Ensuring Emergency Preparedness

Blue Line Training Ltd
Beyond the Blue Line
Ensuring Emergency Preparedness

Blue Line Training Exercise Prospectus
Introduction

The purpose of implementing a Blue Line exercise programme is to offer organisational preparedness through timely and effective exercising of plans, procedures and people on a strategic, tactical and operational level. To ensure organisational preparedness Blue Line exercise programmes offer independent, realistic and customer focused bespoke exercise to meet your organisational needs.

Why do you need an exercise programme?

Testing the plan is more important than the plan itself.¹

Regulation 25(a) of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004² requires category one responders to have in place, plans for known local and regional risks. This regulation also states that the plans include provisions for carrying out exercises of said plan and the plan must include a reference to an exercise program.

Most organisations have written plans that had never been embedded into their organisations through training, testing and exercising and therefore the plan may fail in the event of an emergency. This is not because the plan is not fit for purpose but because the plan has not been embedded correctly through training, has not been tested and has not been exercised. Blue line training can design a bespoke training program for your organisation to ensure that any flaws in your planning arrangements are identified and dealt with in a safe learning environment so you can be assured that your plans are fit for purpose in case of emergencies.

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The emergency planning cycle is a systematic and ongoing process and is at the heart of all Blue Line exercise programmes; it prepares organisations to respond to emergencies as lessons evolve and circumstances change. Blue Line training’s exercise programmes are based on a tried, tested and proved exercise theory.

Blue Line offers a number of different exercise packages from a gold standard incremental build process to one off workshops or seminars.

**Gold Standard – Incremental Build**

Exercising is the primary tool for assessing preparedness and identifying areas for improvement and change. As lessons are identified and improvements or changes are made the outcome of each exercise will build upon future planning and exercising. A comprehensive incremental build exercise programme will ensure preparedness by;

- Assessing and validating policies, plans, procedures, people (training), assumptions and interagency agreements.
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities of all involved.
- Improving interagency coordination and communications.
- Identifying capability gaps.
- Identify opportunities for improvements.

Blue Line Training gold standard incremental build exercise programme uses a combination of exercise types to effectively accomplish exercise specific objectives. The comprehensive exercise program sits within the top part of the emergency planning cycle and assists in embedding the plans into the organisations themselves. Lessons which are identified through exercising can be fed straight back into the appropriate exercise and projects so that learning can be developed.

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Why does your organisation need an incremental build?

You cannot understand a concept if you are not aware of it or you cannot remember it. Similarly you cannot apply knowledge and concepts if you do not understand them. It is a continuum from Lower Order Thinking Skills (LOTS) to Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). We cannot ask a participant to take part in an exercise if they do not understand the concept that is being exercised. Therefore a schedule of incremental learning and exercises is key to the success of any exercise programme. It is essential that at the end of an exercise the participant leaves with a solid foundation of what good practice is and not an understanding of bad practice.

Therefore Blue Line Training’s exercise programme shows a natural progression to guide participants through a number of exercise and learning opportunities. Below demonstrates the building blocks of learning through workshops, seminars, discussion-based exercises, table-top exercises and a final table-top exercise or command post exercise.

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Workshop

Blue Line training Ltd offer workshops which are designed to achieve specific goals or build a product. For example to workshop a plans aim and objectives, the plan structure and design or to workshop an exercise scenario. We work directly with your emergency planning officers and departments and involve them from the start ensuring that the exercise build and delivery is unique to you, your staff and your organisation.

Seminar

A Blue Line Training seminar, provides an overview of plans, resources, strategies, concepts and ideas in an educational nature through presentations or lectures ensuring that all staff are aware of the plans aims, objectives and capabilities.

Exercises

A Blue Line Training exercise is a bespoke designed simulation to validate emergency or business plans, they rehearse key staff and test systems and procedures.

Discussion Based Exercise

A Blue Line Training discussion based exercise is designed to be used as a ‘talk through’ of the plan it is used to develop awareness of the plan through discussion.

Table Top Exercise (TTX)

A Blue Line Training table top exercise simulates an emergency situation in an informal and stress free environment. They are designed to elicit discussion, participants examine and resolve problems based on your existing emergency plans.
Live Simulation or Command Post Exercise

A Blue Line Training Live Simulation or Command Post Exercise (CPX) is designed to examine the coordination and integration of communication arrangements and information flows between remotely positioned teams and people at senior decision making levels.

The choice, of which exercise or learning method used, will depend on the purpose of the exercise and the big question of lead in time and the resources available.

Blue Line Training can design a full bespoke five step incremental build exercise package consisting of workshops, seminars, discussion based exercises, table-top exercises and live exercise simulations if that is what your organisation needs or requires. Blue Line Training can also design bespoke singular exercises according to your organisational requirements.

Contact Blue Line Training for a free independent assessment and quote of your exercise needs.

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