

# GridEx 2025 Prep Checklist

Use this checklist to guide your preparation and turn GridEx from a stressful requirement into a powerful catalyst for improving your resilience.

## Phase 1: Pre-Planning (Now!)

- ☐ **Get Executive Buy-In:** Frame GridEx as a critical investment in resilience.
- ☐ **Review Past Lessons:** Analyze your own after-action reports and the public NERC reports for GridEx VII.
- ☐ **Define Your Goals:** What are the top 3-5 things you want to test? (e.g., new communication systems, a specific response playbook).
- ☐ **Form Your Team:** Assemble a cross-functional team from OT, IT, physical security, communications, and emergency management.

## Phase 2: Planning

- ☐ **Register Your Planners:** Ensure your team is registered on the E-ISAC portal before the deadline.
- ☐ **Choose Your Tier:** Select the Standard, In-a-Box, or Tabletop scenario.
- ☐ **Technical Tune-Up:**
  - Update your OT asset inventory.
  - Audit your network segmentation and firewall rules.
  - Test your alternate communication systems (satellite phones, radios).
- ☐ **Update Your Playbooks:** Review and update your IR playbooks based on the lessons from GridEx VII.

## Phase 3: Execution

- ☐ **Train Your Players:** Make sure everyone knows their roles and the rules of the exercise.
- ☐ **"Play the Scenario":** Respond to the simulated events as if they are real. If a system is declared "down," it's down.
- ☐ **Document Everything:** Assign scribes to log all actions, decisions, and communications for the after-action report.

## Phase 4: Post-Exercise

- ☐ **Conduct a "Hot Wash":** Debrief immediately after the exercise to capture fresh insights.
- ☐ **Create a Corrective Action Plan:** Turn lessons learned into a formal plan with assigned owners and deadlines.
- ☐ **Start Planning for Next Time:** Resilience is a journey, not a destination.