

# Incident Response Under Pressure

How Leaders Make Decisions That Save Their Organisation



## Overview

**Format:** Keynote or Executive Briefing

**Duration:** 45–60 minutes (adaptable to 30 minutes)

**Audience:** Executives, boards, security leaders, incident response teams

When cyber incidents unfold, organisations rarely fail because they lack tools. They fail because decision-making collapses under uncertainty.

Incident Response Under Pressure examines how real incidents play out once stress, ambiguity, and competing priorities take hold. Drawing on firsthand investigations across enterprise and critical infrastructure environments, this session shows why capable teams stall, how early confusion compounds, and what high-performing organisations do differently in the first critical hours.

This talk is designed for leaders and responders who must make irreversible decisions with incomplete information — and want practical ways to reduce chaos, improve coordination, and act with confidence under pressure.

## What This Session Covers

Through real incident timelines, participants explore how authority breaks down, assumptions distort judgement, and small early decisions cascade into major outcomes. The session reframes incident response as a decision-making discipline rather than a purely technical exercise, highlighting why documented plans often fail and how response structures can be designed to hold up when conditions deteriorate.

## Key Takeaways

Attendees gain a clearer understanding of how incidents actually unfold under pressure, the most common decision-making traps seen in real responses, and concrete steps leaders can take to improve clarity, speed, and coordination in the opening hours of an incident — before the next crisis occurs.

## Why This Talk Resonates

This session avoids abstract frameworks and vendor narratives. Instead, it connects executive decision-making, technical response, and organisational behaviour into a realistic picture of incident response as it is truly experienced. It is effective for executive audiences, technical teams, and mixed rooms where shared understanding matters.

## Delivery Style & Customisation

Grounded, clear, and story-driven. Content can be tailored for enterprise, critical infrastructure, government, or regulated environments, and adapted for executive or practitioner audiences.

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