Crisis and tabletop exercise

Turn authority, communication and recovery into a measurable rehearsal.

Printable workpaper. The detailed guide and all scenario branches are in the Markdown file.

Controlled tabletop only; do not send exercise messages to real customers, regulators or media.

Process and expected evidence

1. Choose measurable behavior

Objective and observation plan

2. Deliver the inject

Timed inject and decision record

3. Observe decisions and communication

Decision, information and recipient trail

4. Retest the learning

Action and repeat-exercise result

Work record

Scope / date:
Business / technical owner:
Decision and rationale:
Evidence reference / retest:

Example and closure

Fictional example; not evidence of actual work.

Inject / time: EX-01 / 09:00

Expected decision: Activate alternate channel

Observed: On-call cannot access

Gap: Missing access

Owner: Continuity owner

Validation: Retest with a short inject

Closure checklist

[ ] Objectives and boundaries approved.

[ ] No messages to real recipients.

[ ] Observation includes decision rationale.

[ ] Improvements retested.

Official sources

CISA — Tabletop Exercise Packages

https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/services/cisa-tabletop-exercise-packages

NIST SP 800-61 Rev. 3 — Final, April 2025

https://csrc.nist.gov/pubs/sp/800/61/r3/final