**Tabletop Exercise—Tornado**

Introduction

It is Thursday, at 2:00 PM. The National Weather Service issues a severe thunderstorm watch for portions of Colorado, which includes your county. Heavy rains have been falling for 3 hours. The storm system is moving toward your school and tornados have been reported.

Questions you may ask:

1. What actions are needed by students and staff?

2. How do you obtain situational awareness?

3. What is your organization’s ability to respond to a tornado? Is this written in your emergency plan?

Inject 3

You receive notification that the severe weather has passed over the area and the danger of another tornado is minimal. Staff reports extensive damage to the east side of the school, including areas where the outer wall has been removed. All students have been accounted for and they have been reunited with parents or taken to area hospitals.

Questions you may ask:

1. What are your short- and long-term concerns for recovery?

Inject 1

It is now 2:20 PM. The National Weather Service issues a tornado watch for your area through 6:00 PM. Shortly thereafter a tornado warning is broadcast for your area through 4:00 PM. National Weather Service radar reports rotation in the clouds south and west moving north and east at 9 MPH. News helicopters show live video of a funnel in the air and a second funnel on the ground south and west of your school. Both are reported to be moving northeast at 8-10 MPH. Heavy rain, lightning and moderate hail are reported throughout your area.

Questions you may ask:

1. What are the actions of staff and students?

2. What is your shelter-in-place procedure for a tornado event? Is this written in your plan?

3. What types of notifications do you believe are important at this stage of event? Why?

4. How do you deal with internal and external communications? Is this written in your plan?

5. What is your plan for a utilities outage at school?

Inject 2

At 2:50 PM, the tornado strikes the school on the east side, causing extensive damage to several classrooms. Some students and staff are panicked. News helicopters begin streaming the devastation to the school live on television. The office phone begins ringing with parents, news media, and curious citizens, wanting to know if the students are alright.

Questions you may ask:

1. What notification should be made inside the school and outside the school? How is this accomplished?

2. Who is in charge? What does your command structure look like? How do you integrate with emergency responders?

3. How do you determine when the danger has passed? What information is necessary?

4. What is your procedure for getting accountability of students and staff?

5. What is your procedure for dealing with injured students and staff prior to emergency services arrival?

6. Who in your school organization is tasked with media inquiries?

7. What is your procedure for notifying and documenting the reunification of students and families?