



5-MINUTE “WHAT IF?” CRISIS PLAN

We often worry about things that might not happen. Part of great leadership means planning for the worst possible situations, and then working backwards. This means creating contingency plans for all kinds of variables, and then realistically planning for different scenarios.

The best leaders hope for the best, plan for the worst, and are realistic. They help their people adapt, and lead them to quickly and calmly move to a contingency plan.

Remember, being calm in a crisis is contagious. Being calm inspires confidence. Staying calm throughout an emergency increases trust.

To start the “what if?” crisis planning process, leaders need to ask:

1. What is the worst case scenario?

What is our plan to handle that worst case scenario?

What specific actions do we need to implement if this worst case scenario happens?

2. What is the best case scenario?

What is our plan to handle that best case scenario?

What specific actions do we need to implement if this best case scenario happens?

3. What is the most likely scenario?

What is our plan to handle the most likely scenario?

What specific actions will we need to implement if this most likely scenario happens?
