

Disaster Preparedness Technology Plan



The U.S. Department of Labor estimates more than 40 percent of businesses never reopen following a disaster and, of those remaining companies, at least 25 percent will close in two years. What's more, with fewer resources than larger corporations, small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) have a harder time recovering from virtual and physical disasters than their larger counterparts and are at a greater risk for not rebounding after catastrophe strikes.

A proper preparedness plan can protect your small- to mid-sized business from the effects of a natural or man-made disaster. To assist you in the development of your plan, below are some technology tips and guidance related to disaster preparedness and disaster recovery – your technology and your business itself. It's important to realize that in many cases, having the right measures in place can help your business avoid disaster in the first place, while other tactics will aid you in getting your business up and running again if disaster strikes.

Cloud-based software for storage and more

Explore cloud-based software solutions designed for SMBs. Cloud-based software enables you to store information in a secure, offsite location and access it anywhere you have an Internet connection. Cost-effective for SMBs, cloud-based software often comes with enterprise-class capabilities, making it a wise investment regardless of whether or not your business encounters disaster.



Hard drive replications – If you can't or don't wish to invest in an online backup solution, regularly replicate your hard drive (ideally on a weekly basis), using a detached disk drive. However, keep in mind that in order to make this method fail proof, you'll need to remove the disk drive from the premises each night, in the event that a physical disaster occurs and you aren't able to retrieve it in time.



Online backup options – If you don't store all of your data in the cloud, consider investing in an online backup solution that will safeguard all important data stored on your hard drive and make it easily accessible in the event of disaster. Also, if you and your workers store critical data on mobile devices, make sure that data also is protected by your online backup solution.



Encryption matters – If your operating system enables you to encrypt files and folders, by all means take advantage of this feature. Encryption makes data indecipherable to unauthorized users and can help prevent virtual disasters should corporate laptops or other computing devices get lost or stolen.



Keep your technology updated

Maintaining updated technology might prevent a virtual disaster from ever happening in the first place, since updates usually provide security patches and new protective features. Install updates whenever prompted to do so; or, adjust your PC's setting to install updates automatically.



Map your environment – Be sure you or someone within your company has an understanding of all the important systems in your network environment. If you don't have a network, still take the time to identify all of your critical systems. Determine how long, if at all, those systems can be down during a rebuild in order to ensure you can still operate and maintain customers.



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