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HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Healthcare System Cybersecurity Response: Experiences and Considerations

March 18, 2021

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- Area for password-protected discussion among vetted users in near real-time
- Ability to support chats and the peer-to-peer exchange of user-developed templates, plans, and other materials



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Moderator: John Hick, M.D.
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Setting the Stage

- Focus on effects of cyber incidents on the healthcare operational environment, specifically:
 - Ability to effectively care for patients
 - Maintaining business practices
 - Ensuring readiness and recovery
- Cyberattacks were identified as top threat in healthcare system Hazard Vulnerability Analyses (HVAs)
- Lessons learned and best practices should be shared across the health sector to improve preparedness and response efforts

Select Cybersecurity Resources

- ASPR TRACIE
 - [Cybersecurity Topic Collection](#)
 - [Exchange Issue 2: Cybersecurity and Cyber Hygiene](#)
 - [Cybersecurity and Healthcare Facilities Video](#)
 - [Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness and Response Considerations](#) and accompanying [Overview Presentation](#)
- ASPR
 - [ASPR Critical Infrastructure Protection](#)
 - [Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center \(HC3\)](#)
 - Joint HPH Cybersecurity Working Group/[405\(d\) Program](#)



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Opening Thoughts

- IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!!
- It should be on everyone's HVA
- A planning committee is an important starting point
 - Multidisciplinary representation
 - External partners/vendors
 - System representation on a facility committee and vice versa are critical to success on both sides
 - Meet regularly
 - Take notes

At the Start

- Spend some time learning about past attacks
 - What happened and how?
 - Do those vulnerabilities relate to your facility/organization?
 - What lessons learned pertain to you?
- The Incident Response Plan should be comprehensive and not just a compendium of individual downtime practices
 - Alert /notification/authorities
 - Incident Management Team
 - Business Continuity/Business Impact Analysis
- Understand what will be enterprise-wide practice/decision versus local practice/opportunity for planning and response

Critical Preparedness Next Steps

- Maintain a list of all of your applications
 - Ensure new applications are added and they include downtime procedure and recovery steps
 - This includes biomedical equipment/ phones/ infrastructure controls
 - Keep back up copies!!
- Ensure that you understand how each application relates to one another
 - If you have links with external partners (e.g., HCC) keep them current
 - Make sure updates, patches, etc. are done on a timely basis

More Points on Preparedness

- Consider an external audit committee to assist with planning input and guidance
- Establish a priority restoration plan – can't bring them all back at once
- Don't focus just on clinical impact of an outage
 - Gift shop, parking, security, cafeteria, HR, payroll, etc.
 - Revenue cycle impact
- Practice, Practice, Practice!!!
 - But how?!!

Important Response Steps

- Have a clear problem reporting process
- Have clarity on definitions and who has authority to initiate the plan(s) and escalation procedures
- Duplication of alerting systems is important
- Consider having “Go Bags” containing critical items (e.g., plans, forms, checklists, etc.)

Additional Response Steps to Consider

- Communication will be critical – how can it best be done?!
- 24/7 IMT staffing and Unit/office downtime expertise will be needed along with Just-in-Time Training
- Address written record security and archiving
- Can we still provide high quality and safe patient care?
- Share updated work arounds/situational awareness for each shift

Additional Response Steps to Consider, con't

- What about the Health Information Exchange – can it be accessed and used?
- Redeploy staff to needed areas
 - Pharmacists to busy units
 - Staff who can't otherwise do their job – runners, scribes
- Work from home is an option
- Safety officer(s)/ security officers/ trainers roving

Recovery is Vital, too!!

- Planning for it starts early
- Dedicate staff to planning and executing this phase
- What are vendors doing?
- Implement the restoration priority list – and prepare for issues
- Communicate, communicate, communicate!!
- Data entry will be tedious, tiring, and labor intensive

Finally...

- Some data may/not be reconcilable
- Some IT applications may/not become non-recoverable
 - More likely when they are not part of the planning and recovery effort
- Financial implications should be expected so record them – from the outset and work with insurance company to address
- Public messaging will be important all along – but what can be said and who should say it may not be as easy as you think
- Effective communications (not just the plan) is important



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Operational Perspective

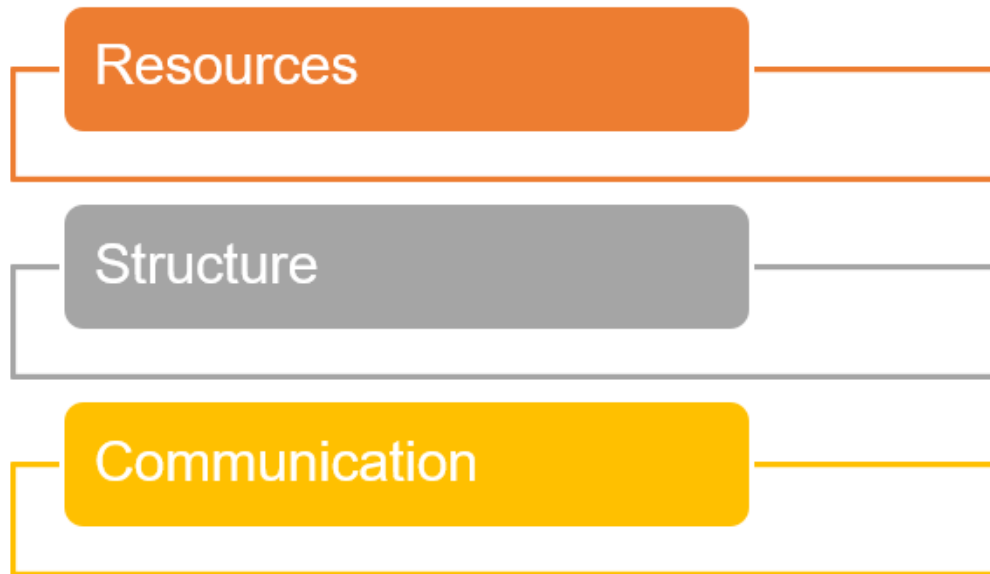


FEMA Emergency Management Cycle

Prepare - The Mindset

- The question is not “if” this will happen but “when”...
- Cyber hygiene is a patient safety goal

Prepare - HICS Training



Prepare - Resources

ALL departments must have business continuity plans

- Downtime preparedness checklist
- Systematic, on-going teams and preparedness processes
- Channels for approval and updates
- Drill, drill, drill

Prepare

- ❑ Validate that your unit “Go Bags” are ready

Unit “Go Bag” Contents:

- ✓ Flashlights/Headlamps- **check batteries**
 - ✓ White stickers with unit name on them (e.g., 6West) Unit evacuation plan
 - ✓ Unit smoke compartment map
 - ✓ Unit severe weather plan
 - ✓ Unit fire/evacuation plan
 - ✓ Both Severe Weather Checklists (Lead RN and RN-Clerk Tech-***need several copies**)
 - ✓ Pens, paper, clipboards
 - ✓ Red, Yellow, Green arm bands (only use when you need to leave the floor via the stairwells)
 - ✓ Unit supplies (e.g., masks, basins, tape, gloves, etc.)
-
- ❑ Review the checklists with Lead(s) & Staff
 - ❑ Pull out the medsled and practice
 - ❑ Check flashlights and headlamps and **CHANGE BATTERIES**
 - ❑ Participate in drill(s): Wed. March 28th – 1000 & 2000
 - ❑ Provide feedback via electronic drill survey



Prepare - Forms

Storage

- Where
- Access
- Format

Use

- Quick Tutorials
- Examples
- Organize

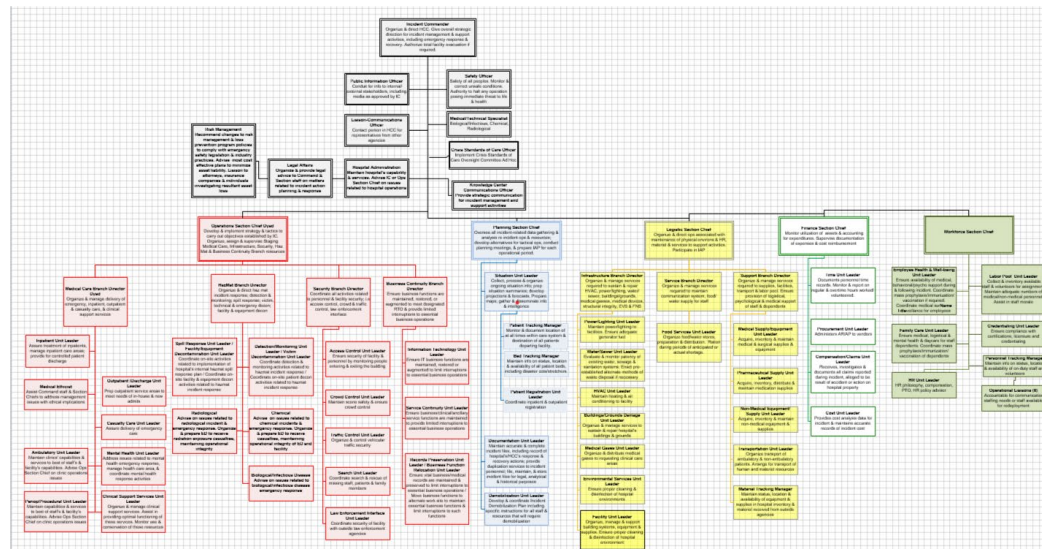
Process

- Paper Workflows
- Business Continuity Plans

Response - Implement

HICS

- Define critical services
 - Systems affected
 - Length of downtime
- Clinical Promising Practices – pg. 22



Response - Implement

Communicate, communicate, communicate!!

- Consider **informatics** team to assist with translation of clinical/operational staff and IT staff
- Use structure to assist with **internal messaging**
- Assign specific resources to external communication

Response - Workforce

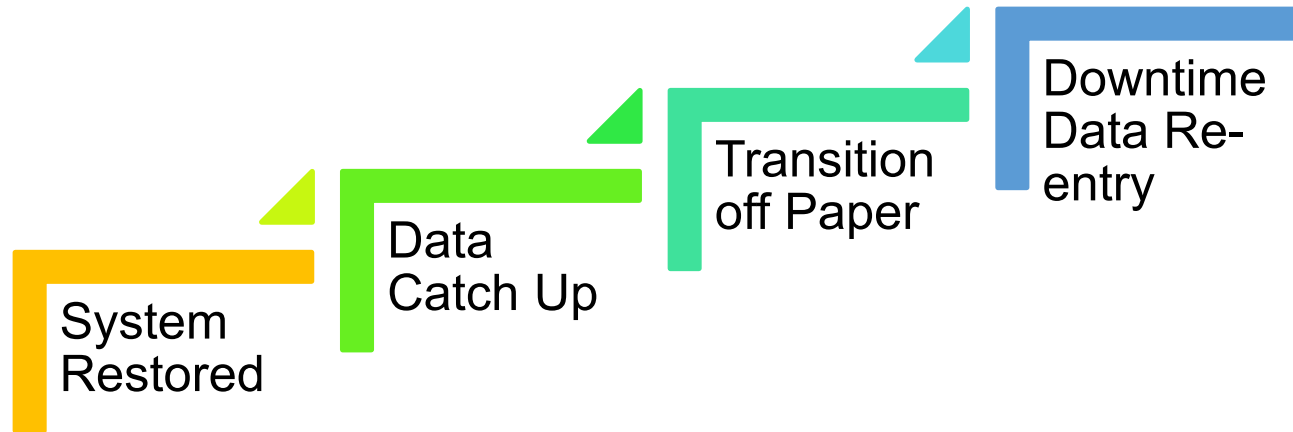
All hands on deck

- Assign leaders with calm, cool approach
- Consider unit/department deployment for lab, pharmacy, coders
- At the elbow assistance on units
- Those who cannot work can be helpful elsewhere
 - Runners

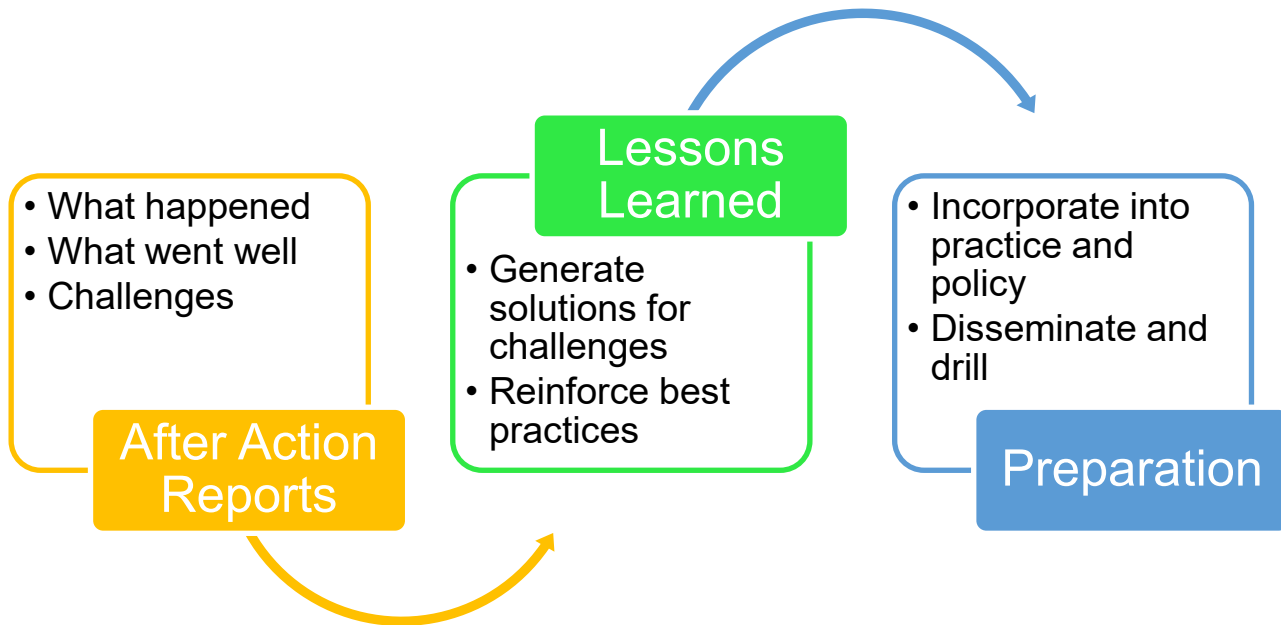
Recovery

Communicate, communicate, communicate!!

- Marathon
- Dimmer Switch Approach



Mitigation





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Cyber Security – Not just an IT issue

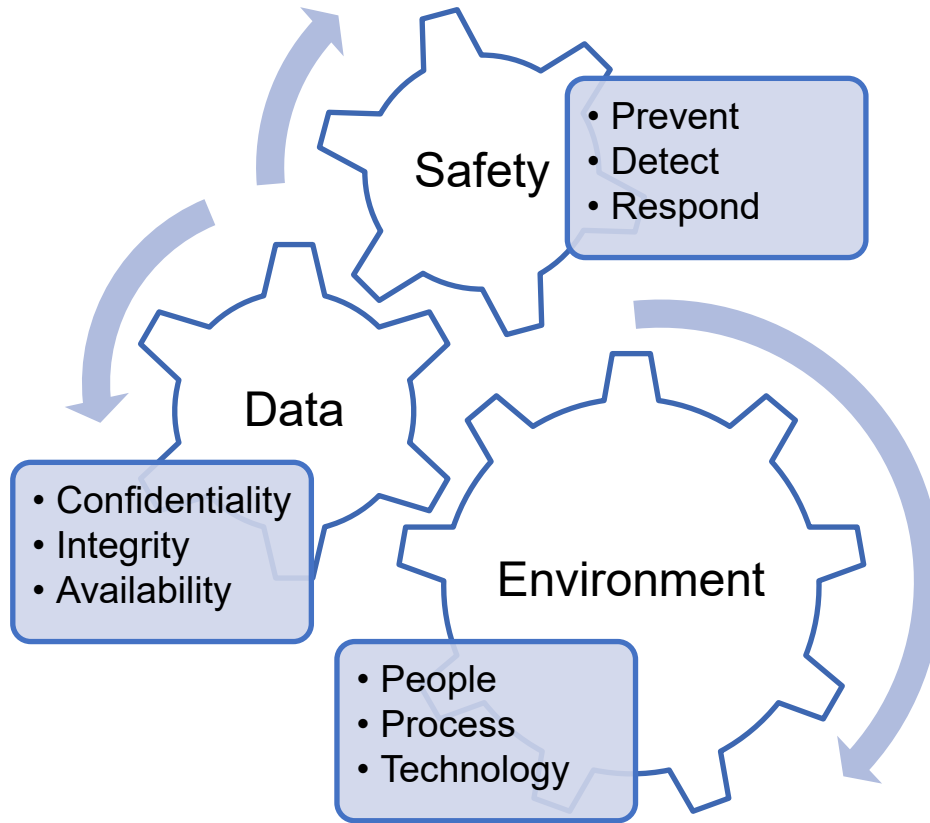
Safety Business Reputation

Board Of Directors





- Understand
- Know
- Learn
- Recover



SECURITY
RECOVERY
RESILIENCE CONTINGENCY
BUSINESS OPERATE
PLANNING
INCIDENT **CONTINUITY**
MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURES **RISK** ORGANIZATION PLAN
ANDARD PREPARATION
DISASTER

How to Build Business Continuity

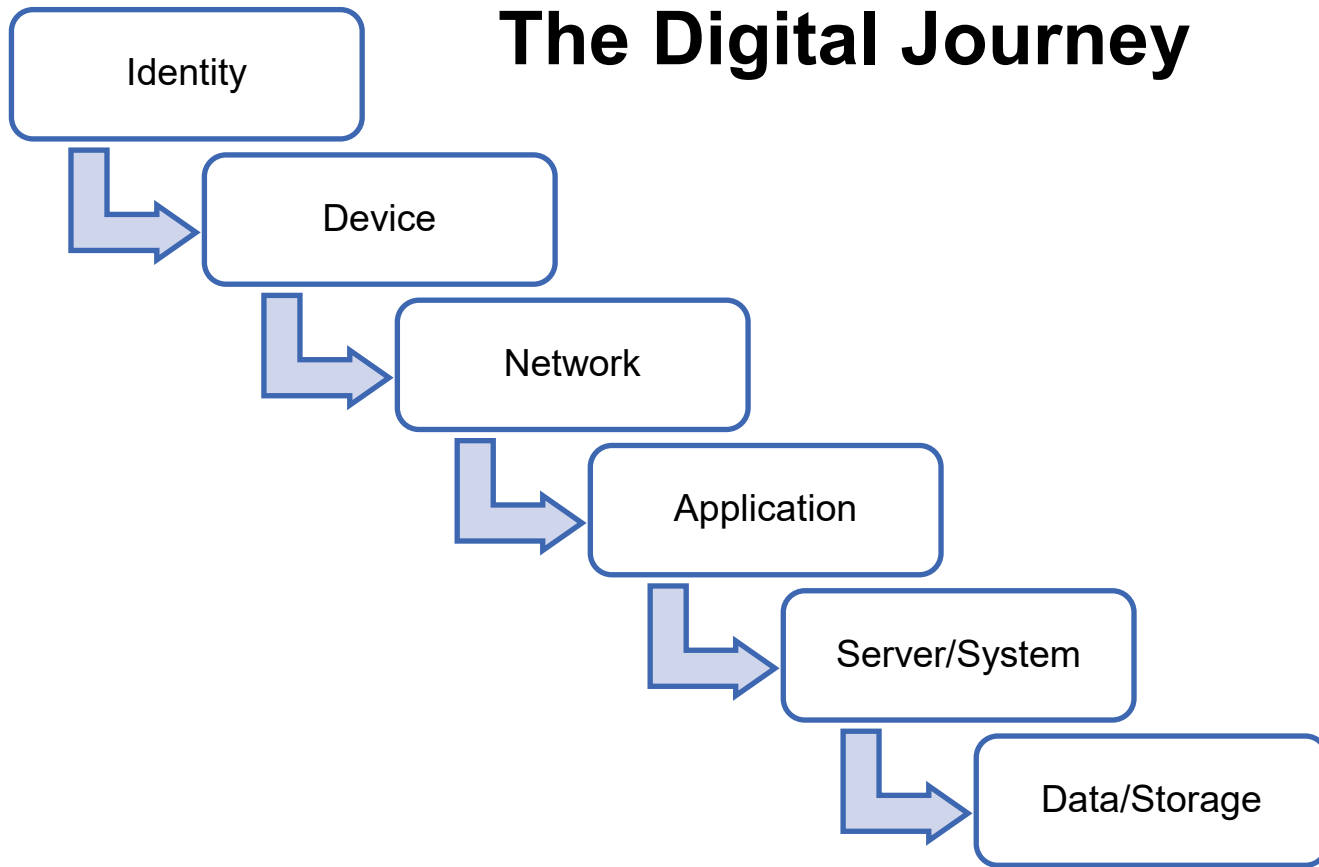
- Application/System Inventory & Interconnections
 - Know the technical & business owners
- Application Business Value Rating (ABVR)
- Drills/Exercises/Downtimes

How to Handle the Fire



- Protect
- Detect
- Suppress
- Contain
- Restore

The Digital Journey



Create the Gap Assessment



Positive Outcomes

Safety Business Reputation

Board Of Directors

Question & Answer



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