

Business Preparedness

How quickly can you rebound from an emergency? Disaster recovery and business continuity planning are processes that help organizations prepare for disruptive events—whether those events might include IT system crashes, natural disasters, supply chain problems, severe weather or simply a power outage caused by a backhoe in the parking lot. Good business continuity plans will keep your company up and running through interruptions of any kind. When disaster strikes, having a plan and being able to put it into immediate action can mean the difference between staying open to service the needs of your customers and community or shutting down for a few days. Plans need to encompass how employees will communicate, where they will go and how they will keep doing their jobs. The details can vary greatly, depending on the size and scope of your company and the way it does business. For some power outages are most crucial, which may be the focus of their plan. For others it could be data recovery, which can be as easy as taking home portable drives for a low-cost way to do offsite backup.

Following a significant disaster, forty percent of businesses do not reopen, and another 25 percent fail within one year according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Similar statistics from the Small Business Administration indicate that over 90 percent of businesses fail within two years after being struck by a disaster. Having a plan can ensure that you're back in business quickly and able to provide products and services to your community is essential part of doing business.

Don't wait until it happens, be proactive and start to research options of how you would be able to get back up and running as quickly as possible. Here is some a great links to get you started:
[Prepare My Business](#) - From Washington Emergency Management Division
[Red Cross Disaster Library](#) – Information by category/type of emergency.
[Ready Rating](#) - is a free program from the American Red Cross to help businesses, schools and organizations prepare for disasters and other emergencies.

WRA employs Rick Means as a Safety Specialist who is available to members to help draw up safety plans and suggest topics for safety meetings. Contact him at 360-943-9198, Ext. 18 or safety@waretailservices.com