

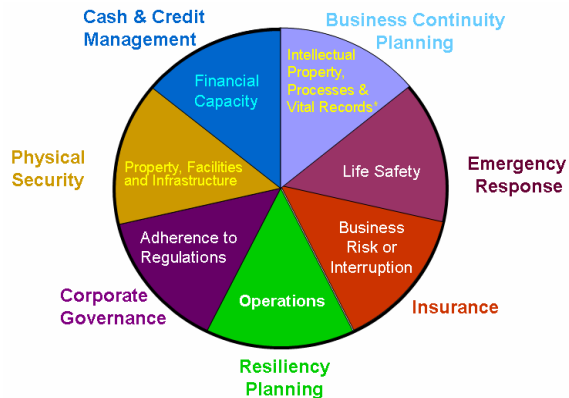
THE ROLE OF BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING



BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

The Challenge

Every organization is concerned with protection of its key assets including facilities, credit rating, reputation, customer relations and the most resource – its people. Various products exist that provide a shield against a wide range of disruptive and catastrophic events. For example, business interruption insurance provides protection against a shutdown or major disruption caused by various types of catastrophes.



Lines of credit are put in place by firms concerned with seasonal changes to cash flow and there is a wide range of physical and cyber security products that provide protection against unauthorized incursions. Unfortunately, one of the least understood protection tools is business continuity planning.

Considered one of the core disciplines of Operational Resiliency, *Business Continuity Planning* there is a great deal of confusion over the role of business continuity planning in an overall structuring of a protection strategy for an organization. This *InfoSheet* highlights the subject areas that make up a comprehensive plan and provides insights into its design and organization.

THE ISSUES

Clichés exist because they contain an element of wisdom. Two that are particularly appropriate for the planning process are:

- ❖ "If you don't know where you are going – any road will take you there."
- ❖ "No plan survives its first encounter with reality!"

Every plan must start with a clear sense of mission. This allows a firm to establish specific goals and objectives and communicate these values to its stakeholders. The next step is to develop coping strategies to deal with anticipated events and complications. Equally vital to the success of the plan is flexible. A key responsibility of the emergency response team is to be alert to a rapidly changing set of conditions and creative enough to adjust their actions and overcome unanticipated developments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several professional associations provide information and conduct research on the topic of business continuity planning. North River Solutions is a member of these organizations and is constantly evaluating the information developed by these societies with the goal of incorporating the latest thinking and developments into our business practice.

We urge our clients to join one or more of these professional societies and to invest time in learning about this important area of Operational Resiliency Planning.

North River Solutions also offers a number of services that can assist you in dealing with this issue in a proactive and confident manner.

ABOUT NORTH RIVER SOLUTIONS, INCORPORATED

Founded in 2002, North River Solutions is a full-service consulting firm focused on building resilient organizations and communities. Our team of certified business continuity planners, licensed compliance officers, Certified Public Accountants, and similarly credentialed information technology and security professionals are available for short or long duration assignments. Our clients include large and small institutions, government agencies, and non-profit associations around the world.

The company's concept of *Holistic Operational Resiliency* builds on international standards including the *10 Disciplines of Operational Resiliency* formulated by the *International Consortium for Operational Resiliency* (www.theicor.org).

The firm also active in the following areas:

- ❖ Executive Education
- ❖ Systems Integration
- ❖ Market and Business Development
- ❖ New Venture Development

We invite inquires from potential business partners and associates.

For more information, visit our website at www.NorthRiverSolutions.com