

Tabletop exercise

Prepare for an incident by practicing your response process

There are three certainties in life: death, taxes, and cyber attacks. In today’s data-driven world, it’s not a matter of if, it’s a matter of when you’ll experience an incident. Enterprises that practice their response procedures fare better than those caught by surprise. According to Gartner Research, *“When a major security incident strikes, the pressure of the moment can magnify small errors in incident response documentation and skill sets. Regular training on incident response exposes gaps and flaws in documented response processes and helps develop the capabilities of the response team.”*¹

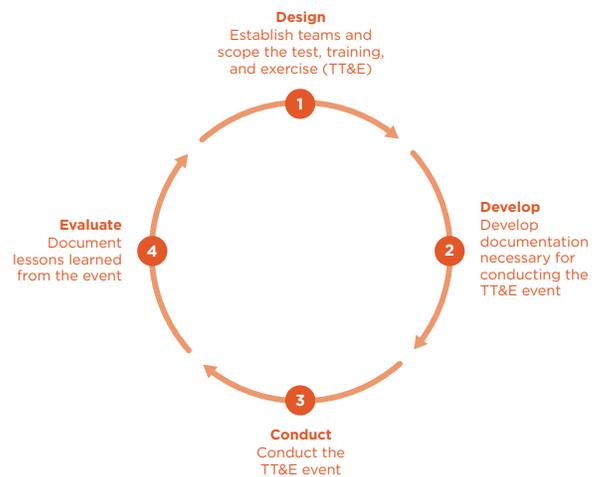
To help you develop the skills and experience that are needed to respond to an incident, Coalfire delivers tabletop exercises that help your organization identify and articulate risk, test your response procedures prior to an actual event, and identify necessary process improvements. Through such exercises, you can better provide assurance to your board and senior management that risk is identified and response activities have been adequately thought-through and tested.

Our tabletop exercise can help organizations:

- Ensure incident response teams (IRTs) are adequately trained on incident response plans and procedures.
- Determine if existing plans, procedures, and processes are sufficient in identifying events, minimizing damage caused by those events, and facilitating rapid recovery.
- Ensure organizations stay current on emerging risks.

APPROACH

Our tabletop exercise methodology is based on guidelines from NIST and experience gained in real-world breach response engagements. Our approach enables management teams to gain practical experience in breach response before an actual event occurs.



¹“Tutorial: How to Plan and Run a Tabletop Training Exercise on Incident Response,” ID: G00175569, Gartner Research.

The tabletop exercise includes:

- **Phase 1: Design (pre-engagement)** – Understand your organization's profile, environment, and specific areas of concern by defining objectives and identifying scenario complexity, topics, exercise duration, and participants. *Timeframe: one hour or less but varies depending on scope.*
- **Phase 2: Develop** – Analyze client-provided documentation and develop materials to support the exercise based on the scope outlined in Phase 1. *Timeframe: one-and-a-half to two weeks.*
- **Phase 3: Conduct** – Administer the tabletop exercise with a Coalfire - assigned facilitator, who leads the test, and a data collector, who observes and documents how participants respond to scenario events. *Timeframe: two to four hours but varies depending on exercise complexity.*
- **Phase 4: Evaluate** – Evaluate the exercise and develop an after-action report that describes the exercise; participants' responses; and whether pre-existing plans were followed and if so, whether expected results were achieved. *Timeframe: one week.*

Deliverables

Project deliverables are customized to provide enduring value, and typically include:

- Exercise overview presentation
- Facilitator guidebook
- Participant guidebook
- Tabletop exercise after-action report
 - Timeline of events
 - Scenario injects used to stimulate participant discussion

- Participant responses to injects
- Recommendations for improvement

EXPERIENCE

Coalfire has more than a decade of experience identifying and testing incident response procedures across a wide array of industries, including:

- Biotech
- Education
- Technology
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Oil and gas

WHY COALFIRE

- **World-class expertise** – Our team has advised clients on incident-related communications to help organizations respond to attacks quickly and effectively.
- **Client-centric approach** – Our approach involves collaborative discussion to understand an organization's defensive posture.
- **Efficiency** – We involve key stakeholders to help identify processes and organizational crisis response capabilities, and then we structure the exercise with the goal of reducing operational impact.
- **Proven** – Our legal community partners engage Coalfire to assist their clients with evaluating and improving their crisis response capabilities.
- **High-value results** – By combining our proven methodology with industry-leading expertise, we can help develop and improve your organization's cyber crisis processes, tools, and proficiencies.

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**ENSURE YOU'RE READY
FOR AN INCIDENT.**

**Learn more about Coalfire's
tabletop exercises.**

Coalfire.com | 877.224.8077

COALFIRE.

About Coalfire

Coalfire is the cybersecurity advisor that helps private and public sector organizations avert threats, close gaps, and effectively manage risk. By providing independent and tailored advice, assessments, technical testing, and cyber engineering services, we help clients develop scalable programs that improve their security posture, achieve their business objectives, and fuel their continued success. Coalfire has been a cybersecurity thought leader for more than 17 years and has offices throughout the United States and Europe. **Coalfire.com**