



## ORANGE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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orangecountyfl.net

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### TO ALL BUSINESS OWNERS OF UNINCORPORATED ORANGE COUNTY

Everyday, a newspaper in the United States reports the devastating effects that a disaster has on a community, including the businesses in that community.

Only one-third of businesses affected by a disaster will reopen to remain a viable part of its region, to say nothing of the destructive effect it has on the business owner, their employees, and their families. For these reasons alone, it is imperative that each of you develop an emergency disaster plan to lessen the negative impact that you may experience from a tragedy as such.

It is our recommendation that you develop a disaster plan or re-evaluate your current plan to ensure that your place of business survives an unforeseen catastrophe. This plan should provide a heightened level of awareness on your company's survival risk to hazards specific to our community, lessening the possible disruptions to your business, and a heightened awareness to hazards to protect the lives of our most precious commodity, your loved ones!

Ask yourself what your companies' level of risk to fire, hurricane, lightning, tornado, wildfire, explosion, terrorism, chemical emergency, or other devastation is? Ask how quickly and how efficiently you can deal with these issues to ensure your businesses survivability.

You must have a plan to conserve essential computer data, personnel information, and client records at remote locations, safe from your business location. Copies of business contracts, legal documents, building design documents, and emergency contacts are indispensable if you must rebuild your business after an emergency; in addition, have a plan that allows you to be proactive to emergencies of different types, instead of reactive to confusion and misfortune.

Each of you, as a community business partner should recognize and prepare yourself to take action to prevent, prepare for, and respond appropriately to a disaster. None of us may be able to avoid future catastrophic events in our community, but we all need be ready is something does occur.

If you would like more information on this issue, please call The Office of Emergency Management at (407) 836-9140 or The Office of the Fire Marshal at (407) 836-0070. Furthermore, Orange County Government just recently implemented the OCAlert system which provides instant up-to-the-minute text-based messages regarding weather warnings and other emergency notices, for more information on how to sign-up please visit [www.orangecountyfl.net](http://www.orangecountyfl.net).

Sincerely,

Carl Plaucher, Fire Chief  
Orange County Fire Rescue Department

Preston Cook, Manager  
Office of Emergency Management

Dan Kucik, Assistant Chief  
Office of the Fire Marshal