

LA BEOC

LOUISIANA BUSINESS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

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Preparedness is Not Luck: It's a safe bet.

In business, as in life, luck is often perceived as the determining factor of success or failure. However, regarding disaster preparedness, relying on luck is a dangerous gamble. Preparedness is not a matter of chance, it is a purposeful and systematic process that evaluates threats, develops strategies, and ensures resilience in the face of disruptions.

For businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), resilience is not a luxury but a necessity. Whether facing hurricanes, cyberattacks, or economic downturns, organizations implementing structured preparedness plans are far more likely to recover and continue operations. The Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LABEOC) encourages businesses to take a proactive approach by following these three key steps:

1. Assess Risks, Know What You're Up Against

Resilience begins with risk awareness. Every business operates in a unique threat environment—natural disasters, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, supply chain disruptions, and workforce challenges pose potential risks. A systematic risk assessment should include:

- Identifying internal and external vulnerabilities
- Evaluating the likelihood and impact of various threats
- Understanding how disruptions affect critical operations

Businesses can leverage business impact analyses and hazard vulnerability assessments to develop a comprehensive risk profile. This data-driven approach ensures that preparedness efforts are targeted and effective.

2. Develop and Test a Business Continuity Plan

You developed a great business plan or inherited one from corporate headquarters, but what about your business's risks? A well-designed Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is the cornerstone of resilience. If you are not familiar with this, here are some sections that it should outline:

- **Emergency Response Procedures** – What actions should employees take during a crisis?
- **Communication Strategies** – How will leadership communicate with employees, customers, and stakeholders?

- **Alternative Operations** – Can the business continue functioning remotely or through alternative suppliers?

However, a plan is only as good as its execution. Regular tabletop exercises, functional drills, and full-scale simulations help validate assumptions, identify weaknesses, and improve response coordination. If your business needs assistance testing your BCP, contact the LABEOC. We can help.

3. Build a Culture of Preparedness

Preparedness is not a one-time event, it must be embedded into the organizational culture. This includes:

- Leadership Commitment – Executives and managers must champion resilience efforts.
- Employee Training – All staff should understand their roles in an emergency.
- Partnerships with Emergency Management – Collaborate with local agencies, the LABEOC, and industry associations to stay informed and connected.

Businesses that cultivate a culture of preparedness gain a competitive advantage, as they can adapt more quickly, recover more efficiently, and maintain customer trust during crises.

Living in Louisiana, we know that disasters will strike, mainly weather-related disasters will occur. It is not a question of if, but when. Those who view preparedness as a strategic investment rather than an afterthought will be the ones who survive and thrive. The LABEOC encourages businesses across Louisiana to take proactive steps today because resilience is not a stroke of luck—it's the result of deliberate action.

For resources and assistance, visit labeoc.org or contact us to strengthen your business's preparedness strategy.



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Finally, it's springtime in Louisiana. We've survived multiple deep freezes and even a blizzard! Now that the weather is warming back up, we know, from experience, that we can anticipate some springtime flooding in Louisiana. Springtime flooding can happen throughout the state – so we all must be prepared!

According to FEMA, springtime flooding is simply a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Makes sense. But did you know that floods are the most common disaster in the United States and that failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death? Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges, and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings, and create landslides.

In Louisiana, we have a robust and dynamic network of weather experts. If a flood occurs, please always listen to your local public safety officials for instructions on whether to evacuate, what roadways are flooded, and any other emergency declarations.

Preparing for a Flood

- **Know Your Risk for Floods:** Where it can rain it can flood. Sign up for your community's warning system.
- **Purchase Flood Insurance:** Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. A policy typically takes up to 30 days to go into effect, so the time to buy is well before a disaster.
- **Preparing for a Flood:** [Make a plan](#) for your household, including [your pets](#), so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you need to protect yourselves from flooding. Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response. Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.
- **In Case of Emergency:** Keep essential documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

If you are under a flood warning:

- Find safe shelter right away.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Depending on the type of flooding:
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
- Stay where you are.

Staying Safe After a Flood

- Pay attention to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Avoid driving except in emergencies.
- Wear heavy work gloves, protective clothing, and boots during clean-up, and wear appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning [mold or other debris](#).
- People with [asthma and other lung conditions and/or immune suppression](#) should not enter buildings with indoor water leaks or mold growth that can be seen or smelled. Children should not take part in disaster cleanup work.
- Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or standing in water. Turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock if it is safe.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can be contaminated and contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

In Louisiana, springtime flooding is no surprise. By being prepared, you can protect yourself, your family, and your employees. The simple guidelines provided above can help you start on your preparedness and even response plans in case of a flood.

For more information on springtime flooding, I encourage you to visit: <https://www.ready.gov/floods>.

#FloodSafety #Floods #Preparedness #SpringtimeFlooding

As always, stay prepared, stay safe!

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Mar 18, 2025	WebEOC-200S	Intermediate WebEOC for State ESF Users
Mar 19, 2025	A PRO	PA Adobe Pro
Mar 19, 2025	WebEOC-200L	Intermediate WebEOC for Parish Users
Mar 20, 2025	AWR-330	Whole Community Emergency Management Planning
Mar 20, 2025	ER CW	PA Expense Review: Contract Work
Mar 20, 2025	Stop-the-Bleed	STOP-THE-BLEED
Mar 20 - 21, 2025	ICS-400	Advanced Incident Command System
Mar 21, 2025	WebEOC-400	Special Topics in WebEOC: Nexus System Update (2025)
Mar 24, 2025; Mar 25, 2025	UL Lafayette- TH&RA	Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
Mar 24 - 26, 2025	L-0102	Science of Disaster
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Mar 25 - 26, 2025	ICS-400	Advanced Incident Command System

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