BUSINESS CONTINUITY

26 October 2016

In our recent after-action survey with state associations a clear message was sent with overwhelming consistency. The message is:

“There still is an EXTREME HIGH NEED to PREPARE businesses for events and the aftermath.”

Louisiana has suffered numerous natural and man-made disasters from hurricanes, oil spills, sinkholes and flooding in recent years. In the recent floods of 2016, most of our larger industries remained open and today are continuing their operations successfully; however, our small and medium size businesses experienced major “business interruptions” resulting in lost revenues and other extra expenses.

Louisiana Economic Development estimates the August 2016 Louisiana Flood alone caused $8.7 billion in damage to Louisiana residential and commercial properties, with damage to businesses in the state exceeding $2 billion. Nearly 20,000 Louisiana businesses were interrupted by the flooding that began on August 11 and continued for days, leading to the flooding of more than 6,000 businesses in 22 affected parishes. In addition, an estimated 109,000 housing units were damaged, compounding the issues with our workforce.

These figures are staggering and do not even include the damage to the state’s public infrastructure.

Long-term recovery is not a new buzz word in the Louisiana vocabulary. But, as clearly stated above, we can be better prepared. As part of our Recovery Support Function planning highlighted in our last weekly update, the LABEOC will work with our partners to address a path forward to better serve our small and medium businesses with continuity planning needs.

Taking action to protect your business and family before, during and after a disaster starts with a good plan. There are many free publications to assist businesses in developing a continuity plan. Some include recovery strategies to overcome disruptions of business, as well as, resiliency professionals and associations that specialize in this service.

PLAN TO STAY IN BUSINESS

Business continuity planning must account for all hazards (both natural disasters and man-made). Plan in advance to manage any emergency situation. Assess the situation, use common sense and available resources to take care of yourself, your co-workers and your business’s recovery. Carefully evaluate internal and external operations to determine which staff members, materials, procedures and equipment are absolutely necessary to keep the business operating.

For more information on Get a Game Plan visit www.getagameplan.org

LABEOC MEMBER SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the member survey.

To take the member survey visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/LABEOC16

As referenced earlier, we are reviewing our recent after-action survey with state associations to help prioritize our collective goals. In an ongoing effort to provide businesses with additional services, we would like to get your input and value your feedback. Please spend a few minutes to complete this short member survey.

(Continued)
LOUISIANA DISTER DECLARATIONS IN 2016

2016 Flooding in March

FEMA-4263-DR, Louisiana Disaster Declaration as of 04/20/2016

Data Layer/Map Description:
The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of Louisiana.

All areas in the State of Louisiana are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Designated Counties
- No Designation
- Public Assistance
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A - G)

Data Sources:
FEMA, ESRI
Initial Declaration: 03/13/2016
Disaster Federal Register Notice: Amendment #7 - 04/20/2016
Datum: North American 1983
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
2016 Flooding in August