT IN EMERGENCIES:

The course is designed for Government staff responsible for doing needs assessments during emergencies. It will provide perspective on assessment as information gathering and analysis for emergency programme planning and response. Specific tools for data collection and analysis will be introduced to the participants.

SEARCH AND RESCUE:

The search for and provision of aid to people who are in distress or imminent danger is vital. This course provides Search and Rescue personnel with the skillset they need to successfully complete search and rescue missions.

INCIDENT RESPONSE SYSTEM:

- * Interaction of hazards and vulnerability (Material, Organizational, Attitudinal)
- * SOPs and approaches for Disaster Response - Public health approach to disaster management
- * Application of Minimum Standards, Sphere and INEE
- * Public Health Promotion and Mass communication

SCHOOL & HIGHER EDUCATION DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

A two-day course on school disaster preparedness and preparedness audits is targeted at school administrators. Also there will be a separate track on higher education preparedness which will run for one day targeting the College heads/ administrators, NSS and NCC Division Heads.

CHEMICAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

A three-day course on disaster preparedness and preparedness audits for Industries/ Service industries. This course is targeted at administrators of various industries at Guwahati.

MINIMUM INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE

A 4 day course on minimum initial service package (MISP) will sensitize and train health and disaster management officials on the essentials of reproductive health care in emergency situations

TABLE TOP:

On the day before the field drill, all participants led by respective team leaders from various collaborating local agencies will meet along with the Disaster Management Cell of the ASDMA to practice simulated scenarios to identify bottlenecks in emergency communication and execution, with a focus on the drill scheduled for the following day.



Table top Exercise being performed at the MEMEx

WHAT IS THE TABLE TOP SIMULATION?

The table top is a unique exercise which has been developed over years of practice in various locations across the world to practice simulated scenarios to identify road blocks in inter agency communication and coordination. It will bring together leaders of Guwahati's response agencies: Fire, Police, NDRF and EMS, along with heads of hospitals, Doctors, Nurses, non-governmental organizations, and walk through a simulated disaster step by step. As the scenario unfolds, the facilitator will stop, and ask each group to propose in on their response strategy. Such exercises have proven to reveal the strengths and gaps in inter-agency communication and discrepancies and overlaps in response planning among the various stake holders.

FIELD DRILL AND HOTWASH:

- * On November 3rd, a mass casualty accident will be simulated at Assam Engineering Institute Field, Guwahati, with over 200 injured victims, and the city's response agencies will be alerted and police, fire, NDRF and EMS will respond.
- * A triage area will be set up at the site of the "disaster" and all injured will be triaged, applying the skills learnt during the training session.
- * Every single victim triaged will be monitored by local evaluators trained at GEMEx.

FIELD DRILL AND HOTWASH ... contd:

- * The colour coded patients (red, yellow, green, black) will be transported by GVK EMRI 108 Ambulance Service to Guwahati Medical College, MMCH, Downtown Hospital, GNRC Hospital, Nemcare Hospital, International Hospital, Army base Hospital, Dispur Hospital, Hayat Hospital, Marwary Maternity Hospital with realistic time delays built into the system.
- * At each hospital, the hospital emergency plan will be set into motion, and doctors, nurses, stretchers, pharmacies, and equipment will be mobilized to accommodate the additional flow.
- * Doctors trained at GEMEx 2012 will run the casualty wards applying their trauma care skills to patient care.
- * The entire drill will be monitored by local evaluators, in addition to the faculty, and will be recorded on video. A final report will be prepared under the supervision of ASDMA leadership to examine areas of strength and improvement.

Following the drill, will be a "Hot Wash" where all participants will self-scrutinize and work on the areas of improvement.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP:

A one day workshop will be conducted one month after GEMEx 2012 in Guwahati, that will bring together various local, regional and state level stakeholders to identify current training initiatives across the Assam State.



DELIVERABLES OF GEMEx

This multi-disciplinary training and exercise will foster the development of skill sets focused on emergency management during mass casualty events, while providing an opportunity for local agencies to work together and practice a multi-disciplinary, coordinated response to a local disaster. The train-the-trainer approach of the course and drill will enable local partners to eventually replicate the training and drill elsewhere in the region. Finally, the course and drill will help identify the strengths and weaknesses of the city's emergency management plans and help to better prepare the city for future events. These outcomes are summarized.

i) TRAININGS:

Hands-on training in hospital and pre-hospital emergency management, including mass casualty pre-hospital and hospital triage, medical stabilization and resuscitation, monitoring and evaluation. Hands on training in Search & Rescue, Multi sector need assessment in Emergencies, School emergency preparedness, as well as an effective and coordinated humanitarian response.

ii) TABLE TOP:

Provides an opportunity for all of the stake holders to work together in a coordinated response to a city disaster

iii) FIELD DRILL:

Real-time simulation of a mass casualty event involving multi-agency coordination and response. This will drill into existing disaster plans in the public and private sector.

DELIVERABLES OF GEMEx ... contd:

iv) DEBRIEFING:

Post-drill hot-wash identifying the strengths and weaknesses in current plans. This will help to identify areas needing further training and capacity building.

v) EVALUATION:

Domestic and international experts in disaster management will be invited to observe and evaluate the entire exercise and to make recommendations for future improvement.

vi) NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

This workshop will prompt the subsequent implementation of a national survey of all current disaster related trainings in the country, followed by a compilation of proposed courses in deficient areas.

This collaborative exercise and its evaluation component will be of tremendous value to both the local partners, as well as to the global emergency response community as we continue to learn from the successes and challenges of such trainings and drills.

The expectation is that this project will serve to create a locally driven, multi-disciplinary, sustainable commitment to emergency management activities and will, over time, become a validated model that can be easily reproduced in other cities and countries.

Further in the near future it is expected that the training will be able to facilitate and strengthen the following in the State of Assam

- * The model will be used to train and chisel the skills of medical and health members of the Search and Rescue Teams formed at several levels (state, district, sub-division and circle level)

- * The lessons learnt and methodology could get adapted for the regular mock drills which get conducted twice in the state at different levels.
- * The current urban Risk reduction programmes of UN agencies like UNDP and UNICEF, has a component on hospital safety. Several elements and resources used here can be replicated and appropriately utilized here.
- * Some of the elements of this methodology, organizations involved, and curriculum can be replicated and used to strengthen the functioning of the Regional Disaster Management Centres existing in the state.
- * The modules on emergency medical preparedness will further get replicated for various cadres of public health departments in the state.

HOW THIS WILL HELP GUWAHATI CITY:

The training and the drill bring together the major responders, testing real-time inter-agency communication and coordination at all levels of these organizations, especially the Incident Command Structure and its various agencies, and the private sector and citizen groups.

The drill pushes the medical response system to handling extreme scenarios, and compels the physicians and medical staff to prioritize care to maximize the savings of life and limbs, under duress.

GEMEx will also train in monitoring and evaluation in state-of-the-art international tools developed for evaluating disaster drills. This cadre of professionals can lend significant support to local planners in conducting and strengthening similar drills in the future

GEMEx 2012

Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise

DATE	TRACK NO.	TRACKS
29th Oct to 1st Nov '12	1	Emergency Medical Services
	2	Hospital Emergency Services
29th Oct to 31st Oct '12	3	Emergency Nursing Care
	4	Comprehensive Trauma Life Support
	5	Advanced Disaster Life Support
29th Oct to 1st Nov '12	6	Community Based Relief and Public Health
29th Oct '12	7	Coordination of Response for Senior Government Representatives
30th Oct to 31st Oct '12	8	Multisectoral Need Assessment in Emergencies
30th Oct to 1st Nov '12	9	Search and Rescue
31st Oct to 1st Nov '12	10	Incident Response System
29th Oct to 30th Oct '12	11	School and Higher Education Preparedness
29th Oct to 1st Nov '12	12	Minimum Initial Service Package
30th Oct to 1st Nov '12	13	Chemical and Industrial Disaster Preparedness
2nd Nov '12	Table Top Exercise	
3rd Nov '12	Field Drill & Hot wash	
4th Nov '12	Lesson Learnt Workshop Long term Development Planning Valedictory	



**ASSAM STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
DISPUR**



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