



Critical core components

A 'starting' list ... might include:

1. Exercise management structure
2. Exercise objectives
3. The scenario
4. Injects & stimuli
5. Role definitions
6. Exercise timelines with inputs
7. Exercise materials/documentation
8. Communications & information flow
9. Logistics, resources & facility/space requirements
10. Evaluation framework
11. After Action Review (AAR) & improvement planning





Critical core components

1. Exercise management structure

The people who plan, run, and evaluate the exercise:

- Exercise Steering Committee
- Exercise Management Committee
- Exercise Director / Lead Planner
- Controller(s) – run the scenario, deliver injects
- Facilitator(s) – guide discussions
- Evaluators / Observers – collect evidence against objectives
- Scribes – document decisions and actions
- Logistics & Admin Support
- Safety/Biosecurity Coordinator (FSX only)





Critical core components

2. Exercise objectives

Clear, measurable objectives that drive design

- Capability-based (e.g., sample collection, ICS activation, communication)
- Behaviour/decision-based (e.g., movement control decision-making)
- SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound)
- Linked to national emergency response plans





Critical core components

3. The scenario

The narrative and technical content of the exercise

- Initial scenario description (index case, location, species, symptoms)
- Scientific/technical assumptions
- Maps, diagrams, and epidemiological context
- Exercise/case progression timeline
- Supporting data (farm numbers, animal populations, lab capacities)





Critical core components

4. Injects & stimuli

Triggers that require participants to act or make decisions

- Inject schedule (timestamped)
- Inject content (rumours, lab results, media posts, farmer reactions)
- Delivery method (email, phone call, briefing note, field prompt)
- Expected actions / decision points





Critical core components

5. Role definitions

Who does what during the exercise

1. Player roles (veterinary services, labs, industry, public health, communications)
2. Authority & decision making
3. Role cards / role briefs
4. Interagency coordination expectations
5. Rules of engagement (what players can/cannot do)



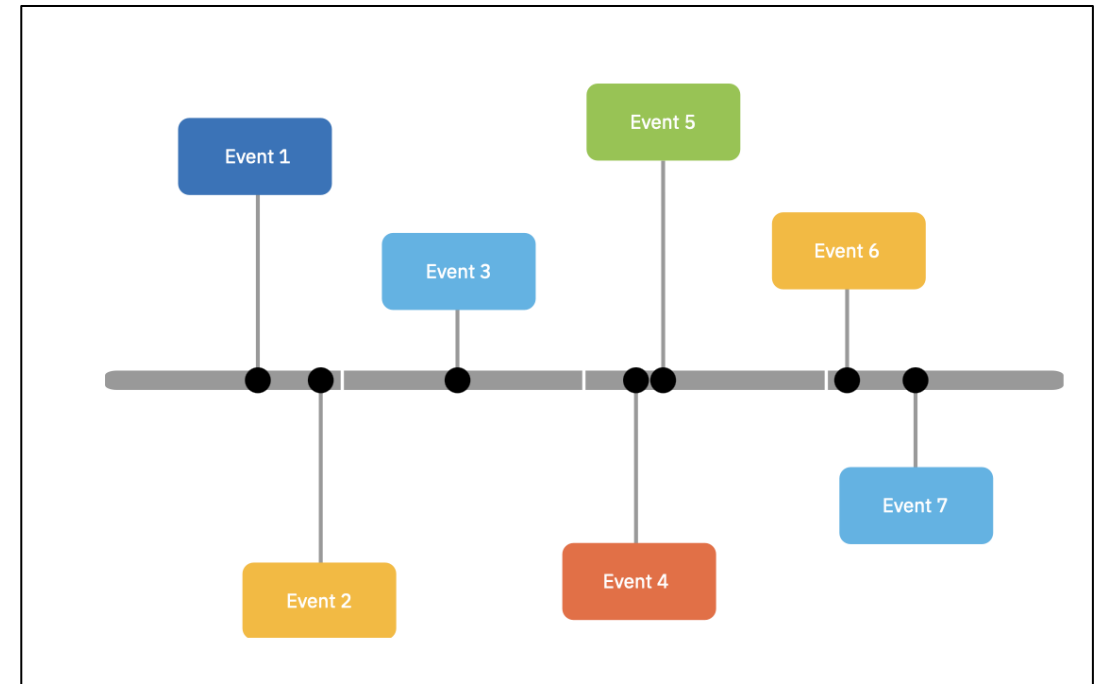


Critical core components

6. Exercise timelines

Timing and pacing of the exercise

- Master Schedule of Events (MSEL)
- Exercise start & end times (including start/end of day)
- Inject delivery timings
- Breaks, hot wash, and transitions
- Acceleration/compression rules (e.g., 24 hours → 2 hours)





Critical core components

Player materials

scenario brief, situation overview, maps, SOPs, contingency plans, and forms

Controller materials

MSEL, inject scripts, and controller guidance notes

Evaluator materials

observation sheets, evaluation criteria linked to objectives, and evidence-collection templates





Critical core components

8. Communications & information flow

How communication is simulated

- Simulated emails / phone calls
- Common Operating Picture (COP) – sitreps, resourcing, information mgmt., etc.
- SITREP templates
- Media simulation (if included)
- Information release rules





Critical core components

9. Logistics, resources & facility/space requirements

Varies widely by exercise type

- Venue(s), rooms, or field locations
- ICT support (Wi-Fi, screens, phones)
- PPE, sampling kits (FSX)
- Transport for field deployments
- Safety/Risk Management Plan





Critical core components

10. Evaluation framework

How outcomes will be assessed

- Evaluation plan
- Performance indicators
- Evaluator deployment plan
- Data collection tools
- Predefined success criteria
- Hot-wash questions

Assessment Factor	Strongly Disagree			Strongly Agree	
Pre-exercise briefings were informative and provided the necessary information for my role in the exercise.	1	2	3	4	5
The exercise scenario was plausible and realistic.	1	2	3	4	5
Exercise participants included the right people in terms of level and mix of disciplines.	1	2	3	4	5



Critical core components

11. After Action Review (AAR) & improvement planning

Products created after the exercise.

- Hot-wash summary
- Formal AAR document
- Recommendations
- Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with:
 - Action owner
 - Timeline
 - Priority rating
 - Follow-up mechanism

