

DISASTER RECOVERY – ARE YOU GAMBLING WITH YOUR COMPANY?

In the wake of recent events, 9/11, security breaches, the power outages of the East Coast, the earthquake in Illinois, tornados in Virginia, and Hurricane Katrina – have you given a fresh look or even a first look at your Business Disaster Recovery Plan?

A recent report released by AT & T and the International Association of Emergency Managers finds that nearly one-third of US Businesses surveyed do not have business continuity plans in place. The report was based upon data obtained prior to Hurricane Katrina. Many have not implemented basic security technology, such a firewalls, intrusion detection or password authentication. Many organizations have no off-site operation identified, communication plan for employees and customers in place, or even simple periodic backups of PCs scheduled. Would you be in that group? Even a substantial number of businesses that have suffered a disaster have not taken action to prevent or minimize business interruptions in the future.

From a financial standpoint, almost two-thirds of companies that suffered a disaster experienced lost business. Additionally, 26 percent of companies that experienced a loss have no idea as to how much they lost per day. What would a loss cost you per day – do you know? How many days could your business produce no revenue before you are forced to “close the doors?” Is it worth the risk – is it worth the gamble?

Regardless of size, all businesses need a plan which includes: disaster planning, risk management, recovery preparedness, and communications. There are many resources available for businesses to utilize in developing plans to protect their organizations. Your insurance agents, technology Support Company, and other agencies can provide you with information. There is an abundance of information available on the WEB relating to risk management.

Disaster Recovery should be a periodic educational topic at TAB Board Meetings. Once is not enough. Just as we have preventative maintenance done on our HVAC systems, our automobiles, our homes, and other items of value, the physical health of our businesses should be included. Or - - are you willing to take that gamble?