

Risk Management in Practice

Lecture Title:
Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning

Lecturer: Chris Camilleri

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**Undergraduate Diploma in
Occupational Health and Safety**

Welcome and Objectives

Summary

Covers planning and implementation of emergency response procedures in occupational settings

Learning objectives:

- Develop emergency preparedness plans
- Coordinate response efforts effectively
- Evaluate emergency drills and simulations



Why is it significant within the context of Risk Management in Practice?

1. Importance of Preparedness

Importance of Preparedness refers to the critical role of being ready in advance to handle potential risks, emergencies, or unexpected situations effectively. It is a proactive approach that minimizes harm and ensures continuity when challenges arise.

2. Ensuring Organizational Resilience

Preparedness supports quick recovery and maintains compliance, confidence, and continuity after incidents.

3. Culture of Safety and Readiness

Embedding emergency preparedness promotes a proactive culture prioritizing safety and readiness at all levels.



Building a Culture of Safety and Readiness Through Preparedness

1. Proactive Approach

Instead of reacting to incidents, preparedness anticipates risks and plans for them, fostering a mindset of prevention.

2. Shared Responsibility

Everyone—from leadership to frontline workers—understands their role in safety, making it a collective priority.

3. Continuous Improvement

Regular drills, reviews, and updates reinforce readiness and encourage learning from past experiences.

4. Resilience and Confidence

A prepared organization can respond effectively to emergencies, reducing panic and ensuring continuity.

5. Integration into Daily Operations

Safety and readiness become part of everyday decision-making, not just during crises.



Link to Business Continuity and Worker Safety

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1. Business Continuity Planning

Planning ensures critical operations continue or resume quickly after emergencies, reducing losses and reputational harm.

2. Worker Safety Importance

Protecting employees during emergencies is a moral and legal obligation, safeguarding vulnerable personnel.

3. Integrated Emergency Plans

Emergency plans include evacuation, communication, and resource allocation aligned with continuity strategies.

4. Organizational Resilience

Prioritizing safety and continuity builds trust and strengthens long-term operational stability.



ISO 22301:2019 Security and
Resilience — Business Continuity
Management Systems

Case Scenarios



Fire in a Manufacturing Plant

1. Risks and Causes

Fires in manufacturing plants result from electrical faults, flammable materials, or human error, causing severe damage and injury.

2. Emergency Preparedness

Effective emergency plans include fire detection, suppression equipment, trained personnel, and clear evacuation routes for safety.

3. Post-Incident Improvement

Post-fire analysis identifies training, maintenance, and risk assessment gaps to enhance future safety measures.



Chemical Spill Scenario

1. Risks of Chemical Spills

Chemical spills threaten health, safety, and the environment through toxic exposure and contamination.

2. Emergency Response Measures

Effective spill response includes containment, PPE use, and specialized cleanup teams to minimize impact.

3. Communication and Coordination

Clear communication alerts personnel and coordinates actions with regulators and emergency services.

4. Preventive Practices

Proper labeling, secure storage, and employee training reduce chemical spill risks and enhance safety.



Fire in a Manufacturing Plant

1. What Happened:

Electrical short circuit caused a fire during working hours.

2. What Went Wrong:

Fire exits blocked; evacuation plan unclear.

3. Learning:

Regular fire drills and clear signage save lives.



Chemical Spill in a Manufacturing Plant

1. What Happened:

A forklift punctured a chemical drum, causing a hazardous spill.

2. What Went Wrong:

No spill containment kits nearby; employees lacked training.

3. Learning:

Emergency kits must be accessible; regular drills are essential.



Medical Emergency on Site

1. What Happened:

Worker collapsed due to heat stress in a warehouse.

2. What Went Wrong:

No first-aid responder available; delayed ambulance call.

3. Learning:

Train staff in first aid; have emergency contacts and protocols ready.



Explosion in a Chemical Plant

1. What Happened:

A reactor exploded due to uncontrolled pressure buildup.

2. What Went Wrong:

No pressure relief system; poor monitoring.

3. Learning:

Install fail-safe systems and conduct regular inspections.



Ammonia Leak in Food Processing Plant

1. What Happened:

Refrigeration system leaked ammonia, causing evacuation

2. What Went Wrong:

No leak detection system; delayed emergency response.

3. Learning:

Install sensors and train staff for chemical emergencies.



Crane Collapse on Construction Site

1. What Happened:

Crane toppled during lifting operation.

2. What Went Wrong:

Overloaded crane; inadequate ground stability checks

3. Learning:

Follow lifting plans and conduct pre-use inspections.



Gas Explosion in Restaurant Kitchen

1. What Happened:

Gas leak ignited during peak hours.

2. What Went Wrong:

No leak detection; staff unaware of emergency shut-off.

3. Learning:

Train staff on emergency shut-off procedures and install detectors



What emergencies could occur in your workplace?

1. Common Workplace Emergencies

Fires, chemical spills, natural disasters, power outages, cyberattacks, and medical emergencies are typical workplace emergencies.

2. Risk Identification and Awareness

Engaging staff to identify risks increases awareness and supports effective emergency planning.

3. Tailored Emergency Responses

Customized response strategies are essential to address diverse threats based on location and industry hazards.



Ask yourself and your team: If an emergency occurred right now, would you know the right steps to take?

Examples of Tailored Emergency Responses

1. Food Processing Plant

- **Threat:** Ammonia leak from refrigeration system
- **Tailored Response:** Evacuation routes designed for chemical exposure, PPE availability, and chemical neutralization kits.

These routes are not generic fire evacuation paths; they are planned considering chemical properties, exposure risks, and protective measures.



1. Route Selection Based on Chemical Behavior

- Ammonia is lighter than air, so it tends to rise and disperse upward.
- Evacuation routes should avoid confined spaces, basements, or areas where ammonia could accumulate.
- Routes should lead to upwind and uphill assembly points to minimize exposure.

2. Safety Features Along Routes

- Air monitoring points to check ammonia concentration.
- Emergency showers or eyewash stations along the route for decontamination.
- Signage and lighting indicating safe paths during a chemical incident.

3. Integration with PPE and Response

- Routes should be accessible for personnel wearing PPE (respirators, chemical suits).

4. Isolation from Contaminated Zones

- Doors and barriers along routes to prevent vapor spread.
- Routes should not pass near refrigeration systems or leak sources



Examples of Tailored Emergency Responses

2. Construction Site

- **Threat:** Crane collapse or fall from height
- **Tailored Response:** On-site rescue teams, fall protection systems, and emergency medical stations.

It means that the emergency plan is **specifically adapted to the high-risk hazards of construction work**, particularly crane collapse or falls from height. Here's what that involves



1. On-Site Rescue Teams

- **Specialized training:** Teams trained in high-angle rescue and confined space retrieval.
- **Immediate response capability:** Equipped with harnesses, ropes, and lifting devices to safely retrieve injured workers.
- **Strategic positioning:** Rescue teams stationed near high-risk zones (crane operations, scaffolding areas).

2. Fall Protection Systems

- **Preventive measures:** Installation of guardrails, safety nets, and anchor points for lifelines.
- **Personal fall arrest systems:** Mandatory use of harnesses and shock-absorbing lanyards for workers at height.
- **Inspection and maintenance:** Regular checks to ensure integrity of fall protection equipment.

3. Emergency Medical Stations

- **Proximity to work zones:** Medical stations located within quick access of crane and elevated work areas.
- **Equipped for trauma:** Supplies for fractures, head injuries, and crush injuries (splints, oxygen, stretchers).
- **Trained personnel:** On-site paramedics or first responders ready for immediate care before hospital transfer.



Examples of Tailored Emergency Responses

3. Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

- **Threat:** Chemical spill or contamination
- **Tailored Response:** Cleanroom emergency shutdown procedures, spill containment kits, and specialized decontamination protocols.

These measures go beyond generic emergency responses—they are customized to protect product quality, regulatory compliance, and worker health in a high-risk pharmaceutical setting.



1. Cleanroom Emergency Shutdown Procedures

- **Immediate isolation:** Systems to quickly seal off affected cleanroom areas to prevent contamination spread.
- **Controlled shutdown:** Automated protocols to safely stop production without damaging sensitive equipment.
- **Airflow management:** Activation of HEPA filtration and negative pressure systems to contain airborne contaminants.

2. Spill Containment Kits

- **Specialized absorbents:** Kits designed for pharmaceutical chemicals, including acids, solvents, and biologics.
- **Neutralizing agents:** Materials to safely neutralize hazardous substances without creating secondary risks.

3. Specialized Decontamination Protocols

- **Validated cleaning agents:** Use of approved disinfectants that meet GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) standards.
- **Step-by-step procedures:** Detailed SOPs for surface decontamination, equipment cleaning, and waste disposal.
- **Personnel safety:** Mandatory PPE (chemical-resistant gloves, goggles, respirators)



Examples of Tailored Emergency Responses

4. Printing Industry

- **Threat:** Entanglement with roller machines
- **Tailored Response:** Emergency stop buttons near machines, lockout/tagout procedures, and immediate first-aid response for limb injuries.

These measures go beyond generic safety—they are customized to prevent entanglement injuries and ensure rapid response if an incident occurs.



1. Emergency Stop Buttons Near Machines

- **Immediate shutdown capability:** Large, clearly marked emergency stop buttons installed within easy reach of operators.
- **Multiple access points:** Buttons positioned on both sides of the machine and at operator stations for quick activation.
- **Regular testing:** Routine checks to ensure buttons function correctly during emergencies.

2. Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Procedures

- **Energy isolation:** Procedures to disconnect and lock out power sources before maintenance or clearing jams.
- **Tagging for visibility:** Tags indicating who applied the lock and why, preventing accidental reactivation.
- **Training and compliance:** Workers trained on LOTO steps and supervisors enforcing strict adherence.

3. Immediate First-Aid Response for Limb Injuries

- **Proximity of first-aid kits**
- **Trained responders:** Designated staff trained in handling severe injuries like crush or amputation.
- **Rapid escalation:** Clear protocols for calling emergency medical services and transporting injured workers.



Types of Emergencies & Risk Profile

1. Categories of Emergencies

Emergencies are classified as **natural, technological, and human-caused** events with distinct characteristics and impacts.

2. Risk Profile Assessment

Assessing likelihood, severity, and cascading effects of emergencies helps identify vulnerabilities and prioritize risks.

3. Preparedness and Mitigation

Classifying emergencies enables targeted preparedness measures and efficient resource allocation for resilience.



Natural Emergencies

❖ Events caused by natural forces, often unpredictable and large-scale.

1. **Examples:** Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, volcanic eruptions.
2. **Characteristics:** High impact on infrastructure and human life; often require mass evacuation and disaster relief.
3. **Impacts:** Displacement, property damage, environmental destruction.

Examples: Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires volcanic eruptions



Earthquakes



Floods



Hurricanes



Wildfires



Volcanic eruption



Technological Emergencies

❖ Incidents resulting from failure or malfunction of technology or industrial systems.

1. **Examples:** Chemical spills, nuclear accidents, power outages, entanglement
2. **Characteristics:** Often localized but can have severe health and environmental consequences.
3. **Impacts:** Toxic exposure, contamination, operational shutdowns.



Human-Caused Emergencies

❖ Events triggered by human actions, intentional or accidental.

1. **Examples:** Terrorist attacks, workplace violence, sabotage, civil unrest.
2. **Characteristics:** Can be sudden and unpredictable; often involve security and law enforcement.
3. **Impacts:** Casualties, psychological trauma, disruption of social order.

Risk Profile Assessment

Systematically evaluating potential emergencies to understand which ones pose the greatest threat to your organization.

It's about answering three key questions:

- 1. Likelihood:** How probable is the event? (e.g., a fire in a factory vs. an earthquake in a low-risk zone)
- 2. Impact:** How bad would the consequences be? (e.g., minor injury vs. mass casualty)
- 3. Cascading Effects:** Could one incident trigger others? (e.g., a power outage leading to production halt and financial loss)



Understanding Risk Matrix in Emergency Planning

1. Risk Matrix Basics

A risk matrix assesses risks by plotting **likelihood** against **Impact** to prioritize threats effectively.

2. Risk Prioritization

The matrix helps identify high-risk scenarios that need immediate attention and mitigation strategies.

3. Color Coding System

Color coding with green, yellow, pink and red zones makes risk levels easy to interpret quickly.

4. Application in Emergency Planning

Incorporating real-world scenarios improves planning by showing practical risk comparisons and response needs.



Example of Structure of a Risk Matrix

Key Features of This Risk Matrix

1. **Likelihood:** 1 to 5 (from rare, unlikely, possible, likely and almost certain).
2. **Impact:** 1 to 5 (from negligible, minor, moderate, major and catastrophic).

3. Color Coding:

- o Green (Low Risk): Scores 1–3.
- o Yellow (Medium Risk): Scores 4–8.
- o Pink (High Risk): Scores 10–15.
- o Red (Extreme Risk): Scores 20–25.

4. Numeric Scoring:

Risk score = Likelihood × Impact.

- o Helps prioritize actions based on severity.

		IMPACT				
		1	2	3	4	5
LIKELIHOOD	1	1	2	3	4	5
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	5	5	10	15	20	25

Risk Profile Assessment

Purpose

1. Identify **vulnerabilities** in operations.
2. Prioritize risks so resources focus on high-impact, high-likelihood events.
3. Support decision-making for emergency planning and mitigation.



Example Scenario Mapped on a Risk Matrix



Roller Machine Entanglement

Hazard Description

Workers risk entanglement in roller machines if safety protocols are neglected in printing and textile industries.

Risk Likelihood and Severity

The risk is possible with major impact, potentially causing fractures, amputations, or permanent disability.

Emergency Response Measures

Emergency stops, first aid, and rapid medical evacuation are critical for managing entanglement incidents effectively.

Prevention Strategies

Regular safety training, machine maintenance, and strict adherence to protocols reduce entanglement risks.



Fire in Office

Fire Causes

Office fires often stem from electrical faults or negligence but remain unlikely due to fire prevention systems.

Risk Likelihood and Severity

Despite low likelihood, fires pose major impact including injuries, property damage, and business disruption.

Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness includes clear evacuation routes, fire drills, and accessible firefighting equipment in offices.

Fire Prevention Measures

Routine electrical inspections and employee training help prevent office fires and ensure regulatory compliance.



Cyberattack on Data Center

Cyberattack Likelihood

The likelihood of cyberattacks on data centers is high due to advanced cyber threats and reliance on digital systems.

Moderate Severity Impact

Cyberattacks cause moderate severity impacts including operational disruption, financial loss, and reputational damage.

Emergency Response Measures

Effective emergency response includes cybersecurity protocols, real-time monitoring, and dedicated incident response teams.

Preventive Strategies

Prevention involves system updates, employee phishing training, and reliable backup systems for business continuity.



Emergency Preparedness Framework

1. Risk Assessment

Identifying potential hazards and evaluating their impact forms the foundation for emergency planning.

2. Resource Allocation

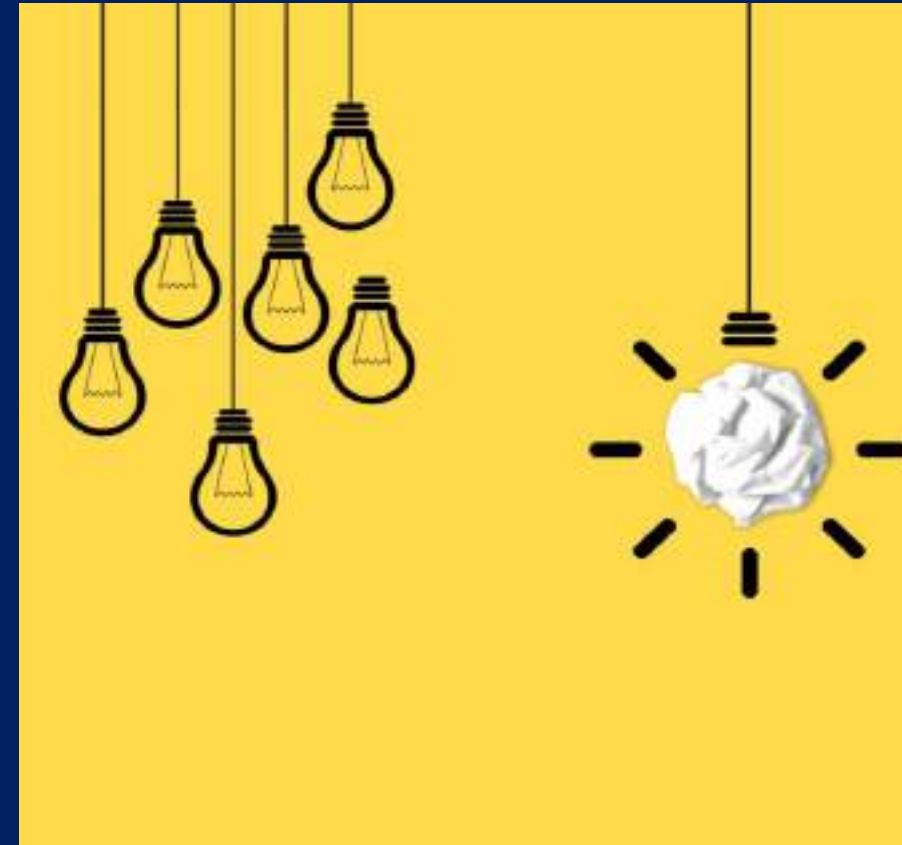
Ensuring necessary equipment, supplies, and personnel are ready to respond effectively during emergencies.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Clearly defining roles prevents confusion and enables swift, coordinated action in crisis situations.

4. Communication Protocols

Timely information sharing within the organization and with external stakeholders is critical during emergencies.



Core Steps in Emergency Preparedness Planning



Resources & Training

1. Essential Emergency Resources

Emergency kits with first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, and communication devices are crucial for readiness.

2. Personal Protective Equipment

PPE like gloves, masks, and fire-resistant clothing protects individuals during emergencies and should be well maintained.

3. Comprehensive Training Programs

Training includes evacuation, first aid, hazard recognition, and communication protocols to ensure effective response.

4. Collaborative Preparedness

Partnerships with local emergency services and interactive drills enhance coordination and preparedness culture.



Roles & Responsibilities

1. Emergency Management Structure

An effective emergency response requires a defined management framework with key roles and clear responsibilities.

2. Key Roles Overview

Emergency Coordinator oversees response; floor wardens guide evacuations; first aiders provide medical care.

3. Training and Preparedness

Regular drills and training ensure personnel understand duties and can perform effectively under pressure.

4. Specialized Support Teams

Special teams handle hazardous materials, communication, and technical support to enhance response capabilities.



Communication Protocols

1. Multi-Channel Communication

Use multiple communication channels to ensure redundancy and wide reach during emergencies.

2. Clear Guidelines and Authority

Establish clear rules on system activation, authorized personnel, and message content to avoid confusion.

3. Inclusive Messaging

Incorporate visual signals and multilingual instructions for vulnerable populations to ensure accessibility.

4. Backup and Testing

Maintain backup systems and regularly test communication tools to ensure readiness in emergencies.



Documentation & Accessibility

1. Comprehensive Emergency Documentation

Documentation includes procedures, contact lists, evacuation maps, and equipment locations for clarity and consistency.

2. Accessibility of Information

Plans should be available in digital and hard-copy formats and distributed to ensure accessibility for all employees.

3. Inclusivity and Technology Use

Provide multi-language versions and formats for disabilities, leveraging secure intranet portals and mobile apps.

4. Regulatory Compliance

Proper documentation guides actions and serves as proof of compliance with regulations and industry standards.



Continuous Improvement

1. Post-Incident Reviews

Conduct reviews after drills or incidents to identify gaps and implement corrective actions effectively.

2. Stakeholder Involvement

Involve employees, emergency responders, and management to gather diverse perspectives during reviews.

3. Integration of Lessons Learned

Document and integrate lessons into updated plans, training, and resource allocation to enhance readiness.

4. Performance Metrics and Benchmarking

Use metrics and benchmark against best practices to measure progress and ensure effective preparedness.





COORDINATING RESPONSE EFFORTS

Strategies to unify and manage emergency actions effectively



Importance of Coordination During Emergencies

1. Unified Response Structure

Coordinating internal teams and external agencies under a unified structure prevents confusion and delays during emergencies.

2. Clear Leadership and Communication

Clear leadership and structured communication channels are essential for managing crisis situations efficiently and effectively.

3. Compliance and Trust Building

Coordination ensures compliance with legal requirements and builds trust among stakeholders during emergencies.

4. Enhancing Resilience

A systematic coordination approach enhances resilience and reduces emergency impacts on people, property, and reputation.





INTERNAL VS EXTERNAL COORDINATION

Building Effective Collaboration

1. Internal Team Coordination

Internal teams like safety officers and emergency coordinators manage on-site emergency actions effectively.

2. External Agency Collaboration

External agencies such as fire brigades and medical services play a vital role in emergency response.

3. Pre-incident Relationship Building

Establishing connections, agreements, and joint drills with agencies enables rapid resource mobilization.

4. Clear Communication Protocols

Defined protocols for requesting help and sharing information prevent delays and ensure smooth coordination.





COMMUNICATION HIERARCHY DURING EMERGENCIES

Ensuring Clear and Reliable Information Flow

1. Communication Hierarchy

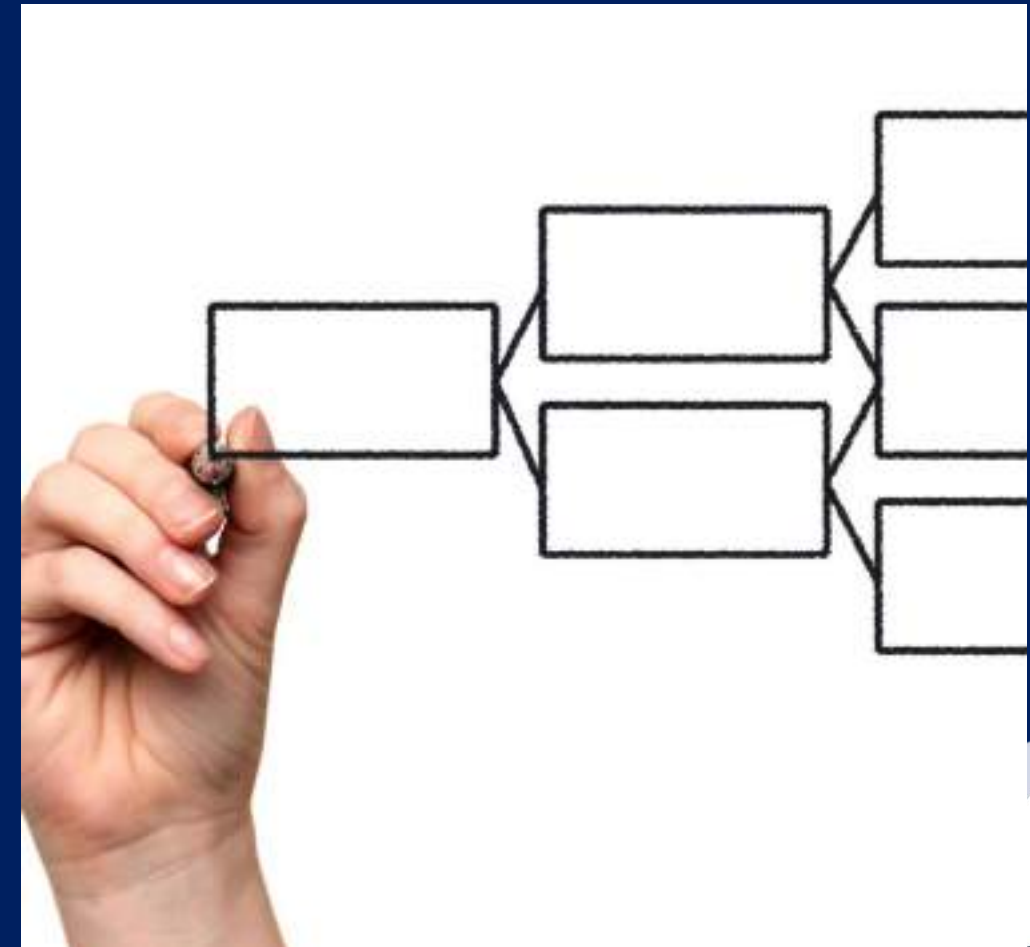
A clear chain of command ensures decisions and updates flow accurately during emergencies.

2. Redundant Communication Channels

Multiple communication methods like radios and mobile alerts ensure reliability in case of failure.

3. Clear Messaging and Training

Pre-scripted multilingual messages and staff training reduce confusion and enhance coordination.



Aspect	GOOD Communication	BAD Communication
Clarity	<i>“Evacuate immediately via Exit A. Proceed to Assembly Point 1. Do not use elevators.”</i>	<i>“Leave the building now.”</i> (No route or assembly point specified)
Timeliness	Sent immediately after incident detection	Sent late, after people have already started evacuating on their own
Consistency	Same message across PA system, SMS, and email	PA says “Exit A,” email says “Exit B”
Authority	Issued by designated Emergency Coordinator	Sent by unauthorized personnel
Inclusivity	Multilingual instructions and visual signals for accessibility	Only in one language, no visual cues



WHO SHOULD LEAD DURING AN EMERGENCY?



1. Critical Role of Leadership

Effective leadership is essential for successful emergency response and managing crisis situations efficiently.

2. Key Leadership Qualities

Authority, training, experience, and decision-making under pressure are vital qualities for emergency leaders.

3. Incident Commander Role

Typically, a senior manager or safety officer with emergency protocol knowledge assumes the Incident Commander role.

4. Flexible Leadership Structure

Leadership may shift based on incident nature and expertise available, allowing adaptive response strategies.





EVALUATING EMERGENCY DRILLS & SIMULATIONS

Assessing preparedness through realistic training exercises



Overview of Drill Evaluation

1. Purpose of Drill Evaluation

Drill evaluation identifies gaps and improves emergency response capabilities before real incidents occur.

2. Assessment Focus Areas

Evaluation assesses communication, coordination, and execution effectiveness under simulated stress.

3. Post-Drill Debriefing

Debriefing and feedback collection foster learning and continuous improvement in emergency preparedness.

4. Compliance and Confidence

Evaluations validate protocols, boost staff confidence, and ensure regulatory compliance.



Types of Drills

1. Fire Drills

Fire drills test evacuation procedures and fire safety systems with timed evacuations and accountability checks.

2. Chemical Spill Drills

Chemical spill drills focus on containment, decontamination, and environmental safety using PPE and spill kits.



KPIs for Drill Performance

1. Response Time Measurement

Measures how quickly staff initiate and complete required emergency actions during drills.

2. Communication Effectiveness

Assesses clarity, timeliness, and accuracy of information flow throughout the emergency drill.

3. Accountability Checks

Verifies that all personnel are accounted for and safe after the emergency drill.

4. Protocol Adherence and Coordination

Evaluates adherence to protocols, use of equipment, and coordination among teams for safety compliance.



Post-Drill Debrief and Feedback Collection

1. Debrief Purpose

Debriefing captures insights and drives continuous improvement after emergency drills.

2. Inclusive Feedback Collection

Gather feedback from all staff levels using questionnaires, discussions, and KPI reviews.

3. Documentation and Integration

Document findings and update emergency plans to preserve lessons learned effectively.

4. Culture of Safety

Regular debriefs promote safety culture and accountability among employees.



Core Fundamentals during the actual evacuation process

1. Stay Calm and Lead by Example

- Panic spreads quickly; calm leadership reassures others.
- Use a clear, firm voice when giving instructions.

2. Follow the Established Plan

- Stick to the pre-defined evacuation routes and assembly points.
- Avoid improvising unless the planned route is blocked.

3. Prioritize Life Safety

- People first, property second—never go back for belongings.
- Assist vulnerable individuals (injured, disabled, visitors).

4. Communicate Clearly

- Give short, simple instructions: “Follow me to the exit,” “Do not use elevators.”
- Use hand signals or gestures if noise or smoke makes verbal communication hard.

5. Account for Everyone

- Perform headcounts at assembly points.
- Report missing persons immediately to emergency services.

6. Avoid Bottlenecks and Hazards

- Keep exits clear; do not block doorways
- Stay low if there's smoke; use stairs, not lifts.

7. Do Not Re-enter Until Declared Safe

- Wait for official clearance from emergency or designated safety officers.





MALTESE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Understanding laws ensuring effective crisis management

Key Components of the Maltese Legal Framework

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1. Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act (OHSA Act)

- Requires employers to identify hazards, assess risks, and implement emergency plans.
- Mandates training and drills for employees.

2. Civil Protection Act

- Establishes the Civil Protection Department responsible for national disaster response.
- Covers coordination with emergency services during large-scale incidents.

3. Seveso III Directive / Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (646.12)

- Applies to sites handling dangerous substances.
- Requires major accident prevention policies and emergency planning.

4. Workplace Health and Safety Regulations (646.08)

- Includes fire safety, evacuation routes, and first-aid requirements.
- Obligates employers to maintain emergency equipment and communication systems.

5. Environmental Protection Laws

- Address chemical spills, hazardous waste, and environmental emergencies.



1. What is the main purpose of emergency preparedness planning?
2. Why are emergencies considered high-impact, low-frequency risks?
3. Name one international standard related to emergency preparedness.
4. Give two examples of workplace emergencies.



5. What is the difference between an incident and an emergency?
6. Who typically leads during an emergency in an organization?
7. Name two roles in an emergency response team.
8. Why is role clarity important during emergencies?

9. What is the most critical element of emergency communication?
10. Name one communication tool used during emergencies.
11. What does “shelter-in-place” mean?
12. When is lockdown typically used?



13. Why do organizations conduct emergency drills?

14. Name one KPI for evaluating emergency drills.

15. What is the purpose of a post-drill debrief?

16. Which Maltese law governs workplace health and safety?



17. Name one subsidiary regulation under Maltese law.

18. What is an After-Action Review (AAR)?

19. Why is continuous improvement critical in emergency planning?



Next: Lecture 11: Monitoring and Reviewing Risk Controls

Following this session students will be given:

Focuses on evaluating and improving risk control measures through monitoring and review

- Learning Objectives
- Monitor effectiveness of risk controls
- Conduct periodic reviews and audits
- Implement continuous improvement strategies



Incident Command System Basics

The Incident Command System (ICS) structure in emergency planning is a standardized framework designed to manage incidents effectively by organizing roles, responsibilities, and communication.

It is widely used in emergency management for all-hazard incidents (industrial accidents, natural disasters, public events).

Why ICS is relevant?

Ensures clear roles, communication, and resource coordination across multiple agencies.



[Bing Videos](#)

Core Structure

1. Incident Commander (IC)

- Overall authority for managing the incident.
- Sets objectives, priorities, and strategy.

2. Command Staff

- **Public Information Officer (PIO)** – Handles media and public communication.
- **Safety Officer** – Ensures responder and public safety.
- **Liaison Officer** – Coordinates with external agencies.

3. General Staff (Four Sections)

- **Operations Section** – Executes tactical activities to achieve objectives.
- **Planning Section** – Collects and analyzes data, develops Incident Action Plans.
- **Logistics Section** – Provides resources, services, and support.
- **Finance/Administration Section** – Tracks costs, contracts, and documentation.

