

**COMMAND POST EXERCISE 97-1 (CPX 97-1)**  
**Pantex Plant**  
**March 25, 1997**

## **SECTION VII**

# **NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF SCENARIO EVENTS**

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**Narrative Summary of Scenario Events**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The scenario involves a B-99 (fictional) nuclear explosives event during dismantlement operations in Building XXXX. The emergency event and subsequent fire results in a release of radioactive materials onsite and possibly offsite.

**2. NARRATIVE SUMMARY**

March 25, 1997 is a typical Spring day in the Texas panhandle. The normal complement of workers are at the Pantex Plant. Weather will be the actual readings of the day.

Operations in XXXX began at approximately 6:00 a.m., with four Production Technicians (PTs) and two Radiation Safety Technicians (RAD Techs) working on a B-99 nuclear weapon.

There are two weapons in the facility. Operational checks of the facility were accomplished with no discrepancies. Approximately 13 kilograms of PU, and 200 lbs. of HE are in the facility at the time of the mishap along with an undetermined amount of acetone, alcohol, and black lacquer paint. In addition, one contaminated vacuum is in the bay.

The PTs and RAD Techs return from a break at 8:15 AM. At 8:30 a.m., while dismantlement is in progress, a spark from static build-up ignites the drogue chute in the tail assembly of the weapon.

During evacuation of the facility, one PT knocks over the vacuum cleaner with the contents (contaminated) emptying on the floor near the flames.

The RAMS alarm is initiated and the fire is detected by the UV detectors. The deluge (sprinkler) system is manually activated by one of the evacuating PTs.

Evidence of smoke is apparent from eyewitnesses in the ramp. A very light smoke plume outside the structure is seen by Security Police Officers. The Air Handling Units also shut down as a result of the RAMS and UV alarms.

The water flow from the deluge system extinguishes the fire, but flows into the ramp until shut off by Fire Department personnel (approximately 15 minutes).

Injuries (all simulated) will be one PT with third degree burns on his/her upper body. This will require immediate transportation to either the ERTF (VA) or NW Texas Hospital. One

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PT will have first and second degree burns on his/her upper body. All four PTs will have smoke inhalation problems and would assume to be contaminated.

**3. RESPONSE EXPECTATIONS**

The ERO will be recalled via the ERO Pager System and Plant PA announcements. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 30 minutes for the EOC/ICC to become operational. During that time, the Plant Shift Superintendent will be the Emergency Manager. Classification of the emergency should take place PRIOR to the EOC being fully operational. A GENERAL EMERGENCY should be declared and a Plant lockdown should be initiated (simulated).

Field response, such as Security, Fire Department, Radiation Safety, Utilities, and Facility Management, will be directed by the ERO (simulated by role players operating out of the Control Cell).

Offsite notifications should take place. This will be simulated (received by the Control Cell) with the exception of those agencies normally notified during the monthly offsite notification tests. Credit for the monthly drill will be granted as part of CPX 97-1. Additionally, the 'open line' between the EOC and the offsite EOCs will be exercised.

On-scene information will be received and evaluated by the ERO.

Once reentry and recovery discussions are started within the ERO, the exercise will be terminated.