

# COMAH AWARENESS FOR ACCOUNTABLE EXECUTIVES

## What is the problem we are solving?

Leaders with accountability for establishments designated under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) clearly want to comply with the regulations and guidance; and have appropriate risk management in place to protect their business interests. Consequences of failure can be prolonged investigation, scrutiny from the Competent Authority, fines, business interruption, excessive waste of management time, litigation, reputation damage and even prosecution leading to jail.

We find widely varying levels of awareness about COMAH requirements. Most executives tell us they want a summary that gets out of the weeds and identifies key points they need to understand – particularly those they may need to take action on.

## What makes the difference?

When leaders know their organisation is managing risk proportionately, then they have a defensible position they can rely on. To get to that point, your accountable executives need insight to why the regulations exist; what they require and how you satisfy these requirements. In addition, they need to know what they may be required to do in real major accident, whether onsite or offsite. They are likely to be part of a corporate crisis team that will need to manage the impacts to business and reputation. They need to understand how they will respond and how they will interface effectively with your organisation's emergency and incident teams, external response agencies and key stakeholders.

## How does our solution achieve this?

Our awareness sessions work because we treat them like any other good development programme. We understand what your executives need to achieve; we understand where they currently are; and we create the conditions for them to develop towards your objectives. We use mainly experiential learning. Our consultants are skilled and experienced practitioners. They use highly effective coaching and facilitation techniques. We go beyond the process to develop individual leadership behaviours and team dynamics.

Contact us on [opportunities@eddistone.com](mailto:opportunities@eddistone.com) to discuss how we can help you.



## What does an awareness session look like?

Before scheduling your awareness session, we work with you to identify the current level of awareness among your accountable executive(s). We find senior leaders have widely ranging experience, depending on exposure to other organisations. We ensure that our sessions are pitched at the right level for them. We identify awareness objectives for executives and clarify what each training session will deliver. You may wish to refer to related programmes, including risk registers or safety cases, for example.

Our awareness sessions usually take a half day. Delegates engage in approximately 40% explanation and 40% facilitated discussion and 20% tabletop exercise. Throughout the session, we describe good practice in relation to compliance with COMAH regulations, comparing it with your current arrangements. We overlay this with the 5R framework to collectively consider the effectiveness of your arrangements: Risk, Readiness, Response, Recovery and Review. Throughout, we record any gaps and requests for information or action so we can facilitate a concise debrief at the end. You receive a summary of findings within a few days.

## What are the benefits?

### LEADING EDGE

Using this approach puts you at the leading edge of emergency management. You will be using a tried and tested, best practice process and it will be delivered by experienced practitioners. Our product draws on the best of related industry and emergency services best practices.

### RELEVANT

Our consultants have recent, relevant experience of emergency and crisis management in the public and private sectors. They are formally trained trainers, facilitators and coaches. They are all familiar with your industry and the risk issues facing it. This gives them credibility with your executives.

### AUTHORITATIVE

Subject matter in our awareness session is aligned with COMAH Regulations 2015, Guidance on COMAH (L111) and Emergency Planning for Major Accidents (HSG191). Most of our other COMAH courses are accredited by JOIFF, the Organisation for Emergency Services Management.

### OUTPUT-FOCUSED

We ensure executives understand your response arrangements under the regulations; and know their part in them, including actions they are required to take. This gives you board-level assurance that your organisation has invested in your key people's competence. You have a defensible position.