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Learning Question 1:

Data Source: FEMA Website

Specific(s): Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Guidelines

- Urban Shield operates under the principles of NIMS/SEMS and the ICS structure
- Urban Shield utilizes the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
 - HSEEP provides a set of guiding principles for exercise programs, as well as a common approach to program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning.
 - The Urban Shield planners develop, execute, and evaluate exercises based on the core capabilities articulated in the National Preparedness Goal and the Bay Area UASI Homeland Security Goals and Objectives.
 - HSEEP documents generated for Urban Shield:
 - Exercise Plan – a general information document that provides a synopsis of the exercise
 - Evaluator Handbook – describes roles and responsibilities of evaluators and the procedures they should follow
 - MSEL – listing of the events that drive exercise play
 - Team Binder – provides key information to exercise players
 - Exercise Evaluations Guides – help evaluators collect relevant exercise observations
 - After Action Report – overview of performance related to the exercise objectives and core capabilities, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement

Learning Question 2:

Data Source: FEMA

Specific(s): DHS

- Preparedness is defined by DHS/FEMA as "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response."
- Urban Shield provides a multi-layered training exercise to enhance the skills and abilities of regional first responders and emergency management personnel. It is designed to identify and stretch regional resources while expanding regional collaboration and building positive relationships. It evaluates the region's existing level of preparedness and capabilities, identifying what we do well, and what areas we need to improve upon.

Learning Question 3:

Data Source: N/A

Specific(s): N/A

Without Urban Shield:

- The smaller agencies (law enforcement, fire etc., emergency managers) throughout the Bay Area may not have the funds to train on the wide variety of real world scenarios the Urban Shield emergency preparedness exercise offers.
 - Tactical: Mass transit (Amtrak, Airplanes, BART, Buses), High Schools, Colleges, Corporate buildings, government facilities, etc.
 - Fire: Rail training car, Bus for heavy lift scenario, high angle rescue, low angle rescue, response to Hazmat materials, Urban Search and Rescue mass search and rescue operations, maritime training-water rescue teams
 - EMS: LE integration, triage, point of wound care, life saving measures, etc.
 - Emergency Managers: “activation” of EOC’s, test the skills and knowledge of personnel, interoperability communications and information sharing with other jurisdictions, validate EOC Policy and Procedures, etc.
- Participants may not otherwise have the opportunity to try the various technologies the Urban Shield exercise makes available.
 - Tactical: Under Door Camera System, Night vision cameras, K9 camera, Quick clot, Tourniquets, Chest seals, new communications equipment for the team members, etc.
 - Fire: Radiation Isotope ID Detector, Rescue stabilization tools, Personal protective equipment
 - Emergency Managers: Evaluate regional information sharing and management processes including but not limited to the use of WebEOC, Cal EOC, Cal COP and mutual link technology for maintaining a regional common operating picture and situational awareness.
- Local, state, federal, and international agencies may not have the opportunity to train together to ensure we are prepared to respond to a mutual aid crisis. With the Bay Area being the high-threat, high-density urban area that it is, the probability of the next earthquake, emergency, or terrorist attack, needing a mutual aid response is very high.