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Preparing your business for a hurricane involves a combination of planning, securing your property, and ensuring the safety of your employees. Here's a detailed guide to help your business stay resilient during a hurricane:
https://capecoralchamber.com/resources/becc/

https://capecoralchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FINAL-Business-Preparedness-Guide-Version-1-2024.pdf

1. Create a Hurricane Preparedness Plan

- **Risk Assessment:** Evaluate your business location and identify potential vulnerabilities, such as flooding or power outages.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Compile a list of emergency contacts for employees, customers, suppliers, local authorities, and emergency services.
- **Evacuation Plan:** Set clear guidelines for evacuation, including who is responsible for shutting down operations, and when the evacuation order will be given.
- **Communication Plan:** Ensure that employees and stakeholders know how to stay informed before, during, and after the hurricane.

2. Back-Up Essential Data

- **Cloud Storage:** Store critical business documents, customer records, financial data, and inventory lists in a secure cloud-based platform.
- **Data Backups:** Regularly back up data on external drives or cloud services, ensuring that they are stored in a secure location away from the business premises.
- **Cybersecurity:** Strengthen your digital defenses to protect against the potential for cyberattacks during emergencies when systems are vulnerable.

3. Protect Physical Assets

- **Secure Buildings:** Install storm shutters or board up windows to protect against high winds. Consider reinforcing doors and upgrading roofing materials.
- **Move Equipment:** Elevate valuable machinery, electronics, and inventory off the ground, especially in flood-prone areas.
- **Insurance Review:** Review your insurance policies to ensure coverage for hurricane-related damage, such as business interruption and property damage.

4. Create a Business Continuity Plan

- **Remote Work Policy:** Establish remote work protocols to allow employees to work from home in the event the business location is unsafe.
- **Supply Chain Preparedness:** Communicate with vendors and suppliers about potential disruptions and explore alternative sources for critical supplies.
- **Emergency Cash Flow:** Keep a reserve of funds to cover essential expenses, such as payroll or emergency repairs, if operations are temporarily halted.

5. Secure Critical Operations

- **Fuel & Power Supply:** Arrange for backup generators and ensure you have enough fuel to keep operations running if the power goes out.
- **Water Supply:** Store water for drinking and other essential uses, especially if your business depends on a reliable water source.
- **Shutdown Procedures:** Designate personnel responsible for shutting down equipment, securing inventory, and closing the premises if a hurricane is imminent.

6. Prepare Employees

- **Training:** Provide employees with training on hurricane procedures, safety protocols, and how to respond in case of an emergency.
- **Emergency Kit:** Assemble an emergency kit with items like first aid supplies, flashlights, batteries, and non-perishable food in case employees need to shelter in place.

7. Post-Hurricane Recovery

- **Damage Assessment:** After the storm, assess the damage to your property, equipment, and inventory. Contact your insurance provider immediately to file any necessary claims.
- **Communication with Clients and Vendors:** Notify clients, vendors, and stakeholders of any disruptions to your services and provide timelines for when normal operations will resume.
- **Restoration Plan:** Work with contractors and restoration professionals to repair any damages and get the business back to normal as quickly as possible.

8. Stay Informed

- **Monitor Weather Alerts:** Use reliable sources, such as the National Hurricane Center or local authorities, to stay updated on hurricane developments.
- **Government Assistance:** Be aware of federal and state-level disaster assistance programs available to businesses, such as loans from FEMA https://www.fema.gov/disaster/current or the Small Business Administration (SBA). https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance