# BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT – BCM

BCM is the discipline of preparing an organization to **prevent, respond to, and recover from disruptions** while maintaining critical business functions.

U can say it is an organization’s **emergency survival plan**, but for everything; not just IT

## PURPOSE OF BCM

BCM ensures that:

**Critical operations** can continue during disruption.

**Recovery** is quick and organized after an incident.

**Stakeholders** can trust the organization’s resilience.

## KEY AREAS BCM COVERS

**Risk Management** – Identifying threats that could impact business.

**Preparedness** – putting preventive measures and response plans in place.

**Incident Response** – Coordinating actions when something happens.

**Crisis Management** – Handling large-scale, high-impact situations.

**Disaster Recovery** – Restoring systems, data and facilities after major event.

**Business Continuity** – Keeping vital services running despite the disruption.

## THE BCM LIFECYCLE

BCM is an ongoing cycle, not a one-time project. Common steps are:

**Policy and Program Management**

* Define governance, roles, and responsibilities

**Business Impact Analysis**

* Identify which processes are most critical and what resources they need.

**Risk assessment**

* Find possible threats and evaluate their likelihood impact.

**Strategy Development**

* Create plans for avoiding, reducing, or recovering from disruptions.

**Implementation**

* Put the plans, systems, and teams in place.

**Testing and Exercising**

* Practice the plans to make sure they work.

**Review and Continuous Improvement**

* Update plans such as risks, business processes, or technology change.

## WHY IS BCM IMPORTANT

**Minimize** **downtime** – every minute of outage can be expensive.

**Protects reputation** – stakeholders see you as reliable even during crisis.

**Regulatory compliance** – in many industries (banking, healthcare, telecoms), BCM is legally required.

**Reduces financial loss** – by shortening disruption times and avoiding major service failures.

**Boost customer confidence**  - knowing you can deliver even in difficult conditions.

## COMMON BCM EXAMPLES IN ACTION

**Banking**: A bank keeps backup systems in another city so customers can still use ATMs if the main data center fails.

**Retail**: A supermarket chain reroutes deliveries and staffing to unaffected stores during a regional power outage.

**Healthcare**: A hospital switches to backup generators and emergency triage plans during a storm.

**IT Services**: A cloud provider automatically moves client workloads to unaffected servers when one cluster goes down.