Crisis Management for Executive Teams: Strategic Crisis Decision-Making

13 – 17 September 2027
London - Central London four-star

CORE CONCEPT

Crisis Management for Executive Teams: Strategic Crisis Decision-Making

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Introduction

Strategic leadership during high-stakes disruption requires structured governance, clear decision authority, and rapid synthesis of ambiguous data. Practising executive crisis management demands that senior leaders look beyond routine operational incident control and navigate complex dilemmas under intense scrutiny. Without tested escalation thresholds and structured deliberation protocols, leadership teams risk delayed action, coordination breakdown, and reputational damage. Designed for senior leaders, this programme in crisis management for executive teams embeds the strategic principles of ISO 22361 to establish institutional readiness, defensible decision logging, and coordinated recovery governance delivered through Core Concept.

Course Objectives

- Benchmark organisational preparedness and board-level accountabilities against international guidance in ISO 22361.
- Structure a crisis management team charter with defined quorum rules, delegated authorities, and activation criteria.
- Execute strategic crisis decision-making under deep uncertainty using structured analytical models and defensible decision logs.
- Direct external and internal stakeholder priorities, corporate messaging oversight, and multi-agency coordination during major disruptions.
- Supervise the transition from crisis stabilization to strategic recovery while institutionalising systematic post-crisis reviews.
- Formulate an enterprise-ready executive crisis management framework tailored to organizational governance requirements.

Target Audience

- Chief executive officers, managing directors, and executive committee members forming the strategic crisis response team
- Non-executive directors and board members tasked with risk governance and institutional resilience oversight
- Senior executives leading operations, corporate finance, legal counsel, and human resources holding crisis decision authority
- Chief risk officers, heads of corporate security, and enterprise resilience directors governing crisis preparedness
- Corporate affairs directors and communication leaders directing strategic reputation protection
- Divisional directors, business unit heads, and regional managing leaders managing distributed crisis command

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Course Outline

Day 1: Crisis Typology and Executive Governance

- Categorisation of sudden, smouldering, and systemic disruptions
- Board oversight responsibilities and executive legal and fiduciary accountabilities
- Alignment with ISO 22361 crisis management principles and capability maturity models
- Strategic horizon scanning and risk velocity mapping for severe threat scenarios
- Institutional crisis readiness evaluation using an executive diagnostic self-assessment

Day 2: Crisis Architecture and Escalation Thresholds

- Delineation of strategic, tactical, and operational crisis response tiers
- Crisis management team charter design, member roles, quorum rules, and delegated authority limits
- Defined activation triggers and escalation thresholds transitioning incidents to strategic crises
- Interoperability with ISO 22301 business continuity systems and ISO 31000 risk management frameworks
- Application of the Cynefin framework to evaluate complex and chaotic operational environments

Day 3: Strategic Decision Protocols and Situational Awareness

- Establishing situational awareness and maintaining an executive common operating picture
- Application of the OODA loop and recognition-primed decision models under extreme time pressure
- Maintenance of a defensible crisis decision log with contemporary rationale documentation
- Strategic stakeholder mapping and prioritisation using the Mitchell salience framework
- Executive oversight of crisis communication strategy aligned with Situational Crisis Communication Theory

Day 4: Bias Mitigation, Coordination, and Recovery Transition

- Countering executive groupthink and cognitive biases through structured pre-mortem analysis and red teaming
- Multi-party collaboration and external stakeholder coordination during cascading systemic events
- Operational endurance planning, executive fatigue management, and crisis team rotation schedules
- Governing the transition from dynamic crisis response to long-term business recovery and renewal
- Post-incident review methodology and formal institutional learning cycles

Day 5: Strategic Simulations and Framework Finalisation

- Executive simulation on cyber extortion involving ransomware demands and governance dilemmas
- Executive simulation on product contamination requiring rapid recall and brand protection decisions
- Structured hot debrief methodology and forensic decision log review
- Compilation and refinement of the organisation-specific executive crisis management framework
- Peer review challenge panel and final framework validation

Skills You Will Gain

- Strategic Crisis Decision-Making
- Crisis Governance
- Situational Awareness
- Stakeholder Salience Prioritisation
- Cognitive Bias Countermeasures
- Strategic Recovery Transition
- Resilient Capability Oversight

Why Attend This Course

- Formulate an executive crisis management framework validated through peer challenge and structured board-level criteria.
- Rehearse high-consequence choices in safe simulated environments with expert feedback on decision rationale and timing.
- Identify and neutralise cognitive traps, stress-induced fatigue, and groupthink that impair executive deliberation.
- Exchange operational insights and governance benchmarks with executive peers across diverse industries and international markets.

Conclusion

The reputational and commercial viability of an enterprise during severe disruption hinges on the speed, clarity, and defensibility of strategic choices made by executive leadership. By establishing structured governance architectures under ISO 22361, implementing systematic decision logs, and calibrating escalation thresholds between operational and strategic command tiers, organisations protect their stakeholders and long-term continuity. Participating executives leave equipped to steer high-stakes emergencies with composure, transforming organizational vulnerability into sustained institutional resilience through a fully formulated executive crisis management framework.