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NEW YORK CITY **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
Office of Public Information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO HOST A  
MAJOR MULTI-AGENCY FIELD EXERCISE AT SEVERAL  
LOCATIONS IN QUEENS, NY**

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will host PODEX, a major multi-agency field exercise, at several locations in the borough of Queens on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. PODEX is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), and planned in conjunction with partners including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the New York City Department of Education (DOE). PODEX is part of the City's continuing efforts to test and refine its preparedness plans and emergency response protocols.

The exercise will test the City's ability to receive and distribute medication to the public in the aftermath of a bioterrorism attack. Scenario details are kept confidential prior to the exercise to ensure a realistic response from participating agency personnel.

The exercise will take place on the evening of June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005., and will last for several hours. Several DOE facilities in Kew Gardens, Rego Park, Jamaica Estates and Hollis will be utilized for the exercise.

A large number of police, fire and other emergency vehicles will be present. Parking restrictions will be posted on local streets in advance of the exercise, and police will close off some area streets while emergency vehicles are deployed from nearby staging areas to the exercise site. Additionally, large numbers of exercise participants will be in and around the school facilities being utilized.

These activities are simulations and do not indicate an emergency or present a threat to public safety. Regular police, fire, ambulance and other emergency services will not be impacted. Participating agencies will maintain normal staffing levels throughout the exercise and remain capable of handling all routine operations.

Residents may call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/oem](http://nyc.gov/oem) for more information about the exercise's impact on the local area.



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Press contact: Jarrod Bernstein (718) 422-4888