

The value of disaster preparedness for your business

Disasters can have a huge impact on your business even if you are prepared. If you aren't, the damage could be catastrophic, leading to a complete shutdown of your company. Most businesses can't afford to shut down their operations for days or weeks waiting for a cleanup, and some wouldn't know what to do if a disaster were to occur to begin with.

A good starting point is understanding your vulnerabilities and preparing properly for your geographic area.

Get information outlining the types of emergencies your region has seen in the past and how those emergencies may have impacted businesses in the local area.

Find out how well your facility can withstand damage and its general proximity to disaster impact areas, including flood zones, fault lines, power plants, and other potential hazards.

Understand the capabilities and skills of your employees. Does anyone know CPR or first aid?

Have a list of emergency contacts and an outline of when they should be contacted. This could include utility companies, insurance carriers, government

BY
TODD
FARRELL



Are You Covered?

agencies, police, and fire and EMS departments.

Make sure you have insurance that is appropriate for your area, not only with regards to physical damage but also business interruption.

Depending on the type of disaster, the impact on your business will obviously vary. However, there are some things which should be done regardless of the type of disaster your company faces:

Identifying a policy for employees which outlines leave policies, sick policies, payroll, communication infrastructure, employee contact numbers, and the overall chain of command. This ensures communication can occur regardless of the disaster and people know whom they need to report to.

Have a plan in place for suppliers and

vendors which includes contact numbers and information, knowledge of their business continuity plan (so you know what will happen to your own supply chain), and alternative distribution plans.

Outline what will happen with your customers, including alternative distribution plans in case you cannot get their products to them on time.

Finally, it is essential to have a thorough plan in place to protect your business and employees before, during, and after a disaster strikes:

- Have a first aid team in place.
- Have proper safety equipment on hand
- Have an emergency response plan in place.

It is still essential to be properly covered from an insurance standpoint even if you have a thorough plan in place ahead of time. Business interruption insurance is a must for most businesses.

Knowing how to protect yourself, your business, and your employees isn't going to mitigate all the damage that could be done. Therefore, speaking with an insurance professional is still an important aspect of disaster preparedness.

MACHINE SHOP SERVICES

- lathe and mill work
- custom fabricating, plazma cutting and welding
- steel, aluminum and stainless utilizing Stick, MIG and TIG processes

Industrial supplies including:

- Gr.8 bolts in national course
- national fine & metric threads

We are a stocking depot for Canada Steel to supply you with all your raw steel needs.

Kincardine's Huronia Welding Supply depot stocking pressed gases and welding consumables.

Cottrill

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

244 Queen St., Kincardine

519-396-3330

wmsshop@cottrill.ca

Insurance Matters...

MILLER
INSURANCE BROKERS

1 (800) 265- 3000

www.millerinsurance.ca

Kincardine | Port Elgin | Southampton | Owen Sound
Hanover | Teeswater | Clifford | Harriston