IS YOUR ORGANIZATION PLANNING FOR RECOVERY?

Most organizations plan and prepare for and respond to disasters (natural and/or terrorist attacks or other man-made incidents). Very few plan for recovery.

What does planning for recovery mean?

Planning for recovery means that you are ready to rebuild after a significant event occurs. You have the financing plan prepared. You know how long it will take based on different scenarios. You know what your community’s priorities for rebuilding are in the wake of a disaster. You have thought about these things prior to a disaster and your are prepared to play a leadership role in your community. Most communities plan to prepare, not to recover.

Do you know what plans your community has for rebuilding after a major disruptive event occurs?

Many communities have emergency plans for assisting residents in a disaster. They know where shelters will be open. They know who will be in charge during an incident. They know where they will locate points of distribution for commodities provided to their residents. Many do not know how long it will take for businesses and people to rebuild in their communities. Many do not know the impact on their tax base. Many do not know if the businesses in their community can or will rebuild. Many have never asked those questions. If you don’t know who will rebuild and how long will it take, how can you plan for recovery?

Do you know what regulations (Federal, State, Local) impact your organization’s rebuilding plans?

Prior to an incident occurring in a community, many organizations are not familiar with what regulations impact their ability to rebuild. Most are familiar with local zoning regulations. However, if a hurricane came through a community or a fire burned down a section of town, regulations may change as circumstances change. Occupants of these facilities often learn during or after an incident how that impacts their ability to rebuild/reopen/restore their business. Waiting until an incident occurs is not the time to find out the cost and timeframe it will take to recover.

Do you have an alternative business plan for your business in a post-disaster environment?

Many businesses do not ask this question. If the answer is anything other than YES, you may want to rethink your plan.