

What is Business Continuity?

Business Continuity (BC) focuses on the planning efforts that are needed to ensure Harvard's critical functions remain operational (perhaps in reduced mode) during and following disruptive incidents. Business Continuity is part of the emergency management cycle that connects the emergency response phase to the recovery phase. Proper Business Continuity planning will improve our chances of minimizing losses from interruptions by keeping the "business" (e.g., teaching, research, etc.) running.



Until now, Business Continuity planning efforts have been conducted at the school and department level inconsistently with limited information sharing between units. The new university-wide Business Continuity program will provide central tools, templates, an online application, and human support to schools and departments as each develops its own Business Continuity program and plan.

LEMTs will lead the school and department Business Continuity planning efforts. Each LEMT has assigned a Continuity Planning Lead as the person primarily responsible for coordinating school/department-level BC planning and leading the creation of a Business Continuity Plan.

Campus Services' Environmental Health, Safety & Emergency Management (EHSEM) department will support local planning efforts and will create the university-wide Business Continuity Plan. A Business Continuity Steering Committee, consisting of school and department representatives, has been developed to support the creation of the university-wide plan and related BC initiatives.

Please direct any questions to ehs@harvard.edu.