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#### **BUSINESS CRISIS AND CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT**

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#### Abstract

Crisis and continuity management is a strategic responsibility and function for all organizations if they are to survive and prosper. Central to the development and maintenance of a comprehensive of the myriad functions supporting continuity and their interdependencies. It is fully recognized that they are two elements in an overall business continuity process and frequently one is not found without the other. It is fully recognized that they are two elements in an overall business continuity process and frequently one is not found without the other. The most recent versions of the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System include the private sector in all phases of crisis and emergency awareness, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery planning and operations. Business continuity management and funded to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to indentify the impact of potential losses, maintain viable recovery strategies and recovery plans, and ensure continuity of services through personnel training, plan testing and maintenance. Business continuity management and funded to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to indentify the impact of potential losses, maintain viable recovery strategies and recovery plans, and ensure continuity of services through personnel training, plan testing and maintenance. All organizations, from all sectors, are in fact businesses to the extent that they provide products and/or services to their customers.

#### Interdiction:

Crisis management is the art of making, decisions to head off or mitigate the effects of such an event itself is unfolding. Private sector organizations businesses that support the economy at the individual, family, community, local, state and national levels. Crisis and continuity management is a strategic responsibility and function for all organizations if they are to survive and prosper. Central to the development and maintenance of a comprehensive of the myriad functions supporting continuity and their interdependencies. Efficiency and effectiveness demand their integration and coordination into a comprehensive program of business crisis and continuity management.

### The term Business Crisis and Continuity Management:

Business Continuity Management: A good practices guideline explains the inconsistency in terminology by stating "Crisis Management and BCM are not seen as mutually exclusive albeit that they can of necessity stand alone based on the type of event. It is fully recognized that they are two elements in an overall business continuity process and frequently one is not found without the other." The Business management practices that provide the focus and suidance as management practices that provide the focus and suidance as the suida guidance for the decisions and actions necessary for a business to prevent, prepare for, respond to, resume, recover, restore and transition from a disruptive crisis event in a manner consistent with its strategic objectives.

# The Evolution of BCCM:

Business Crisis and continuity Management, as a recognized business Crisis and continuity Management, as the business program, has evolved over the past twenty plus years from a lechnology dealing almost lechnology centric disaster recovery function dealing almost exclusively contributed by the contributed by t exclusively with date protection and recovery to a much wider holistic and enterprise wide supporting focus. It is fully recognized that they two elements with the supporting focus. are two elements in an overall business continuity process and

frequently one is not found without the other The reality of business is that increasing and dynamic natural, technological and human induced threats, business complexity, government regulation, corporate governance requirements, and media and public scrutiny demand a comprehensive and integrated approach to business crisis and continuity management.

The National Strategy for the physical protection of critical infrastructures and key assets recognizes that the private sector generally remains the first line of defense for its own facilities and encourages private sector owners and operators to reassess and adjust their planning, assurance and investment programs to better accommodate the increased risk presented by deliberate acts of violence, The most recent versions of the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System include the private sector in all phases of crisis and emergency awareness, prevention, preparedness, response and recovery planning and operations. Preparedness in the private sector and public sector rescue, restart, and recovery of operations should include, as appropriate -

- A plan for evacuation; (a)
- Adequate communications capabilities; and (b)
- A plan for continuity of operations.

Compliance with NFPA 1600 may also find its way into insurance considerations including insurability, premium pricing, and deductible levels. Additionally, proof of adequate "Preparedness" is increasingly finding its way into contractual agreements between the public and private sectors and between private sector businesses.

#### NFPA 1600 Standard:

The NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity programs has gained national level attention and prominence. NFPA 1600, the result of a consensus process representing multiple constituencies from all sectors, is a logical and necessary first step in the development of national standards written at a level of detail that can be used to define and measure compliance. Business continuity management and funded to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to indentify the impact of potential losses, maintain viable recovery strategies and recovery plans, and ensure continuity of services through personnel training, plan testing and maintenance.

## A Framework for Integrated BCCM:

Consistent with the philosophy of an integrated BCCM program is the need for a visual framework identifying the component functions and their relationship to one another. A visual framework should be simple enough to be understandable at all levels of an organization, yet complete enough to support the case for functional integration and management to multiple stakeholders including, boards of directors, executive level managers, stock owners and

# Business Crisis and Continuity Management Framework:

It must be emphasized that the BCCM framework, as presented, is in no way intended to prescribe a model organization chart for any business. It is merely the representation of multiple functions that require integrations and coordination for the sake of program effectiveness and efficiency.

Enterprise Management - The systemic understanding and management of business operations within the context of the organization's culture, beliefs, mission, objectives and organizational structure.

Crisis Management - The coordination of efforts to control a crisis event consistent with strategic goals of an organization. Although generally associated with response recovery and resumption operations during and following a crisis event, crisis management responsibilities extend to pre-event mitigation, prevention and preparedness and pose event restoration and

Crisis Communication - All means of communication, both internal and external to an organization, designed and delivered to support the crisis management function.

Knowledge Management - The acquisition, assurance, representation, transformation, transfer and utilization of information supporting Enterprise Management.

Risk Management - The synthesis of the risk assessment, business area analysis, business impact analysis, risk communication and risk-based decision making functions to make strategic and tactical decisions on how business risks will be treated whether ignored, reduced, transferred, or avoided.

Program Implementation - The implementation and management of specific programs such as physical security, cyber security, environmental health, occupational health and safety, etc., that supports the Business Crisis and Continuity Management program within the context of Enterprise Management.

Systems Monitoring - Measuring and evaluating program performance in the context of the enterprise as an overall system of interrelated parts.

Awareness/Training/Exercising - A tiered program to develop and maintain individual, team and organizational awareness and preparedness, ranging from individual and group familiarization and skill based training through full organizational exercises.

Incident Management - The management operations, logistics, planning, finance and administration, safety and information flow associated with the operational response to the consequences/impacts

Business Continuity - The business specific plans and actions that enable an organization to respond to a crisis event in a manner such that business functions, sub function and processes are recovered and resumed according to a predetermined plan, prioritized by their criticality to the economic viability of the business.

Restoration and Transition - Plans and actions to restore and transition a business to "new normal" operations following a crisis event.

#### Conclusion:

Business crisis and continuity management as a strategic program with supporting functions and sub-functions that must be integrated for the sake of overall effectiveness and efficiency. All organizations, from all sectors, are in fact businesses to the extent that they provide products and/or services to their customers. Protection of the ability to provide these products and/or services is a strategic imperative that must be understood and supported at all levels of any organization.

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