

RiverWatch

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In an emergency

Power Team Members Conduct Scenario Based Training at EEY

by **Travis Cooper**
RiverWatch Editor

Members of the Memphis District's Emergency Power Planning and Response Team (PRT) conducted a training exercise at Ensley Engineer Yard Wednesday (Sept. 29). The exercise provided hands-on training to the Emergency Power Team and walked members through the standard operating procedures for providing temporary power to critical facilities following a disaster. Jon Wilson, the Emergency Power PRT Coordinator, facilitated the training.

Wilson opened the training with a brief slide show outlining the role of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the National Response Framework, the Emergency Power Team's duties, and the responsibilities of the power team members. After the slide show, the team moved outside where an area of the parking lot was set up to simulate a staging area where generators allocated by FEMA are held for allocation by the Power Team.



Travis Cooper photo
J.R. Holloway (left), Arthur Miller (center) and Jack Wilkerson (right) review a list of generators used in the exercise.

"The exercise gives scenario based training to the Emergency Power Team and is designed to simulate the power mission," Wilson said. "Restoring power is one of many missions assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but the Emergency Power Mission is one of the more critical missions, making our team one of the first to deploy forward to the impacted area."



Travis Cooper photo

Clockwise from upper left corner, Randy Clark, Steve Sansone, Elaine Newbaker-London, Bill Snapp, Kevin Pigott, and Terrance Knowlton logging the status of each generator.

Wednesday's scenario was said to occur during day three of a disaster event. The Power Team's first responsibility was to assess the generators they were allotted. For the exercise, vehicles in the parking lot stood in for generators. Tags identified the mock generators and contained a description and serial number similar to those found on an actual generator at a staging area. Once the inventory was confirmed and the equipment assessed, the power team began the process of allocating generators to the facilities deemed a priority by FEMA and the state impacted by the disaster through contractors transport and

set up the generators. The team members logged the status and location of each generator during its staging, delivery, installation and deinstallation.

The Memphis District Power Team is one of seven within the Corps of Engineers (USACE) that are dispatched to disaster areas across the globe. The teams respond to events within their district and are deployed to areas outside of their field of response on a rotating schedule. Our Power Team has been deployed to many areas along the Gulf and Atlantic Coast. Members of the team have been deployed as far away as Guam and Puerto Rico.

According to Wilson, the training succeeded in many areas.

"It provided the background on why USACE has the Power Mission and how it is authorized. The staffing requirements and position descriptions and roles of the team were not only described but demonstrated through realistic scenarios and conditions," Wilson said. "Team chemistry and dynamics were integral parts of the exercise and were a focus to show their importance in executing a successful Power Mission."

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