

COMAH MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISES

What is the problem we are solving?

The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) require designated sites to test offsite emergency plans periodically. In addition to complying with regulations, operators want to ensure appropriate response arrangements are in place to protect their business interests.

Failing to effectively test emergency plans can result in scrutiny from the Competent Authority, fines, business interruption, waste of management time, reputation damage and even prosecution. But planning and conducting these exercises is a huge task for any organisation. Emergency Services, Local Authorities and Local Resilience Forums are not resourced to deliver exercises.

What makes the difference?

You need a cost-effective solution that limits the burden on management time. You need a provider who understands your industry and your specific operations on-site. You need highly competent end-to-end project management of the exercise and seamless coordination of the delivery. And you need it to be coordinated between numerous stakeholders including local authority, emergency services, partners, supply chain, customers and shareholders.

On the day, you should expect to see expert facilitation and a coaching mindset from consultants; and use of appropriate technology to produce hi-fidelity simulation. And the outputs need to demonstrate high value: you need actionable, evidence-based findings.

How does our solution achieve this?

We specialize in High Reliability Organisations and COMAH regulated sites, so we don't need to reinvent the wheel. Our consultants have developed numerous multi-agency exercises, so we have good contacts with emergency services and local authorities: we bridge the gap between them and your commercial needs. We take responsibility for project management of what can be a complex event.

We use highly experienced consultants to deliver your exercise, all of whom are trainers, assessors and facilitators. We adopt a coaching mindset, so your people can benefit from experiential learning and get maximum value from the day. We do the heavy lifting so you can fully benefit from the experience and maximise the outputs.

Contact us on opportunities@eddistone.com to discuss how we can help you.



What do our COMAH multi-agency exercises look like?

First, we work with you and your key stakeholders to elicit (and sometimes deconflict) objectives and expectations. We can often find unexpected synergies for your stakeholders, who also stand to benefit from your work. Once we have agreed a basic scope, we may suggest running a tabletop exercise to prove the concept, before we start preparation. Throughout the development phase, we liaise with local authority planners, emergency services, partners on site and shareholder organisations. Once we have conducted rehearsals (we don't leave much to chance) we prepare communications for you to disseminate to all participants, supporting you with coordination and briefings where you need it.

On the day we deploy a coordination cell to drive the scenario and expert facilitators to observe and coach participants. Often the logistics involved are complex and we help you deal with potentially hundreds of responders, role-players and external observers. Immediately following the exercise we facilitate a structured debrief to ensure we capture learning for you. We then consolidate this in a report with recommendations and options for action planning.

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 exercises draw on the best of industry and emergency services best practices.

EXPERIENCED

Our consultants have experience of designing and delivering around one hundred emergency and crisis management exercises on similar sites. They are all familiar with your industry and the risk issues facing it. They are formally trained trainers, assessors, facilitators and coaches; all of whom have been in response roles in the private and/or public sectors.

AUTHORITATIVE

Our exercises ensure you comply with COMAH Regulations 2015, Guidance on COMAH (L111) and Emergency Planning for Major Accidents (HSG191). We enable you to go beyond compliance to adopt industry best practice in emergency preparedness.

OUTPUT-FOCUSED

We ensure you can demonstrate effective testing of your plans and other response arrangements. We facilitate and capture a structured debrief, making recommendations available and helping you develop action plans where required. This gives the Competent Authority assurance and your board a defensible position.