



DSPN

Disaster
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Continuity IQ

Fast Facts for our Valued Friends and Clients October 2007

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at Disaster Survival Planning Network (DSPN). In this issue, we provide information about positioning business continuity programs. If you'd like to forward this message to your colleagues, just click the "Forward Email" link at the bottom of this page.

Fast Facts about Program Positioning

Did you know...

- A decade ago, when many organizations emphasized "disaster recovery" instead of "business continuity," many programs began in the IT department, which was responsible for recovering the applications and data that various departments needed.
- Today many IT departments are realizing that they provide support services to other departments which really own the critical functions of the enterprise. They are suggesting that IT should no longer be in the lead when it comes to coordinating an enterprise-wide business continuity program.
- Now that we emphasize "business resiliency" in our programs, there is no national standard to suggest which department should be responsible for coordinating a business continuity program across an enterprise. We see several departments in that role, including compliance, facilities, human resources, loss control, operations, risk management, safety, security, and treasury. In every case, the reporting structure has a big influence on the characteristics of the program.
- Some organizations have business continuity programs that have been developed in multiple departments, and enterprise-wide coordination is either weak or non-existent.
- ASIS International, the largest association in the world for security professionals has published a [guideline for implementing business continuity](#). It implies that business continuity should be viewed as a security issue.
- The Risk and Insurance Society (RIMS) also features a guide to business continuity on their [website](#). Their organization serves over 10,000 risk management professionals.
- In a few organizations, business continuity is a department on its own.

- DSPN and Continuity Insights are currently sponsoring a survey to understand more about different perspectives on business continuity positioning. You can participate in the survey [here](#).

Brain Teasers

True or False

1. A business impact analysis should consider loss of customer confidence and losses to competition.
2. An initial assessment should include a set of planning assumptions that each department can use while building their departmental plans.
3. A good exercise program should include exercises that require multiple departments to exercise their plans simultaneously.
4. A low cost method for building IT plans is to mirror all applications and data for all business units.
5. Damage assessment teams are no longer needed in most enterprises because professional damage assessment can be easily obtained from first responders and insurance adjusters.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. *True.* In addition to destroying tangible assets, disasters also impact intangible assets, such as market share and customer confidence. You should consider both tangible and intangible assets when assessing your vulnerabilities.
2. *True.* Too often departmental plans within the same enterprise are built based on different assumptions about hazards and vulnerabilities. When a real disaster occurs, the enterprise discovers that these plans do not easily integrate to provide enterprise-wide protection.
3. *True.* When you test departmental plans simultaneously, you often discover incorrect assumptions that one department is making about the plans of another department.
4. *False.* Mirroring is the most expensive way to ensure that applications will be available. If critical functions are needed immediately, this is an effective recovery strategy. However, a much less expensive approach can usually be found by sequentially recovering data and applications based on when critical functions must begin.
5. *False.* First responders and insurance adjusters may not be available when you need them during a regional disaster. If you don't have your own damage assessment teams ready to respond, you may suffer expensive delays before you can implement your recovery plans.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. Does your business impact analysis consider the legal expenses your enterprise might incur if you are forced to implement your business continuity plans?
2. Do you simultaneously test the business unit plans of several departments that will be expected to collaborate during a disaster?
3. Have you provided tools for members of your damage assessment team to help them stay focused on the details you want them to assess?
4. Do your departmental plans make reference to the life safety steps that must be accomplished before departmental recovery can begin?
5. Does your steering committee include executives from all major areas of the enterprise?

New from DSPN

Check these out on our website:

- DSPN consultants are available to help you [audit your current plans](#) against emerging industry standards, such as NFPA 1600.
- We're bringing our one-day [benchmarking workshop](#) to Chicago on October 24, and Dallas on November 7.
- [Pandemic Experience for Executives](#) is a new tabletop exercise from DSPN that is customized for your situation at your site.

Comments and Contributions

Tell us what you think...



Thanks to all of you have sent us comments about this mailing.

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share with our readers? If so, send it along and we'll consider it for a future issue. If you want us to print a comment or submission about your company, be sure to give us permission when you write.

[Paul Klier](#)

Popular Services from DSPN

- [How to Create Drills and Exercises...That Work!](#) is a one-day workshop designed for experienced business continuity coordinators who are looking for best practices in creating tests and exercises.
- [How to Benchmark and Sustain Your Program](#) is a one-day workshop focusing on emerging standards for building business continuity programs.

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