

Assessing the Need for Veterinary Emergency Exercises

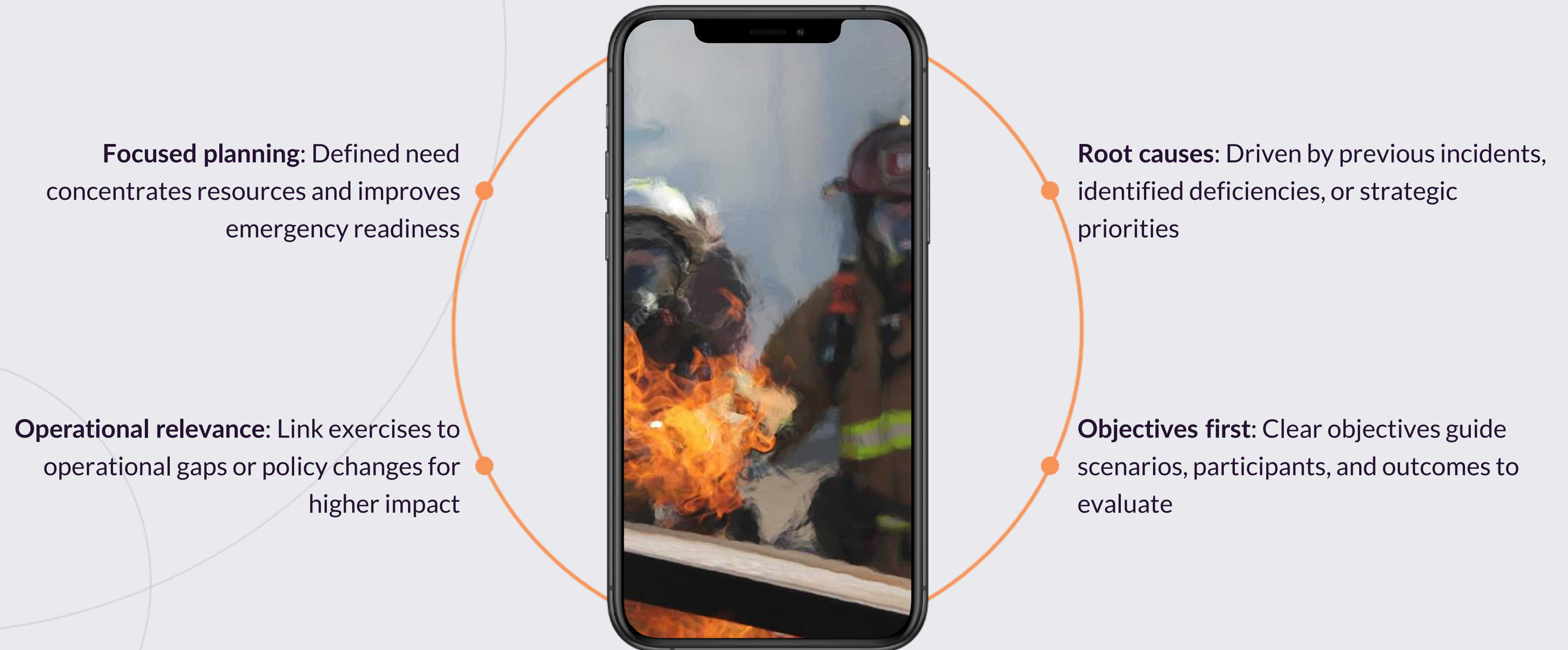
Simulation exercises validate procedures, address gaps from incidents or evaluations, and build Veterinary Services' preparedness and response capacity.

Leo Loth



Define the Need for an Emergency Exercise

Anchor exercises to real incidents, gaps, or policy priorities for Veterinary Services readiness



Key Assessment Questions from After-Action Reviews

Turn lessons from past outbreaks into targeted exercise validations



What weaknesses were identified? —
Pinpoint procedural, logistical, or communication gaps to target in exercises.



Were mitigation actions implemented? —
Verify whether recommended changes were executed and documented.



Which recommendations need validation? —
Select high-risk or untested measures for exercise validation.



Did past transboundary animal disease cases reveal procedural gaps? —
Use specific outbreak lessons to shape scenarios.



What metrics show improved response capability? —
Define validation criteria and measurable indicators for exercises.



Summary: Use AARs to prioritize exercise objectives, validate implemented mitigations, and strengthen Veterinary Services' response.

Validate Implementation of New Legislation & Policy

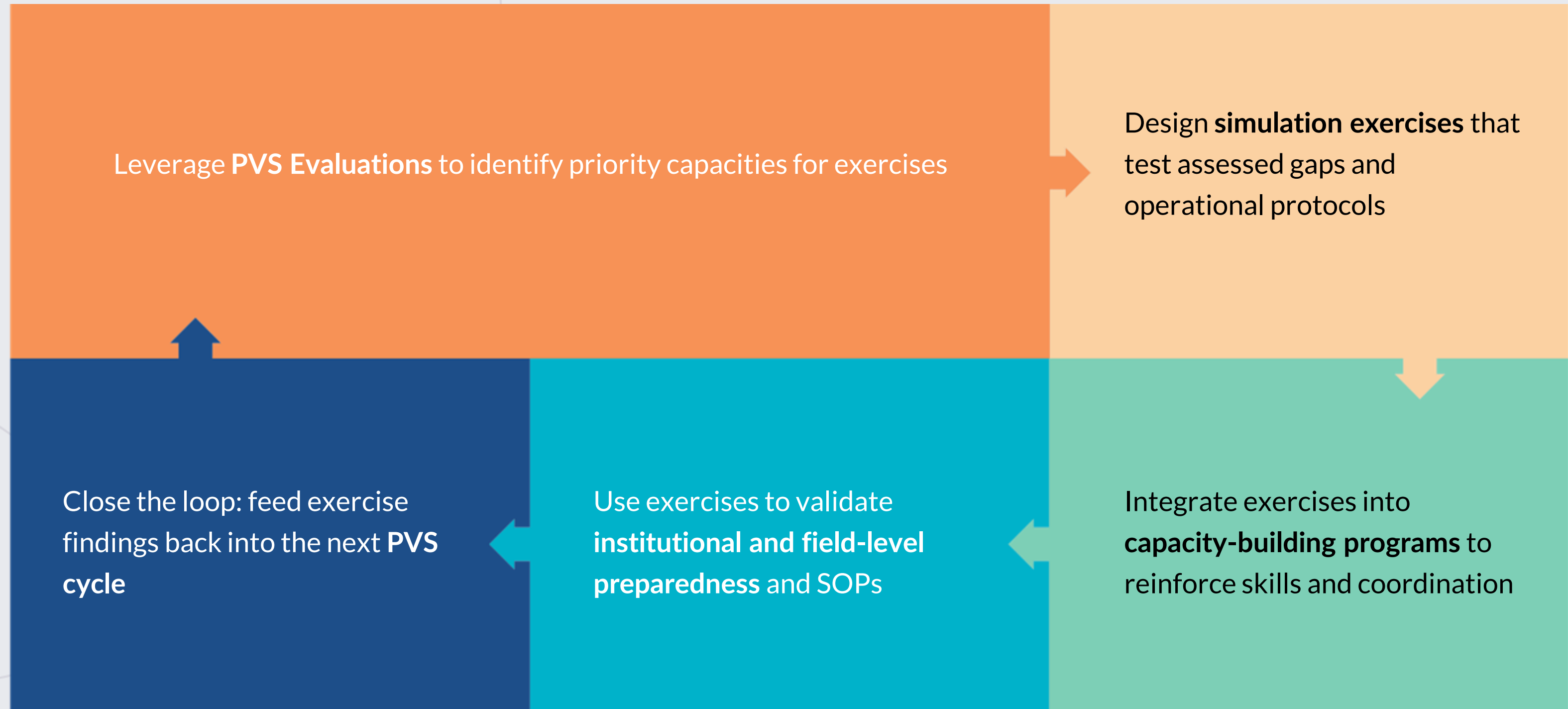
Use exercises to confirm staff understanding and operational readiness for updated legal or procedural frameworks

- ▶ Run targeted exercises when **legislation, policy, procedures, or contingency plans** change
- ▶ Verify **staff understanding** of new legal and procedural requirements
- ▶ Test **operational readiness** to implement updated processes during emergencies
- ▶ Ensure Veterinary Services can **comply with updated requirements** and adapt responses



Linking PVS Evaluations to Veterinary Simulation Exercises

Use PVS recommendations to design exercises that close capacity gaps and build preparedness



Assess Veterinary Exercise Planning Expertise

Ensure teams can design, deliver and learn from simulation exercises to capture actionable lessons

Assess **experience** in designing realistic scenarios and objectives

Evaluate skills in **delivering** exercises and facilitating participant engagement

Confirm capability to **analyse outcomes** and extract lessons learned

Identify gaps that may need **training** or **external support**

Plan follow-up actions to **maximize exercise effectiveness**

Resource Assessment for Exercise Planning

Ensure personnel, budget, equipment, and time align with exercise scope and learning goals



Financial: confirm budget for design, logistics, vendors, and contingency; align scope to funding



Human: verify qualified facilitators, exercise controllers, subject-matter experts, and participant availability



Physical & Equipment: inventory venues, AV, props, PPE, and simulation tools; plan backups for critical gear



Time: allocate time for planning, training, rehearsals, delivery, and after-action review; buffer for delays



Scope Match: use the assessment to set realistic scope or identify need for additional support or scale-down

Choose the Right Exercise Type to Match Resources

Align tabletop, functional, or full-scale simulations with objectives and logistics to maximize impact without overextending



Tabletop: low-cost, discussion-focused; ideal for policy review and limited logistics



Functional: moderate resources; tests specific capabilities and coordination under simulated conditions



Full-scale simulation: high-cost, realistic; validates end-to-end response but demands significant logistics



Selection depends on **available resources, objectives, and logistical feasibility**



Balance benefit vs cost to avoid **overextension** while maximizing learning

Securing Senior Management Approval and Constraints

Align leadership commitment, financial limits, and personnel scope before committing resources



Obtain **leadership approval** before committing resources



Define **financial constraints** and approved budget ranges



Clarify **personnel constraints**: headcount, roles, availability



Communicate exercise **objectives & benefits** clearly to secure support



Align exercises with **organizational priorities** and timelines



Document constraints and approvals to guide planning teams

Assessing Need for a Veterinary Emergency Exercise

Practical checklist to ensure exercises are targeted, feasible, and supported



1 Review past events and incident reports to identify gaps



2 Check policy changes and regulatory updates for new requirements



3 Evaluate capacity & resources (staff, equipment, supplies)



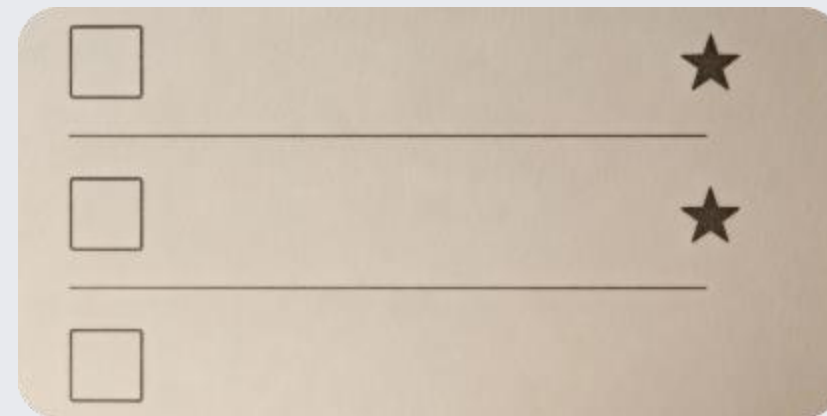
4 Assess organizational readiness and leadership support



5 Align exercise scope with available resources and objectives



6 Secure management buy-in and confirm feasibility before scheduling



7 Follow best practices to ensure simulations are well-targeted and impactful