



## Overview

On October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2024, New Brunswick Power (NB Power) will host a full-scale integrated emergency response exercise called “Synergy Challenge 2024” at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS), in partnership with provincial, regional, and federal authorities.

Synergy Challenge 2024 has over 30 confirmed participating organizations at every level of response, including both Canadian and international organizations.

With the help of Trusted Agents from all participating organizations, Synergy Challenge 2024 has been designed to test the interoperability and coordination of the response efforts of participating organizations in response to a simulated emergency at PLNGS.

## Objectives

The Tier One Objectives for Synergy Challenge 2024 have the consensus of all participating organizations and include:

- Validate the preparedness of PLNGS, NB Power, government and non-government organizations and agencies to respond to a simulated radiological emergency;
- Test the interoperability of participating organizations and coordination of response efforts;
- Validate current on- and off-site Nuclear Emergency Plans;
- Demonstrate the ability of organizations in providing consistent and accurate communications; and
- Produce a joint evaluation report on the interoperability, coordination, and integration of participating organizations during a simulated nuclear emergency at PLNGS.



Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station

# Exercise Staff and Simulation



Synergy  
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## Exercise Staff

All Exercise Staff will be wearing appropriate identification in the form of a badge, as seen here:



Controllers are responsible for ensuring that the scenario unfolds correctly in their assigned area of responsibility. They will be your primary guide throughout the exercise. If you have exercise control issues, please talk to your local Controller.



Evaluators are responsible for observing the exercise as it unfolds and recording factual observations. Individual performance is not being evaluated. In some locations, the same person will carry out the role of Controller and Evaluator.



Actors will be used to simulate various persons that might be encountered during an actual emergency. Treat actors as real people that you would meet while responding to any incident.

## Calian ResponseReady™

During the exercise, players will have access to Calian ResponseReady; a simulation software specifically created to support emergency preparedness exercises during all phases of development, conduct, and evaluation. Calian ResponseReady will contain information critical to the exercise and scenario. Additionally, it provides access to a secure password-protected area where players can test emergency public communications in a realistic manner, with an opportunity to use social media platforms as an emergency management tool.

Specifically, Calian ResponseReady will include:

- **Calian News:** A simulated news media outlet containing exercise news articles and exercise weather
- **NewsRoom:** A portal for participating organizations to publish their exercise press releases
- **Chatter:** Exercise X (formally Twitter) clone
- **Chatbook:** Exercise Facebook clone
- **Player Directory:** Exercise contact information for participating organizations
- **Additional sites:** Simulated websites provided for increased situational awareness

Players can access the website and instructions on its use by going to the site below and creating an account:

[www.calianresponseready.com](http://www.calianresponseready.com)

An exercise access code specific to Synergy Challenge 2024 is required to access this exercise. This will be provided to you by local controllers prior to the start of the exercise. Once you have the access code, click "Add Exercise" under the Exercises tab and enter it there

In the meantime, players are highly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and create a Calian ResponseReady account. A separate guide on how to use the website has been developed which includes step-by-step instructions on how to create your personal account, and how to access a 'dummy' exercise created as a demonstration for players. This guide can be found on the Synergy Challenge 2024 page on Calian ResponseReady.

## Locations

Synergy Challenge 2024 will take place at numerous locations across Canada, the United States, and internationally. Unless otherwise identified, the exercise will be conducted via the locations that participating organizations would operate from during an actual nuclear emergency, including several Emergency Operations Centres (EOC). Players should communicate with their response organization in advance of the exercise and be aware of their starting locations (whether physical and virtual) and any specific organizational requirements (e.g., access permissions, security, etc.).

# Exercise Conduct and Expectations



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## Expectations

During Synergy Challenge 2024, players should perform tasks as per their normal response role during an emergency, initiate communications and discussions with counterparts, and resolve normal issues as they arise – in other words, *respond as if it were a real event*. Always advise your controller of key decisions made, orders given, or products sent or received to ensure that player actions are fully understood by exercise staff.

## Safety

Exercise play must not compromise or jeopardize the safety of any participant or members of the public. In the event of a real emergency, or if you witness a potentially unsafe action, the controller must be notified immediately. To distinguish real emergencies from the exercise scenario, the phrase **"NO DUFF"** is to be used.

## Communications

Care must be taken to ensure that exercise messaging does not become confused with "real world" activities. It is important to initiate every phone call with **"Exercise Exercise Exercise"**. Exercise emails are to begin with **"Exercise"** in the subject line and the body of the message. If a player forgets, or it appears that the recipient may think it is a real emergency, players are asked to correct the mistake immediately.

## Simulation

Some events or organizations will have to be simulated where it is unsafe or impractical to do "for real". Exercise Controllers and a Simulation Cell (SimCell) will introduce information that is notional or to simulate the participation of organizations that are not playing in the exercise. If you would normally contact an organization that is not participating in the exercise, you can call or email the exercise SimCell, who will simulate that organization. The contact information for the SimCell can be found in the Player Directory.

## Daily Briefing

Each day of play will start with a brief provided by your controller. The in-brief will describe the starting conditions at your location and in the case of Day 2, actions and events occurring in the overnight shadow shift.

## Player Directory

An online Player Directory will be provided on Calian ResponseReady™ containing exercise contact information. Some organizations will use their regular contact information, while others may choose to use alternate numbers for the exercise. When regular information is to be used, the word 'standard' will be displayed, and players should use their standard procedures for contact information. **When attempting to contact another organization, players should always consult the directory first.**

## Exercise Window

The exercise is taking place over two days: October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The official exercise window is from 09:00 to 17:00 AT on both days. However, your organization may be on a different schedule, so check with your controller to confirm the hours of play for your location.

## Real Media

Many organizations will have professional public affairs representatives available that can answer questions from the real media about the exercise. Should journalists arrive at your exercise location, notify your controller who will direct them to the designated Public Affairs Staff.

## Weather

The weather scenario will be pre-scripted for the entire exercise window. The correct weather will always be available on Calian ResponseReady. **Do not use standard sources for weather information,** unless specifically directed by a controller.

## Breaks & Meals

During the exercise window, the scenario will not pause for breaks or lunch hours. Organizations will individually manage staff rotation at their facilities. Players should consult within their organization to determine whether meals and/or refreshments will be available and arrive prepared.

# Participating Organizations



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## Utility

New Brunswick Power (NB Power)

## Provincial

Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries (DAAF)	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD)	Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG)
Department of Health (NB Health)	Department of Social Development (SD)	Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI)
Executive Council Office (ECO)	Extra Mural Program / Ambulance New Brunswick (EM/ANB)	Geomatics Unit NB 911
New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization (NBEMO)	Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM)	Office of the Provincial Security Advisor (OPSA)
Service New Brunswick	WorkSafe New Brunswick	

## Regional

Canadian Red Cross (CRC)	Horizon Health Network	Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Regional Office
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) - J Division		

## Federal

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Small Craft Harbours	Department of National Defence (DND) Joint Task Force Atlantic (JTFA)
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	Public Safety Canada (PS) Regional Office

## Municipal

City of Saint John (COSJ)

## Other

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	International Repeater Group (IRG)	Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Passamaquoddy Tribe (Maine)	State of Maine Radiation Control Program (RCP)	Washington County Emergency Management Agency (WEMA)

## Final Thoughts

Players must ensure that they know where, when, and who to report to at the start of the exercise. You should confirm with your organization all preparatory considerations ahead of Synergy Challenge 2024. We hope that you look forward to participating in the exercise!