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Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Training Course for Managers

4 – 8 January 2027
Amsterdam

Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Training Course for Managers

Ref: 2388_89761 **Date:** 4 – 8 January 2027 **Location:** Amsterdam **Fees:** 5600 GBP

Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning is a 1-week training course for managers who run operations, projects or service units and want to act before problems surface, leaving with a Team Early Warning and Initiative Map. Organisations face faster shifts in demand, supply and staffing, and those that read weak signals early lose less time to avoidable crises. Jupiter Prime Training offers this course on Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning.

Why Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Matters Now

Three forces push managers from reaction towards anticipation. Customers expect continuity, executives want issues raised while options remain open, and turnover lets knowledge of fragile processes vanish. A manager who spots drift in lead indicators, missed handovers or rising rework can redirect effort cheaply. The course rests on established practice: leading and lagging indicators, the pre-mortem technique popularised in decision research, scenario thinking and simple tolerance thresholds that trigger escalation.

Who Gains Most from Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning

- Managers responsible for service levels who must notice slippage before customers complain
- Project and change leads accountable for milestones that depend on several teams
- Operations managers who balance capacity, maintenance windows and supplier performance
- Function heads who sponsor improvement ideas and decide which proposals receive time
- Support-function managers who track backlogs and ageing cases

Leadership groups that share a reporting line gain most when several members attend together, agreeing common thresholds.

Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Capabilities

Participants practise turning faint operational clues into timely choices and backed proposals.

- Design a set of leading indicators with tolerance bands — for the weekly operating review
- Run a structured pre-mortem on a live initiative — for project sponsors and steering groups
- Assess emerging signals against impact and urgency — for escalation to senior leaders
- Build an initiative proposal with options and trigger points — for budget holders
- Communicate an early concern without alarm or blame — for peers and frontline staff
- Apply follow-through routines that close the loop on agreed actions — for the wider leadership group

Key Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Terms

- Leading indicator — a measure that moves before an outcome changes, giving time to act.
- Weak signal — an early, ambiguous clue of change that is easy to dismiss but may grow into a significant issue.
- Pre-mortem — a session in which a group imagines that a plan has already failed and lists the reasons, so risks surface early.
- Tolerance band — the agreed range within which a measure may move before a manager must investigate or escalate.
- Trigger point — a predefined condition that, once reached, starts a planned response without fresh debate.
- Follow-through cadence — the regular rhythm of checking agreed actions until each one is closed or consciously dropped.

Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Day by Day

Day 1: Reading the Landscape Ahead

- Horizon Scanning Habits — What Changes Deserve Management Attention
- Weak Signal Logging — Separating Noise From Emerging Patterns
- Stakeholder Expectation Mapping — Whose Tolerance for Disruption Is Lowest
- Reactive Versus Anticipatory Cost Comparison — Case for Acting Early
- Personal Blind Spot Inventory — Where Familiarity Hides Fragile Processes

Day 2: Building Early Warning Indicators

- Leading and Lagging Indicator Pairing — Which Measures Give Advance Notice
- Tolerance Band Setting — When Variation Becomes a Concern
- Frontline Observation Prompts — Capturing Signals Before They Reach Reports
- Supplier and Handover Health Checks — Spotting Dependency Strain Early
- Signal Dashboard Layout — Making Drift Visible in Weekly Reviews

Day 3: Pre-Mortems and Scenario Thinking

- Pre-Mortem Facilitation Steps — Surfacing Failure Causes Before Launch
- Failure Cause Clustering — Prioritising the Risks Worth Treating
- Simple Scenario Sketches — Preparing Responses to Plausible Futures
- Trigger Point Design — Agreeing Actions Before Pressure Arrives
- Contingency Owner Assignment — Who Moves First When Signals Fire

Day 4: From Foresight to Initiative

- Opportunity Spotting Grid — Turning Signals Into Improvement Ideas
- Initiative Proposal Structure — Options, Effort and Expected Benefit
- Escalation Message Framing — Raising Concerns Without Alarm or Blame
- Sponsor Conversation Planning — Securing Time and Support for Proposals
- Follow-Through Cadence Design — Closing Actions Instead of Restarting Them

Day 5: Practising the Team Early Warning and Initiative Map

- Indicator Set Rehearsal — Testing Tolerance Bands on a Live Case
- Pre-Mortem Simulation — Applying Facilitation Steps to a Peer's Plan
- Initiative Pitch Practice — Presenting a Proposal to Mock Sponsors
- Peer Critique Round — Strengthening Triggers and Owner Choices
- Team Early Warning and Initiative Map — Completing the Final Work Product

Applying Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning After the Course

- Run a one-hour pre-mortem with the team on the next significant plan, recording failure causes, trigger points and contingency owners.
- Introduce three leading indicators with tolerance bands into the weekly review and log every weak signal raised by frontline staff for a month.

Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning Questions FAQ

What is Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning and why does it matter now?

It is the practice of reading early clues and testing plans for failure before they start. It matters now because disruption arrives faster, and managers who act on leading indicators keep more options open than those who wait for monthly results.

Which roles gain most from Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning?

Managers accountable for service levels, milestones or capacity gain most. That includes operations, project and support managers and function heads who sponsor proposals.

How does Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning differ from a risk management course?

It focuses on a manager's daily foresight habits rather than formal risk frameworks. A risk management course builds enterprise registers and controls; here you build indicators, pre-mortems, trigger points and initiative proposals you can use with your own team next week.

What do you bring back from Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning?

You bring back a completed Team Early Warning and Initiative Map. It holds indicators, pre-mortem findings, triggers with owners and one initiative proposal.

Early Warning Signals and Pre-Mortem Planning: The Way Forward

The Team Early Warning and Initiative Map first informs which signals the weekly review will watch and what each tolerance breach triggers. Team members, deputies and sponsors use it to see who acts first and which proposals are pending. After its first live trigger, revisit whether bands and owners worked.