

EMERGENCY EXERCISE (EMEX) 98-2
Pantex Plant
September 16, 1998

SECTION VII

NARRATIVE SUMMARY OF
SCENARIO EVENTS

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Narrative Summary of Scenario Events

1. INTRODUCTION

The scenario for EMEX 98-2 involves the transportation and delivery of four "B98" (EXERCISE) weapons from Zone X to the XXXX loading dock in Zone X. An explosion and resulting fire will cause one of the weapons to break apart exposing the IHE and plutonium. The Pit is breached and cracked. Another weapon is slightly damaged. The explosion will cause two fatalities and numerous injuries. Additionally, significant localized contamination will result.

This exercise will specifically focus:

- on the potential consequences of an explosion and fire that results in the severe damage to nuclear weapon,
- impact to other plant operations,
- potential and actual threat to the general plant population and offsite population,
- treatment and transportation of severely injured contaminated personnel,
- the containment and recovery of contaminated areas and equipment,
- the stabilization of weapons, SNM, and components involved or affected by the mishap.

Any reference to nuclear weapons or SNM will be considered to refer to a US/DOE (B98-EX) exercise nuclear weapon or components thereof.

2. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

September 16, 1998 is a typical late summer/early fall day in the Texas panhandle. The normal complement of workers are at the Pantex Plant operating within a "normal" security posture.

The day begins as scheduled with appropriate areas active in routine nuclear weapons and component operations. The 'primary' weapons loading dock at XXXX is not operational due to routine maintenance being performed.

At 11:30 a.m., the Operations Center issues a static warning (over 10,000 volts) to the plant.

At approximately 12:00 p.m., a Transportation truck carrying four B98 weapons arrives at the XXXX loading dock. The normal complement of security escorts are present. An unattended dual fuels (CNG and gasoline) pickup is parked within 20 feet of the 'float' platform used to assist the off loading of the weapons.

At approximately 12:10 p.m., the first two B98s are off loaded and are sitting in their transportation rack just inside the ramp near the loading dock.

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At 12:20 p.m., as the second rack of two B98s are crossing the float platform, the CNG tank on the pickup ignites and explodes (due to static electricity), and in turn, the gasoline tank explodes. The explosion blows the rack of two B98s and forklift off the float. One B98 breaks apart exposing the IHE and Pit. The second weapon is slightly damaged but intact.

3. EXPECTED ACTIONS

All response elements and command or communication nodes will utilize actual weather readings throughout the exercise.

All expected actions should be outlined in applicable Emergency Preparedness Procedures and other related documents.

Scope of participation is outlined in Section I.

Considerable free play is anticipated.