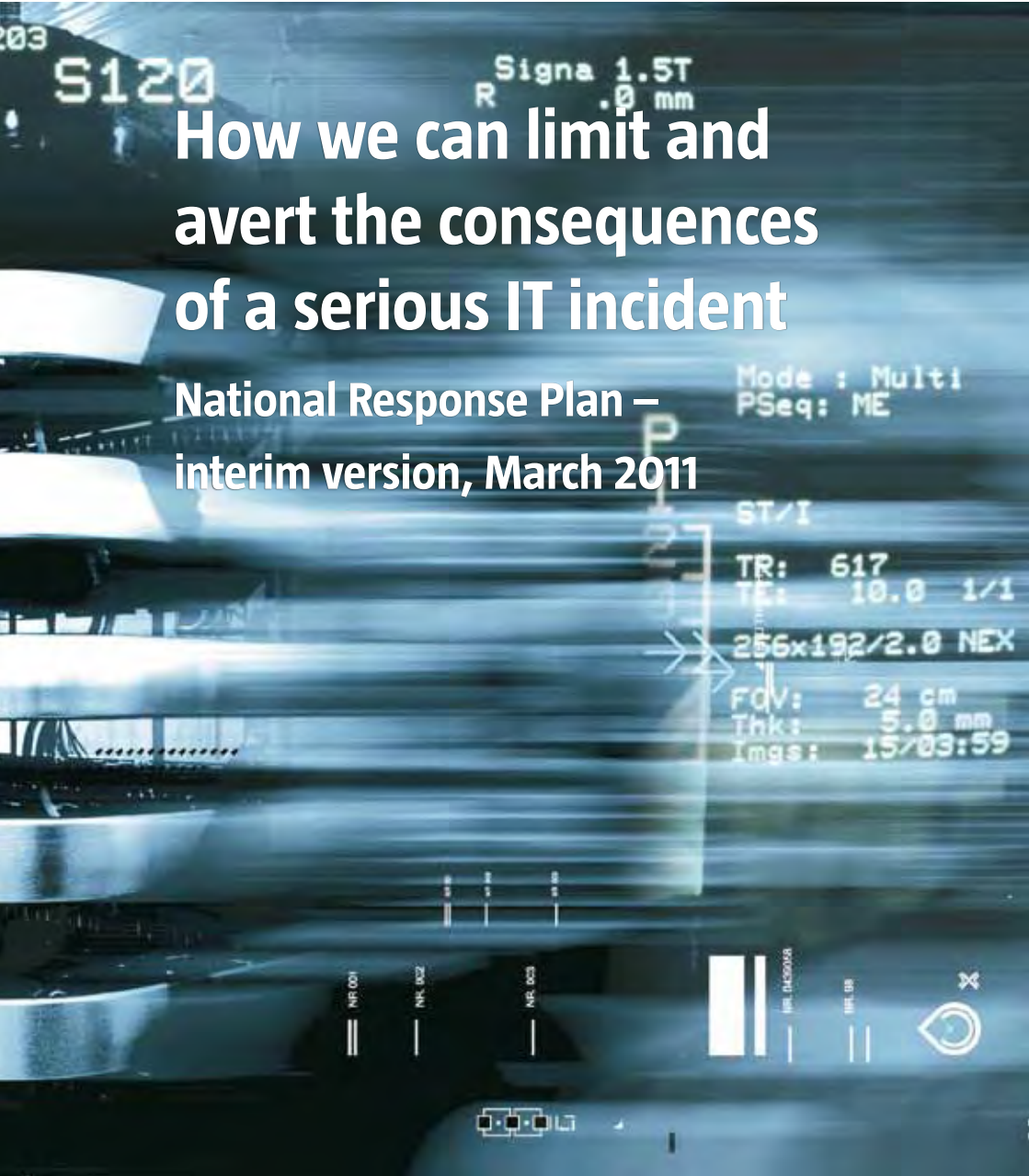




Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

How we can limit and avert the consequences of a serious IT incident

National Response Plan – interim version, March 2011





Handling IT incidents

The MSB has, on commission from the government, produced a national plan for how serious IT incidents in society must be handled. The National Response Plan focuses only on handling serious IT incidents and, for example, does not take up preventive work.

Why a plan?

The goal of the plan is to improve the conditions for limiting and averting the direct consequences of a serious IT incident, above all through collaboration and coordinated decision making.

The National Response Plan must ensure opportunities for:

- establishing a common, qualified picture of the current situation
- giving the public a coordinated message
- using society's collective resources quickly and efficiently
- supporting efficient technical handling
- making qualified, coordinated decisions
- acting in coordination on the international level
- systematically evaluating and providing feedback on experiences

Two main parts

The National Response Plan consists of two main parts:

- A review of the roles and responsibilities of the actors concerned for handling serious IT-related incidents.
- A review of the collaboration process, national situation, information coordination, collective consequence and action assessment, and technically operative collaboration. Of these, MSB is responsible for the three first items, and the respective actors for the last item.

The MSB activates the plan

The National Response Plan is activated by decision of MSB. This happens either when there is a substantial threat of – or overwhelming risk of – a serious IT incident, or when such an incident has already occurred.

Activating the plan does not mean that MSB places demands on how the incident is to be handled by other agencies – that is part of those agencies' operational responsibilities. On the other hand, the plan details what the actors concerned are expected to do as regards distribution of information and collaboration. The plan thus provides guidance concerning the common, not what is specific to an actor.

The plan applies and must be practised

The National Response Plan for serious IT incidents is valid beginning March 1, 2011, and is interim until it has been practised and audited in line with the results. The first exercise must be carried out by 2012 at the latest and the plan must thereafter be finalised. The MSB is responsible for planning and carrying out the exercise.

Definition of 'serious IT incident'

A serious IT incident is defined as an IT-related incident that:

- deviates from the normal
- entails a serious disruption of socially necessary activities
- requires rapid efforts at the national level
- requires coordinated efforts at the national level

All criteria must be met.

Further information

Further information on the National Response Plan and MSB's work with information security can be found at:

www.msb.se