Strategic HSE Leadership and Crisis Management Training Course



09 - 13 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #HSE4216_262979

Course Introduction / Overview:

In a complex and unpredictable global environment, effective health, safety, and environment (HSE) leadership is not just about managing risks, it's about leading through crisis and building a resilient organization. This comprehensive training course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is designed for senior executives and leaders who need to develop a strategic approach to HSE. The program goes beyond technical safety concepts to focus on governance, culture, and crisis management. It explores how senior leadership can drive a proactive safety culture, ensuring that HSE is integrated into business strategy and decision-making. Participants will learn to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to high-impact events, minimizing their organizational and reputational damage. Drawing on insights from prominent academic figures like Professor Andrew Hopkins, known for his work in industrial disasters and organizational accidents, the course provides a blend of strategic theory and practical application. His book "Managing Major Hazards: The Lessons of the Piper Alpha Disaster" is a key text that informs the program's content on crisis leadership and accountability. BIG BEN Training Center is committed to equipping senior leaders with the frameworks and skills necessary to navigate complex HSE challenges and turn them into opportunities for organizational learning and improvement.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).
- Chief Operating Officers (COOs).
- Senior executives and corporate board members.
- HSE directors and managers.
- Risk and compliance directors.
- Operations and plant managers.
- Heads of corporate social responsibility.
- Government officials and regulators.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Oil and gas.
- Construction and engineering.
- Manufacturing and heavy industries.
- Energy and utilities.
- Aviation.
- Chemical and petrochemical.
- Finance and insurance.
- Government agencies and public services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Executive leadership.
- Corporate governance.
- Health, safety, and environment (HSE).
- Risk management.
- Operations.
- Human resources.
- Legal and compliance.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop and champion a strategic HSE vision at the executive level.
- Integrate HSE principles into core business strategies and decisions.
- Lead an organization through a major crisis or incident.
- Establish robust governance structures for HSE oversight.
- Foster a proactive and accountable safety culture from the top down.
- Understand the financial and reputational impacts of HSE failures.
- Communicate effectively during and after a crisis.
- Ensure legal and ethical compliance in a global context.
- Conduct high-level reviews of HSE performance and incident investigations.

Course Methodology:

This training course at BIG BEN Training Center uses an immersive and high-level methodology designed for senior executives. The program relies on interactive workshops and peer-to-peer discussions, allowing leaders to share experiences and learn from one another's successes and failures. The core of the course is built around in-depth case studies of major industrial disasters and near-miss events. Participants will analyze these scenarios from a leadership perspective, focusing on decision-making under pressure and the role of corporate culture. The program includes realistic crisis simulation exercises, where participants must respond to a simulated emergency, making critical decisions in real time. The instructor provides expert guidance and strategic feedback throughout these exercises. This approach helps participants develop not only a deeper understanding of HSE but also the leadership and communication skills required to manage a crisis effectively. BIG BEN Training Center ensures that the training is both intellectually rigorous and practically relevant, preparing leaders for their most challenging moments.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Strategic HSE Governance and Vision

- The CEO's role in health and safety.
- Integrating HSE into corporate strategy.
- Establishing board-level HSE governance.
- Developing a proactive and just safety culture.
- HSE's impact on business reputation and value.
- Ethical and legal obligations of senior leadership.
- Accountability frameworks and performance metrics.

Unit Two: Risk Management from an Executive Perspective

- Understanding strategic risks in HSE.
- Identifying major accident hazards.
- Risk tolerance and decision-making.
- Capital allocation for safety initiatives.
- Supply chain and contractor risk management.
- Assessing organizational capacity for risk.
- Communicating risk to stakeholders and investors.

Unit Three: Crisis Leadership and Communication

- Principles of effective crisis leadership.
- Developing a crisis management plan.
- The role of leadership in a crisis.
- Crisis communication strategies.
- Managing media and public perception.
- Responding to an official inquiry or investigation.
- Post-crisis recovery and learning.

Unit Four: Learning from Catastrophe

- Analysis of major industrial disasters.
- The human and organizational factors in accidents.
- Root cause analysis from a governance perspective.
- Psychological safety and its role in reporting.
- Leading a culture of continuous learning.
- Building organizational resilience.
- High-reliability organization principles.

Unit Five: Implementation and Executive Application

- Review of key concepts and their application.
- Developing a personal leadership action plan.
- Leading an HSE cultural transformation.
- Benchmarking against best-in-class organizations.
- Managing change and overcoming resistance.
- The future of HSE leadership.
- Final strategy discussion.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

In what ways does a strong commitment to HSE at the highest level of an organization become a strategic asset that attracts investment and enhances long-term value?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This program stands out by being specifically tailored for senior executives and leaders, addressing HSE from a strategic and governance perspective rather than a technical one. Unlike many training programs that focus on frontline safety, this course emphasizes the role of top leadership in shaping safety culture, managing corporate risk, and leading through a crisis. The curriculum is built around real-world case studies and crisis simulations, which provide a high-stakes, realistic environment for developing critical decision-making skills. The focus is on accountability, reputation management, and the financial impact of HSE failures, all of which are essential for C-suite professionals. This training is not about learning checklists or regulations, it is about understanding how to build a resilient and ethical organization that can withstand and learn from challenges. It provides a unique opportunity for senior leaders to elevate their understanding of HSE and turn it into a source of competitive advantage.