

Business Continuity Planning

Both large and small-scale emergencies have become increasingly common throughout the nation and the world. That means your business will at sometime experience a disaster on some scale. Your business may be vulnerable to direct impacts or secondary impacts from a disaster. With the development of a business continuity plan you can minimize and mitigate the effects of a disaster on your business operations.

Business Continuity Planning is the process of developing advance arrangements and procedures that enable an organization to respond to an event in such a manner that critical business functions continue with planned levels of interruption or essential change. The plan itself is an overview of a planned response to emergency situations, using procedures, checklists, and recovery strategies to allow business operations to recovery and resume thereafter.

Continuity of your business operations can be achieved through the development of plans, comprehensive procedures, and provisions for alternate facilities, personnel, resources, interoperable communications and vital records/databases. Planning ahead, you can develop strategies that will reduce your businesses risk before a disaster occurs.

Horry County Emergency Management has partnered with the Institute for Business and Home Safety on mitigation initiatives in the past, please visit their website at www.disastersafety.org to learn more about their mitigation research, business continuity planning, and find access to free online tools for your business. On their main page just click on the icon "*Stay Open for Business OFB-EZ*" to gain access to their toolkit developed to walk business owners through the steps of business continuity planning.