![Security Executive Council logo — SEC. SECURITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. A research and advisory firm]

Program Best Practices > Resilience >

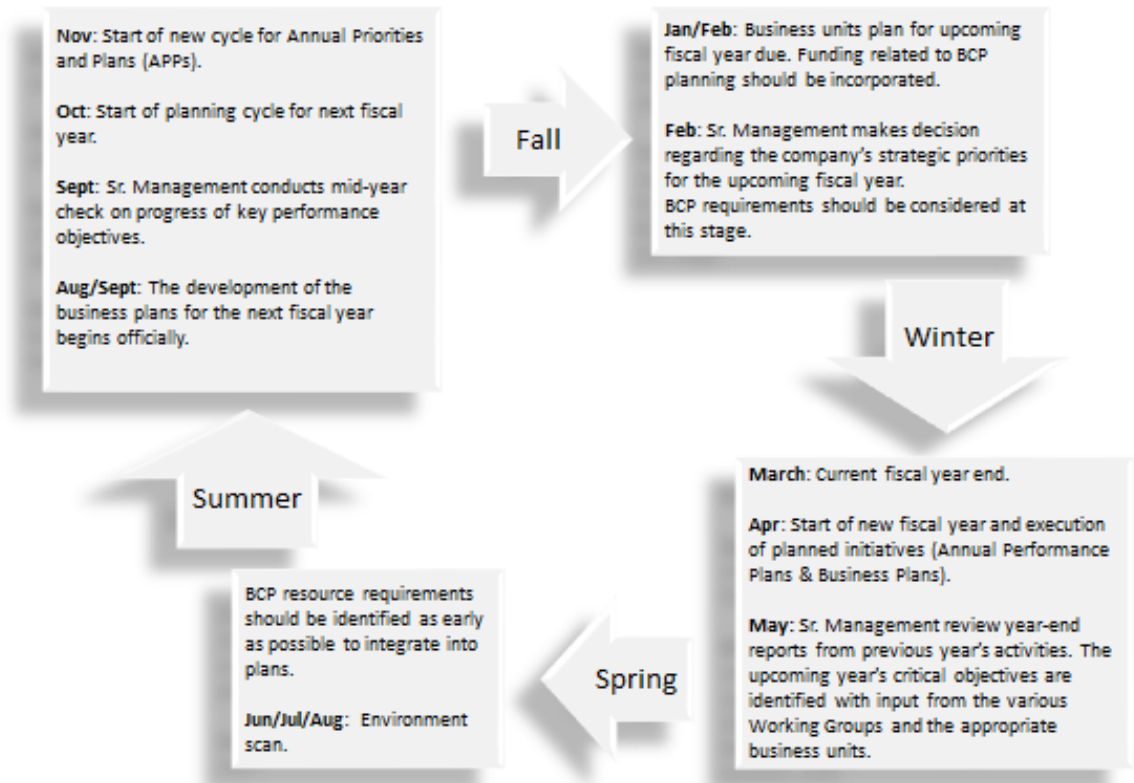# Business Continuity Program Strategic Plan Cycle

Created by the Security Executive Council

Another imperative for continuous review and evaluation relates to budgeting and company-wide planning. Organization budgets and strategic plans should incorporate funding and requirements for the BCP and will hopefully include the BCP as an annual strategic priority. To accommodate this, BCP review and evaluation must remain connected to other company planning cycles.

For example, many organizations review strategic priorities on an annual basis in preparation for the new fiscal year. During this review period budget decisions are being made. Funding related to BCP should be considered during this time. As management makes decisions about upcoming strategic goals, the BCP must be examined to ensure it is aligned with and incorporates any changes to the organization's business operations

To further illustrate this point, the figure below (adapted from Public Safety Canada's Emergency Management Planning Guide 2010-2011) highlights a typical organization's planning cycle. Note that this cycle requires periodic and annual focus on BCP planning rather than the limited evaluation that occurs after an incident.

BCP Strategic Plan Cycle

Nov: Start of new cycle for Annual Priorities and Plans (APPs).

Oct: Start of planning cycle for next fiscal year.

Sept: Sr. Management conducts mid-year check on progress of key performance objectives.

Aug/Sept: The development of the business plans for the next fiscal year begins officially.

Fall

Jan/Feb: Business units plan for upcoming fiscal year due. Funding related to BCP planning should be incorporated.

Feb: Sr. Management makes decision regarding the company's strategic priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.
BCP requirements should be considered at this stage.

Winter

March: Current fiscal year end.

Apr: Start of new fiscal year and execution of planned initiatives (Annual Performance Plans & Business Plans).

May: Sr. Management review year-end reports from previous year's activities. The upcoming year's critical objectives are identified with input from the various Working Groups and the appropriate business units.

Summer

BCP resource requirements should be identified as early as possible to integrate into plans.

Jun/Jul/Aug: Environment scan.

Spring

Adapted from Public Safety Canada's Emergency Management Planning Guide 2010-2011

Visit the Security Executive Council website for other resources in the Program Best Practices: Resilience series.

About the Security Executive Council

The SEC is the leading research and advisory firm focused on corporate security risk mitigation solutions. Having worked with hundreds of companies and organizations we have witnessed the proven practices that produce the most positive transformation. Our subject matter experts have deep expertise in all aspects of security risk mitigation strategy; they collaborate with security leaders to transform security programs into more capable and valued centers of excellence. Watch our 3-minute video to learn more.

Contact us at: contact@secleader.com

Website: https://www.securityexecutivecouncil.com/