



# Surviving a Mock Disaster Building an effective Tabletop Exercise

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Secure3

E36   
Cities



# 2017 This Is What Happens In An Internet Minute

# 2018 This Is What Happens In An Internet Minute



# Objectives

- Identify the major components for BCP/DR.
- Understand the types of Testing.
- What is a Script versus a Scenario?
- Why is a timeline script important?
- Ties to Incident Response.

**Strategy**

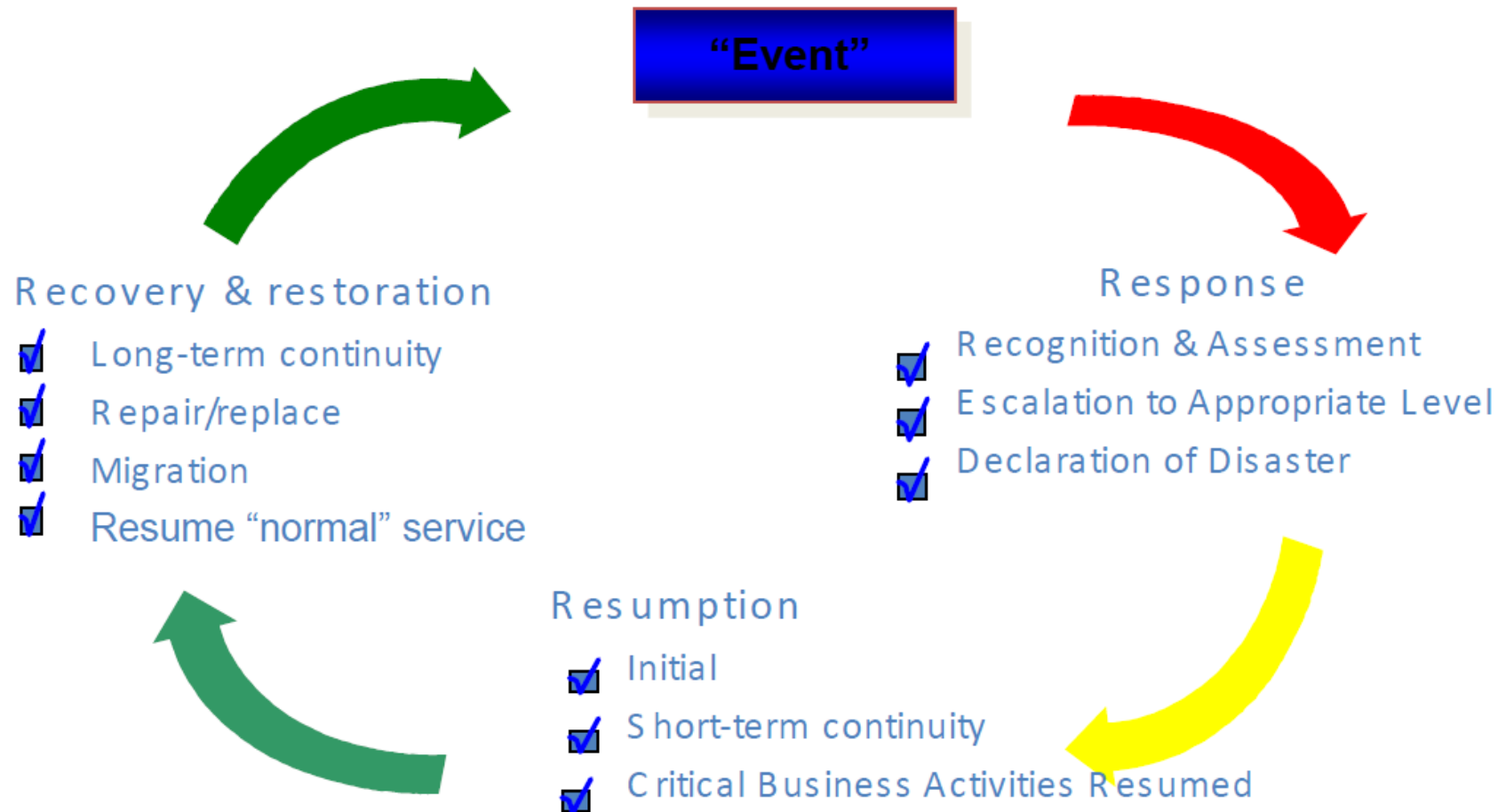


**Who Facilitates**

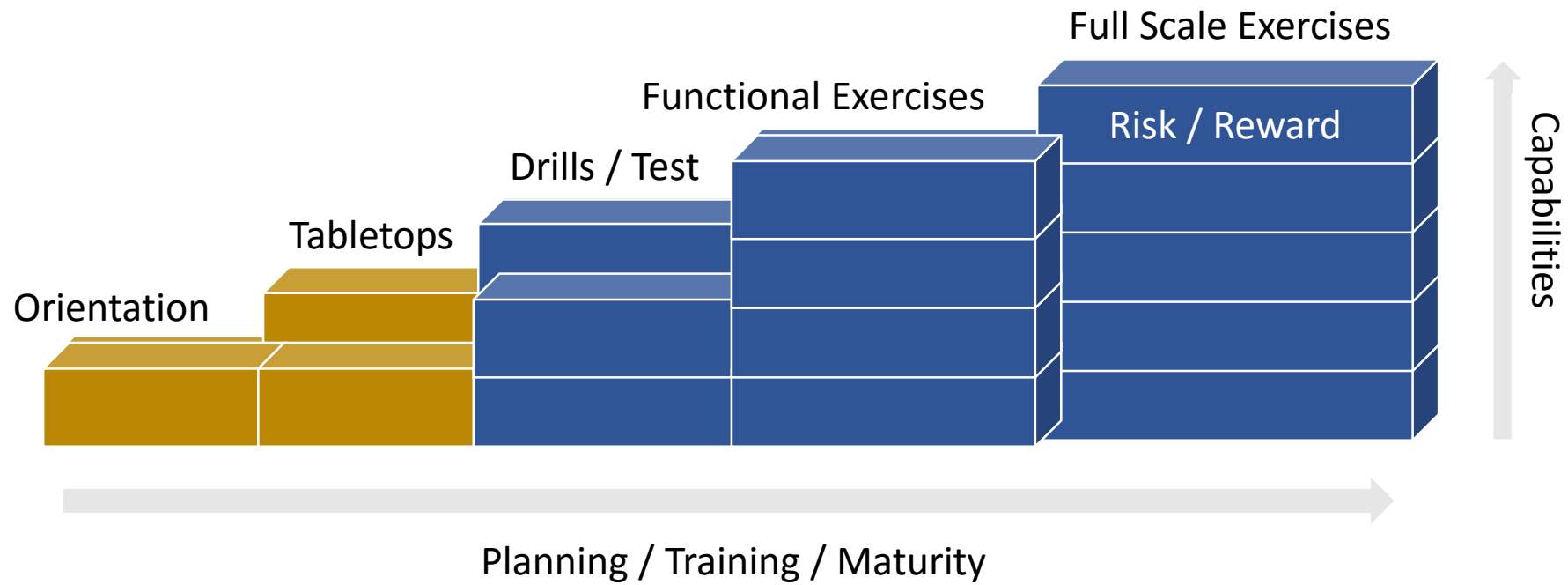


**Publish Updates**

# Business Continuity Cycle



# Ongoing Multi-Year Testing



# Types of Tests

Exercise Type	Description
Orientation	A seminar and/or briefing activity used to familiarize participants with BCM responsibilities
Test or Functional Drill	Coordinated, supervised activity normally used to test, develop, or maintain skills in a single operation or function in a single office or organization
Tabletop Exercise	Simulates emergency situation in an informal, stress-free environment; designed to elicit constructive scenario-based discussions for an examination of the existing BCM plan and individual state of training and preparedness
Functional Exercise <b>Combination Test</b>	Used to validate the capability of an organization to respond to a simulated emergency, in order to test one or more functions of the plan
Full Scale Exercise <b>ALL OUT TEST</b>	Simulates an actual emergency; intended to evaluate operational BCM procedures and capabilities under simulated stressful conditions



# Defining Roles and responsibilities

Position	Roles and Responsibilities
DR/BCP Coordinator / Information Security Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate schedule / Exercise facilitator</li> </ul>
Management Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and approval of Exercise Plan</li> </ul>
IT – Manager / Network Admin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate IT Recovery Plans</li> <li>• Plan and conduct IT Tests</li> <li>• Support BCP Coordinator in Development and exercising</li> </ul>
Participants (all employees, DR/BCP Team, Business Area Managers/SME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of recovery team</li> <li>• Familiar with Plan</li> <li>• Know assignments</li> <li>• Perform specific business duties</li> </ul>

# Functional and Full Scale Tests

- IT Recovery - test restore of technology, (i.e. data, network)
- Going offsite to a backup location tests recovery site preparedness, communications and utilities
- Trained and informed personnel are typically performing recovery steps
- Transaction testing verifies restore, connectivity and access using a person that knows the business process
- Community resources may be involved

**What verifies the completeness of the Plan?**

## Why Tabletop Exercises?

Provide a forum for the following:

- Team Building
- Validate the Plan Documentation
- Information Collection and Sharing
- Obtain consensus from team
- Evaluation of Differing Perspectives
- Practice makes Easier

## Why Tabletop Exercises?

Provide a forum for the following:

- Check that functional testing occurs
- Problem solving of complex issues
- Test considerations for new situations, ideas, processes and/or procedures
- Training/Awareness for management and staff

# Exercise Development Steps

Goals and Objectives –

What will success look like?

(SMART)

- Simple (concise)
- Measurable (how to document)
- Achievable (can this be done)
- Realistic (and challenging) (can it happen)
- Task Oriented (fits to business functions)

# Exercise Development Steps

## Scope:

- Exercise Activities
- Departments Involved
- Hazard - Type of Threat Source
- Geographic or outage Impact Area
- Staff Impacted
- Facilities Impacted

# Exercise Development Steps

## Building a Script from a Scenario

Threat  
Risk Asmt

- Choosing a Threat to Test
  - Vulnerability – Threat Assessment
- Start with simple basic scenarios – basic Fire minimal damage

Note: For example tornado incidents in the Midwest increased awareness of their threat risk.

The state may provide ongoing tasks of planning, preparing, and training for Tornado preparedness.

# Threat Risk Assessment

Threat-Description	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	Risk- Rating
Accidental-explosion-off-site				
Accidental-explosion-on-site				
Aircraft-crash				
Ancillary-equipment-failure				
Arson				
Bomb-threat				
Bombing				
Central-computer-equipment-failure				
Computer-Intruder				



# Exercise Development Steps

## Using a Scenario and Building a Script

- As your DR/BC matures - make scripts more complex – increase maturity, add advanced “INJECTS”
- Consider the unexpected – not could it happen, but what if it did.
- Don’t share the scenario before the exercise
- Does the DR/BCP Team always know when a tabletop will occur?

# Exercise Development Steps

## Building on a Scenario

- How quickly can you pull together key Business Team Members?
- How quickly can all key individuals be contacted and mobilized to the alternate location?
- Do you test the involvement of any outside parties? (i.e. law enforcement, safety, utilities, telephone, ISP)

# Exercise Development Steps

## Objectives of Exercise

### Tabletop Exercise Program Objectives

- To improve operational readiness by demonstrating knowledge of the DR/BCP Plan overall
- To improve Company-wide coordination and response capabilities for effective disaster response
- To identify communication pathways and problem areas between IT, outside entities (utilities, media) business areas, regional and state emergency operations centers
- To establish timely response for safety, recovery and restore to normal operation.

# Tips for an Effective Tabletop

- **Decide how much gloom and doom you want.**
  - Do you want this to be a physical event with assets damaged and destroyed,
  - Do you just want things inaccessible?
  - Do you want death and injuries, or just to test the ability to get work up and going someplace else?
  - Do you test unavailable key people?
  - How long will your downtime duration be?

# Conducting the Exercise

- Set the Ground Rules
  - Silence Cell Phones
  - Establish timelines – Maximum 4 Hours - breaks, lunch etc..
  - Has Internal Audit been invited?
  - Who leads the exercise?
    - Can they facilitate and participate.
  - Consider issues that need to be tabled for later discussion

# Conducting the Exercise

- Set the Ground Rules (cont...)
  - Accept the Scenario as Real
  - Stay in the Scenario - stay in the mindset that the disaster is really occurring
  - Who will take notes – record issues / follow-up
  - Consider taping the exercise on an audio recorder

# Exercise – Evaluate – Update

- Planned Test scheduled in advance
  - Attendance by all BCP Team required
  - Team is aware of test scenario
- Document Team Member Attendance
- Confirm that all Team Members have their own up-to-date copy of the plan
- The BC/DR coordinator confirms updates are in the plan.

## Exercise – Evaluate – Update

- Review policies and procedures
- Discuss business area changes since last updates – detail continuity procedures
- Confirm accuracy of phone numbers
- Verify Secure and accessible storage of plan (at home)
- Executive summary of the test and discussion results



## TIP

Experience has shown that well planned and interesting exercises yield a high level of preparedness with personnel who are able to better cope with the stressful environment of an actual emergency.

# Resources

- NIST SP800-84 - Guide to Test, Training, and Exercise Programs for IT Plans and Capabilities (google it)
- Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) [hseep.dhs.gov](http://hseep.dhs.gov), FEMA: [www.ready.gov/](http://www.ready.gov/)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS): <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>
- Emergency Management for Your State [emergencymanagement.wi.gov/](http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/)
- CSOonline Business Continuity, <https://www.csoonline.com/resources/>
- FIPCO, [www.fipco.com/itservices](http://www.fipco.com/itservices)

If Time Allows,  
if not:

<https://www.fipco.com/solutions/it-audit-security/cyber-security-resources-links>

## Sample Tabletop Exercise Testing

**FIRE**

CLICK  
HERE

**STORM**

CLICK  
HERE

**Cyber Incident**

CLICK  
HERE