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# Building a Tabletop In A Box

**Miles Keogh / Thom Pearce**

**National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners**

**NASEO Energy Assurance Planning Meeting**

**April 21, 2010**

**Denver, CO**





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# What Makes Tabletops Work

- **Allow for suspension of disbelief so that specific events can be planned for or learned from**
- **They build human networks that are activated in emergencies: “A Friend Is Even Better Than A Plan”**
- **They generate lessons that are useful for multiple emergency and non-emergency event types**
- **They help us “sell” resources like the Energy Assurance Guidelines and promulgate the concepts and ideas that underpin energy assurance.**



# **First we participated in DOE-sponsored exercises**

- **Princeton, NJ**
- **Salt Lake, UT**
- **Seattle, WA**
- **Tunica, MS**
- **Decatur, GA**
- **PTI sponsored – San Diego**

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# We came up with the Tabletop in a Box concept

- **Originated with a Tornado scenario – Williamsburg VA. June 2008**



- **Following that we did online scenario planning**
- **November 2008: New Orleans LA we ran a full day session with 40 people**
  - **Some good response, some lessons learned**

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# Subsequent Tabletops

- **Western Commissions in Hawaii, 2009**
- **Mid-Atlantic Commissions in Washington DC, 2009**
- **National tabletop building exercise in Washington DC, February 2010**

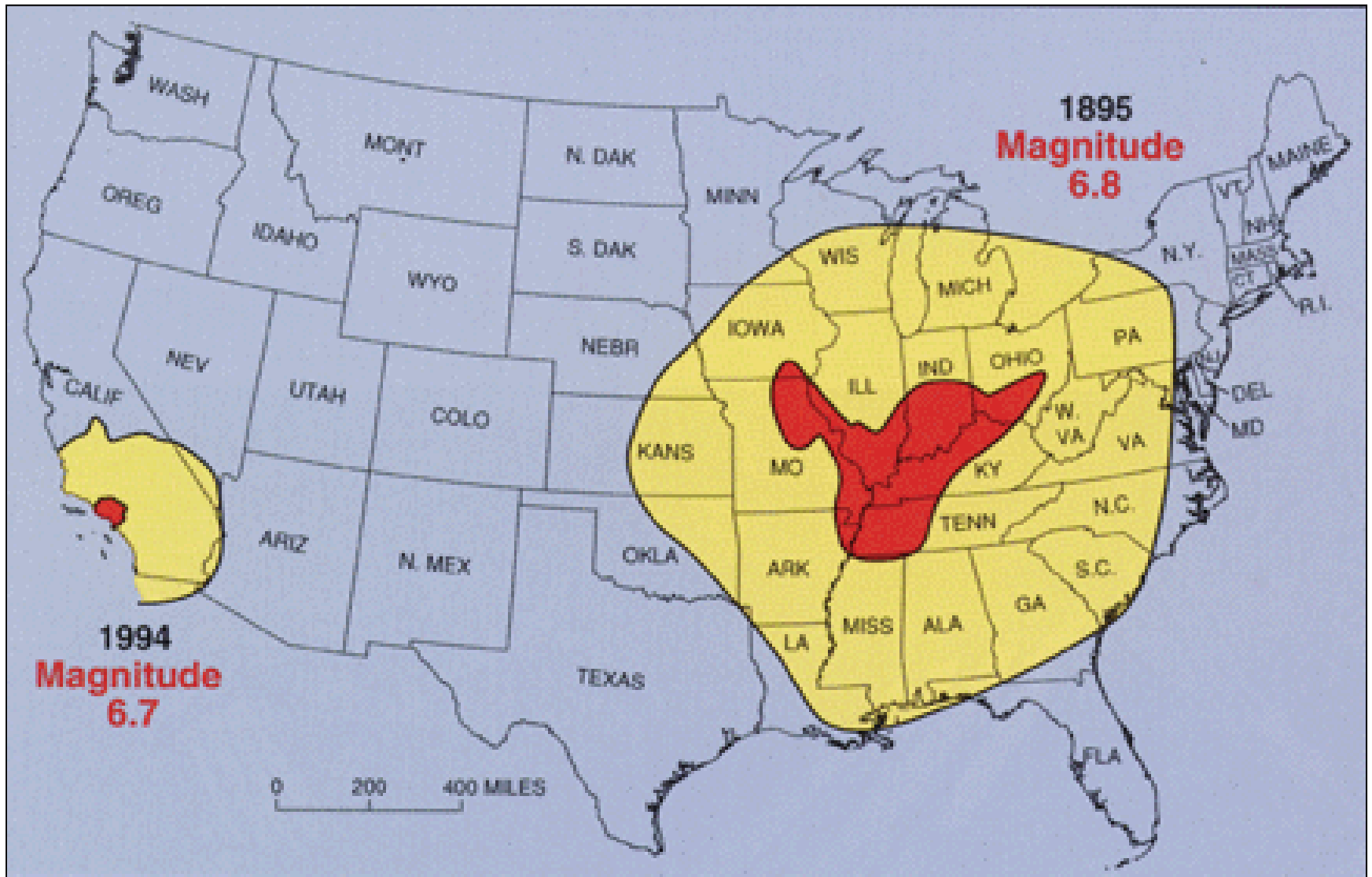
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# Some of the games we've run

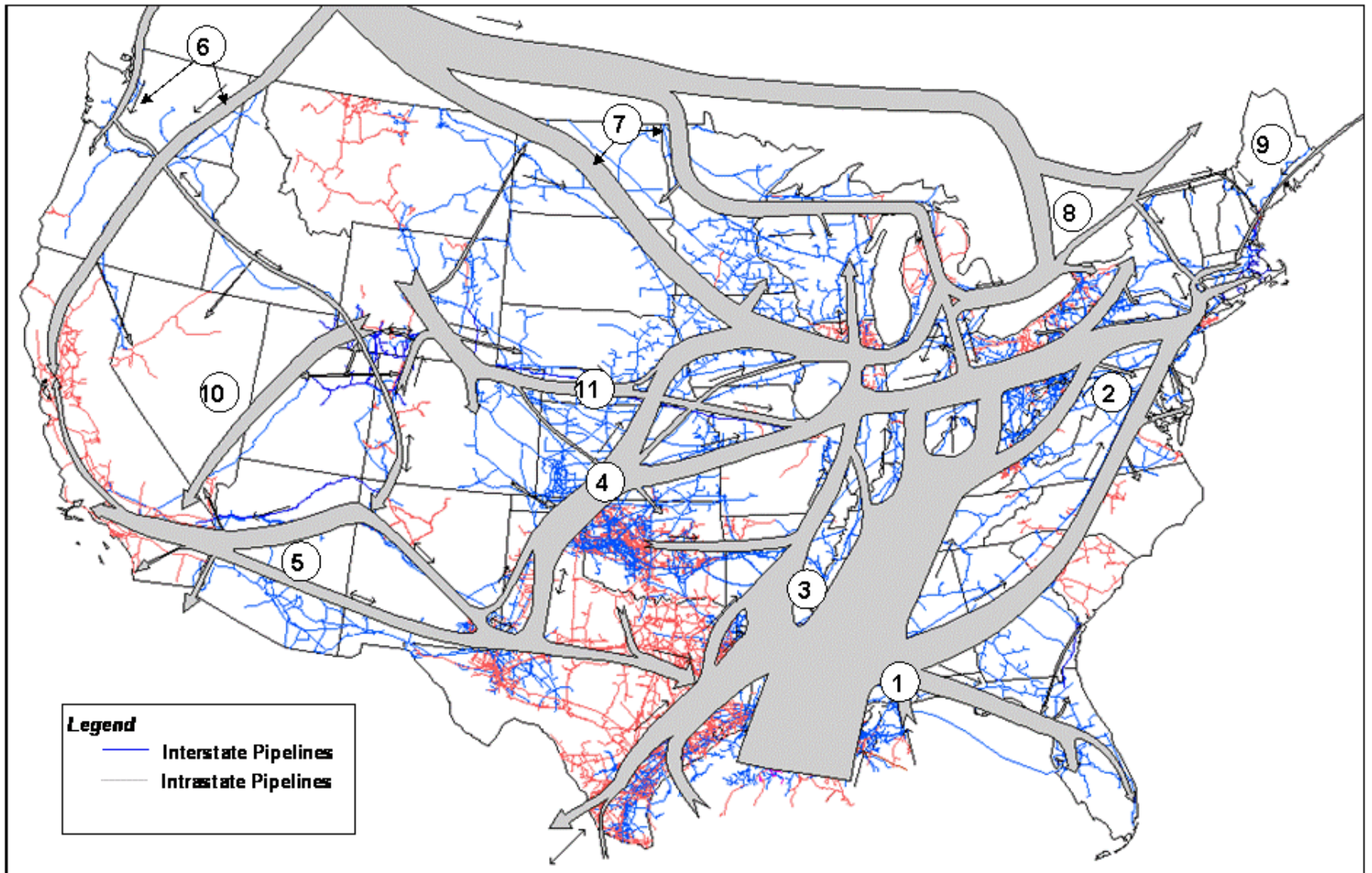
- **Cyber attack**
- **Insider threat at dispatch center**
- **Water contamination**
- **Ice storm**
- **Earthquake**
- **Gas pipeline disaster**
- **SARS-like pandemic**

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Source: *The Mississippi Valley-"Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On"*

<http://quake.usgs.gov/prepare/factsheets/NewMadrid/Charleston1895.gif>

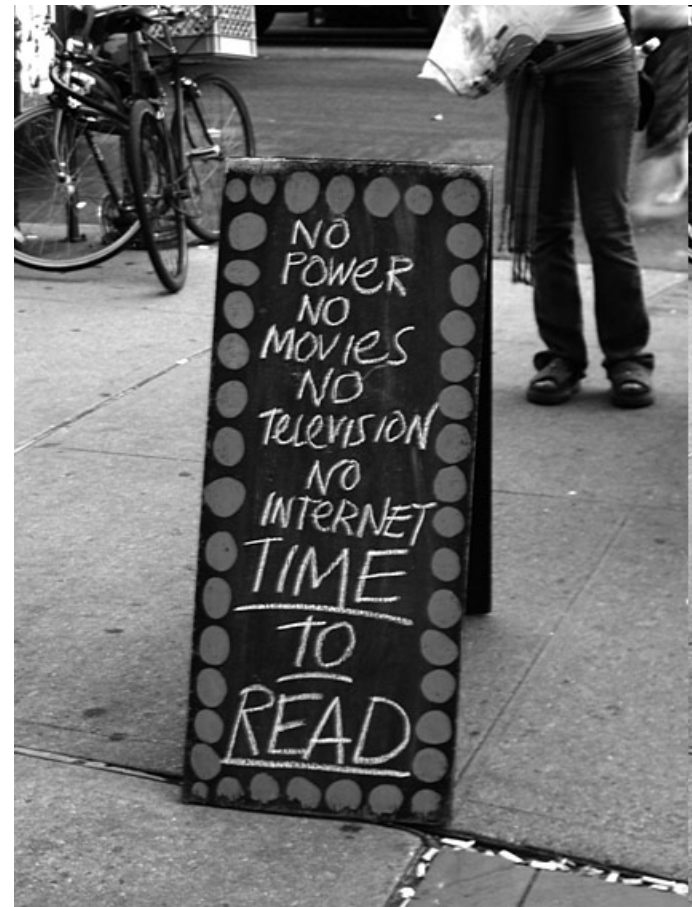
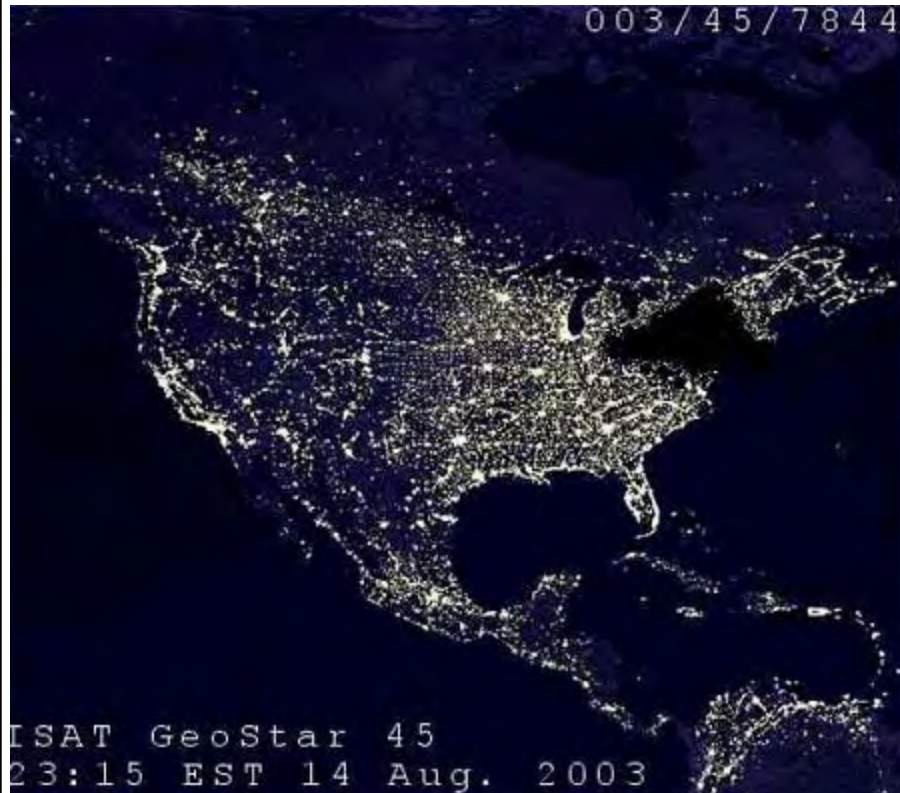


Source: *Major U.S. Natural Gas Transportation Corridors, 2008*

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/analysis\\_publications/ngpipeline/ranscorr\\_map.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/analysis_publications/ngpipeline/ranscorr_map.html)



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# SARS Outbreak: August 2010 (scenario)



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# Lessons learned:

- **The system is hard to break, so attack it from many directions**
- **Keep it a game: breaking the system and threatening people focuses the mind, but killing people in the game tends to make people uninterested in playing and finding protection solutions**
- **Interdependencies are a key vulnerability**
- **Cybersecurity remains a known unknown**



# Good, cheap props create believability

- Torn up paper “snowflakes”, and a facilitator in a scarf and a winter hat, make the group feel “winter”
- Cheap videos can be made with a point-and-shoot camera



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# The Right Questions Make or Break your game

- What actions are being taken within your organization?
- What actions are being taken to support utility restoration?
- Who are you talking to? How?
- What interdependencies are being shown?
- Are there any special concerns / communities that we should be concerned about?
- **These are not the full list!**

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# What's in the Box now?

- **Participant resources: handouts, maps, info sheets**
- **Moderator resources: scripts, videos, step-by-step guides to help facilitate each scenario**
- **Planner resources: organizational guides, logistics checklists, planning calendar working back from the tabletop date**
- **Online at**  
<http://www.naruc.org/resources.cfm?p=245>

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# What we're still learning

- We want to diversify and broaden scenarios, create more complex workgroup activities
- Test the full kit with help from NARUC staff.
- Did it work? Is it replicable?
- How much background is needed?
- How many people? Who are the right people?
- How much time is enough?
- What to do about “pitching” plans, guides, and products?

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# What's needed next:

- **New inputs, scenarios, and participant/facilitator resources**
- **Willing Recruits to try it in their State**
- **We have a game plan to run three Tabletops using the Beta-Box by September 30, 2010**
- **Proposals due to Julie Rowlett ([jrowlett@naruc.org](mailto:jrowlett@naruc.org)) by April 26**



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# To propose:

- **Send an email with a brief paragraph or two expressing your interest and address the following questions:**
  - Who is the hosting organization?
  - Why do you want to run a TIAB scenario?
  - Who will be the contact person(s) from your organization (at least 1 person)?
  - What is your proposed timeline for this event?\*
  - Which stakeholders or communities will you involve in the event?
  - What is your experience with TIAB emergency scenarios?
- **Again, [jrowlett@naruc.org](mailto:jrowlett@naruc.org), due April 26.**
- **Decisions about states to be announced May 5.**



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# Questions?

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