



# In the spotlight: emergency planning principles



We interviewed Craig Menzies, UK Manager at Restrata, ahead of our upcoming training course on Emergency Planning Principles, on why it is important for companies to understand the core principles of emergency planning in a world where threat and risk profiles are constantly changing.

## Why is it important for businesses to understand the key aspects of emergency planning?

There appears to be an increasing number of attacks against "soft-targets" in the UK and Europe. These types of incidents can cause issues for a business in any sector or industry, potentially having a negative impact on brand reputation and a financial implication. It is important not to bury your head in the sand by adopting an "it will never happen to us" attitude, and instead ensure that emergency planning principles have been understood, considered and a suitable strategy put in place to mitigate risks.

Beyond these atrocities, businesses are at risk of multiple emergencies occurring from the result of natural disasters, fire or human error; does your organisation have a clear picture of potential issues that could negatively impact the business, mapped against an emergency plan, and have people and processes been tested to check that the plan will work?

## What skills does someone need to work as part of an emergency preparedness team?

The ability to investigate each individual department's emergency preparedness needs as well as understand the requirements across the wider business is key.

Strong communication skills and the ability to work with little or no supervision are also important. Additionally, it is important to be able to develop and implement emergency management techniques and plans, but also be able to conduct after-action critiques for emergency drills to determine how to better them next time.



## How important is it to maintain liaison with government bodies when working in an emergency planning and/or management role?

Extremely important. Working in emergency preparedness in any capacity requires you to create and maintain relationships with government emergency services such as the police and fire departments. It is important to maintain this liaison so that you can be confident of immediate response from these services in the event of an emergency.

## What are the core takeaways that attendees will receive if they attend the Emergency Planning Principles training course?

The course will provide valuable information about how an emergency plan is created and why it is so important to have one in place. It will help attendees understand which outside groups may be involved during an emergency situation, and what the proper paths of communications are with these groups, as well as within your own organisation.

The course will also discuss the responsibilities that you have in an emergency situation, including things such as equipment shutdown and evacuation.

## Who benefits most from attending this type of course?

Anyone involved in or responsible for the prevention of major accidents or incidents, project and plant managers, and those in senior positions in an organisation that require a greater understanding of emergency planning.

This type of course isn't necessarily just for beginners either. Legislation is always changing to bring about improvements so it is equally important to attend courses like this even if you are already trained to handle emergency planning and management.

## About Craig

Craig is a former Police Officer in Grampian Police (latterly Police Scotland) with a varied career spanning 30 years. A supervisor for 20 years with vast experience of managing and motivating both small operational teams and full Divisional Response and Incident Response Teams in Aberdeen.

Previously worked in the Leadership and Professional Development Division of the Scottish Police College, where he both designed and delivered courses. He has well developed interpersonal skills and is an excellent communicator, skills acquired from over 15 years as a Police Hostage, Kidnap and Crisis Negotiator, including as an instructor and author in the UK and internationally.

He held the highest UK Security clearance (DV) until 2013. Since joining Restrata, Craig has delivered a number of projects on behalf of major clients, including the review and creation of emergency response plans (both onshore and offshore) for all business levels, and the design and delivery of specialist training in relation to emergency response management, kidnap and crisis intervention.

## About Restrata

Founded in 2006, Restrata is a British owned group with offices in the UK, Iraq, Kurdistan and Kuala Lumpur, and headquartered in the United Arab Emirates. Restrata addresses security solutions from a consultative perspective to build client resilience and optimise operations through effective management of safety and security risks.

View full details about IChemE's Emergency Planning Principles training course and register online at [www.icheme.org/emergency-planning](http://www.icheme.org/emergency-planning)

In-company options available, e-mail [courses@icheme.org](mailto:courses@icheme.org) to request a quotation.

