The Do’s and Don’ts of Exercise Planning

DO:
• Select exercise planning team that includes key decision makers
• Identify subject matter experts who can be consulted outside the design team
• Research previous exercises that similar to what you are doing
• Set an achievable exercise development timeline
• Be flexible and creative
• Use technology
• Ask for support from other jurisdictions

DON’T:
• Name a specific group/demographic as the catalyst for the scenario (i.e. political, religious, etc.)
• Allow for exercise creep when planning; stay focused on objectives
• Build artificial assumptions that are not realistic
• Build your scenario first; start with your objectives
• Recreate the wheel
• Be lazy
• Attempt a no-notice unplanned drill that may cause panic and lack of control