Advanced Crisis Communication and Reputation Recovery Training Course



28 Dec 2026 - 01 Jan 2027

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #MED2243_295656

Course Introduction / Overview:

In today's hyper-connected digital landscape, an organization's reputation can be shattered in an instant. This intensive training course is meticulously designed to equip professionals with the advanced skills needed to navigate the complexities of modern crises and steer their organizations toward successful reputation recovery. We move beyond basic theory to provide a comprehensive framework for proactive crisis preparedness, strategic response, and long-term brand resilience. The curriculum is deeply informed by leading academic research, including the work of Timothy Coombs and his influential Situational Crisis Communication Theory (SCCT), which provides a evidence-based framework for matching response strategies to specific crisis situations. As detailed in his book "Ongoing Crisis Communication: Planning, Managing, and Responding," a structured approach is paramount. At BIG BEN Training Center, we translate these critical academic insights into actionable strategies, ensuring participants can protect their organization's most valuable asset, its reputation, by mastering both the art and science of crisis communication and recovery in a volatile world.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Public Relations and Communications Professionals.
- Corporate Communications Managers and Directors.
- Senior Executives and C-Suite Leaders (CEOs, COOs).
- Marketing and Brand Managers.
- Legal Counsel and Compliance Officers.
- Government Spokespersons and Public Affairs Officers.
- Human Resources Managers.
- Risk Management and Business Continuity Planners.
- Anyone responsible for managing an organization's public image.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Energy, Oil, and Gas.
- Aviation and Transportation.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Hospitality and Tourism.
- Governmental and Public Sector Agencies.
- Non-Profit and Educational Institutions.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Corporate Communications and Public Relations.
- Executive Leadership and Senior Management.
- Marketing and Brand Management.
- Legal and Regulatory Affairs.
- Human Resources.
- Investor Relations.
- Customer Service and Support.
- Operations and Risk Management.
- Information Technology and Cybersecurity.

Course Offerings:

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

- Develop a comprehensive, multi-channel crisis communication plan.
- Identify potential vulnerabilities and conduct thorough risk assessments.
- Master techniques for effective media relations during a high-pressure crisis.
- Manage and mitigate the impact of a crisis on social media and digital platforms.
- Craft clear, consistent, and empathetic messaging for diverse stakeholders.
- Lead a crisis communication team with confidence and authority.
- Implement proven strategies for post-crisis reputation recovery and trust-building.
- Analyze crisis case studies to extract actionable lessons and best practices.
- Facilitate a post-crisis review to enhance organizational resilience.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed for maximum engagement and practical application. We believe that mastering crisis communication requires more than theoretical knowledge; it demands hands-on experience in a controlled environment. This course utilizes a blended learning approach, combining expert-led instruction with interactive workshops, real-world case study analysis, and collaborative group exercises. Participants will deconstruct famous corporate crises, debating the strategies employed and their outcomes. A significant portion of the training is dedicated to simulation and role-playing, where attendees will face realistic crisis scenarios, draft holding statements, and participate in mock press conferences. This immersive approach allows for immediate application of learned concepts and provides a safe space to practice critical decision-making under pressure. Our experienced facilitators foster a dynamic learning environment, providing personalized feedback and encouraging peer-to-peer learning to ensure that every participant leaves with a robust and tested skill set ready for immediate deployment.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One The Modern Crisis Landscape

- The Anatomy of a 21st-Century Crisis.
- Types of Crises: From Operational to Reputational.
- The Lifecycle of a Crisis: Proactive, Reactive, and Recovery Phases.
- Foundational Theories: An Introduction to Situational Crisis Communication Theory (SCCT).
- The Critical Role of Reputation Management in Business Valuation.
- Stakeholder Mapping and Prioritization in a Crisis Context.
- Initial Assessment: The First 48 Hours.

Unit Two Proactive Crisis Preparedness and Planning

- Conducting a Comprehensive Vulnerability and Risk Audit.
- Developing a Robust Crisis Communication Plan.
- Establishing the Crisis Communication Team: Roles and Responsibilities.
- Creating a Crisis Media Policy and Spokesperson Protocols.
- Pre-drafting Holding Statements and Key Messages.
- Building a 'Reputational Reservoir' Through Proactive PR.
- Tools and Technologies for Crisis Monitoring and Management.

Unit Three Strategic Crisis Response and Execution

- Activating the Crisis Communication Plan.
- Mastering the Initial Response: Timeliness, Transparency, and Empathy.
- Effective Media Management and Spokesperson Training.
- Managing the Digital Firestorm: Social Media Crisis Response Tactics.
- Internal Communications: Keeping Employees Informed and Engaged.
- Communicating with Regulators, Investors, and Other Key Stakeholders.
- Legal and Ethical Considerations in Crisis Messaging.

Unit Four Post-Crisis Reputation Recovery

- Conducting a Post-Crisis Damage and Impact Assessment.
- Developing a Strategic Reputation Recovery Roadmap.
- Rebuilding Trust with Customers, Employees, and the Public.
- Leveraging Communication to Demonstrate Change and Accountability.
- Managing Lingering Negative Sentiment and Misinformation.
- Turning a Crisis into an Opportunity for Organizational Improvement.
- Case Studies in Successful and Unsuccessful Reputation Recovery.

Unit Five Advanced Scenarios and Crisis Simulation

- Managing Cyber Crises and Data Breaches.
- Navigating Leadership and Executive Misconduct Crises.
- Product Recalls and Supply Chain Disruption Communications.
- Leading Through a Crisis: The Psychology of Crisis Leadership.
- Integrating Crisis Communication with Business Continuity Planning.
- Capstone Exercise: A Full-Scale, Interactive Crisis Simulation.
- Debrief, Feedback, and Action Planning for Future Resilience.

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 an era of deepfakes and rapid misinformation, how can organizations preemptively build a 'reputational immune system' that is resilient to attacks that have not yet been conceived?

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

This course distinguishes itself through its rigorous, forward-looking curriculum that bridges established academic theory with the volatile realities of the modern digital environment. While many programs focus solely on reactive measures, our approach dedicates significant time to proactive preparedness and long-term reputation resilience, viewing crisis management not as an isolated event but as a continuous organizational capability. We move beyond standard case studies to incorporate complex, multi-faceted simulations that challenge participants to make critical decisions under realistic pressure, covering emerging threats like AI-driven misinformation and cyber-attacks. The curriculum, deeply rooted in frameworks like Timothy Coombs' SCCT, ensures that every strategy taught is evidence-based and adaptable. Furthermore, the course emphasizes the psychology of crisis leadership and stakeholder trust, providing nuanced insights into the human elements of communication that are often overlooked. It is this holistic integration of proactive strategy, advanced simulation, and deep psychological insight that provides a uniquely comprehensive and practical learning experience, preparing leaders not just to manage a crisis, but to emerge from it stronger.