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Practice as You Play: Using HSEEP Exercises to Evaluate a Storm  
Decision Support Tool

This presentation discusses the use of homeland security functional exercises to evaluate emergency managers' use of simulation-based decision support tools for response to major coastal storms (e.g., hurricanes, tropical storms, nor'easters.) We present the results of several HSEEP-based workshops and exercises run as part of implementation research with the Coastal Hazards Analysis, Modeling, and Prediction (CHAMP) system. CHAMP combines high-resolution storm models with a database of critical infrastructure vulnerabilities to predict storm consequences and aid decision-making. The research discussed include a CHAMP functional exercise with Rhode Island's State Emergency Operations Center and another with external partners from local, state, and federal agencies who would potentially utilize CHAMP data during storm response. Findings suggest that the HSEEP exercise format provides a ready-made process for evaluating emergency management tools in a format comfortable and familiar to participants. User feedback and observation data collected during the CHAMP workshops and exercises is

used to inform real-world activation protocols and to guide ongoing development of the CHAMP system.

**Presentation Theme:** This presentation discusses the use of homeland security functional exercises to evaluate emergency managers' use of simulation-based decision support tools for response to major coastal storms. We find that using a familiar exercise format facilitates emergency managers' participation and the scenario-driven approach to data collection generates useful insights that contribute to implementation research.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this**

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