Are You Ready for Spring?

While spring is a welcome relief from winter, the new season brings new risks to businesses in Iowa. As we move towards the warmer months and snow begins to melt, Iowa manufacturers are at risk for disruption from floods and other severe weather. It is only March, but the rivers are rising and severe thunderstorms and tornadoes have already struck central Iowa.

Current models show over an 80% chance of major flooding along the Mississippi River and nearly as high a percentage in the northern part of the Des Moines River, along with moderate flooding risks across the state. To better understand your risks for local floods, visit the NOAA website at: http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ncrfc/content/water/esp/espmoderate.php?espLevel=moderate&fg=

To help better prepare for these potential disruptions, spring is also a good time of year to dust off your business continuity plan and make sure it is up to date. Some key things to consider when reviewing your plan include:

- Do you have new personnel who need to be aware of or included in the plan?
- Do you have any new customers or suppliers that may change your risks or responses to disasters?
- Have you purchased new equipment or computer systems? Are they properly and safely documented or backed up?

If you don’t have a business continuity plan, adding this safeguard can make the difference in recovering from a disaster or closing the doors for good. To learn more about Business Continuity Planning, visit http://www.ciras.iastate.edu/management/businesscontinuity.asp.

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