



PREPAREDNESS SPOKANE

Every Business Should have a Plan. Plan to Stay In Business.

December 2005 • Edition 3

Trends in Business Continuity

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If you haven't had the opportunity to review any of the information presented by Envoy from it's June 2005 Business Continuity Survey here are some of the highlights:

Everyone is aware of the number of events that have occurred over the last year or so – in particular the hurricanes. The impact of those was unprecedented. Although most of us in the Pacific Northwest can't relate to hurricanes and what impact they might have on one's business there are some other trends that starting to appear. Mother Nature is often identified in a Hazard Identification & Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA) as the number one risk, but a new "villain" is starting to raise it's ugly head. That villain is – aging infrastructure in most US cities. They are talking about floods caused by bursting water mains, power failures (transformer failures and downed power lines from storms) and issues with the transportation systems – roads, bridges, and tracks.

As we look to those new threats, along with the events we've anticipated over the years, one thing is obvious – the threat of interruptions is on the increase and we all must plan for the continuation of our business in the event of a major disruption.

The survey also points out that because of the above, there are a couple of new developments that have surfaced from a "why need to plan" perspective. The first is increased regulatory requirements (at all levels – Federal and State) and the second being business requirements that mandate business

continuity planning as a condition of doing business. The first new development only affects those of us that are regulated, the other has the potential to impact all of us – both public and private entities. As Alan Berman, the Executive Vice President from Risk Solutions International puts it in his Forward attached to the survey – "In these days of uncertainty, Business Continuity which was once a "nice to have" feature has become mandatory to maintain customer confidence and a competitive edge." Well put!

The major Business Continuity threats, identified in the survey by the respondents included the following (listed in order):

- Data security issues
- Telecom failure
- Power outage
- Data Center hardware/software failure
- Structural fire (internal)
- Water pipe break
- Gas/chemical spill or leak
- Physical security
- Natural disaster
- Labor disputes

We should all be aware of what internal risks and exposures exist in our organizations, but does anyone remember what hazards have been identified by our local HIVA? They are (in order):

- Winter Storm
- Power Failure
- Wildfire
- Urban Fire
- Earthquake
- Terrorism
- Transportation Issues (Planes, Trains & Automobiles)
- Floods
- Tornadoes

The local HIVA is currently being updated by Spokane County. They are conducting a risk identification and mitigation project. I would

expect to see some changes in the above list, given the nature of issues surrounding an HIVA – the last or most current event or topic carries the most weight. Those of us close to the process expect to see threats like wind storms, pandemics and CBRNE threats (that's Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Explosion) make the grade on the newest county-wide HIVA.

Regardless of what list you choose to look at, the Alliance for Business Continuity & Disaster Preparedness for Spokane County, as well as the local City/County Planners encourages all businesses to plan for the above threats.

Should you have any questions regarding business continuity planning please feel free to e-mail us at
preparedness_spokane@hotmail.com.

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To learn more about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies or get involved visit:
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Other Websites:

www.spokaneredcross.org
www.fema.gov

