



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Helping Small Businesses Mitigate Impacts of Natural Hazards

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How Natural Hazards Impact Businesses

According to FEMA:

- 40% of businesses affected by a disaster never reopen, and
- another 25% that do reopen fail.
- Other studies found that more than 90% of businesses fail within 2 years of being struck by a disaster.



Flooded Laundry, Floating Tank



The New Normal?

- Increased risk and liability as a result of chemical releases into the environment



What kind of damage can a business sustain from a storm event?

- Property damage
- Loss of inventory
- Environmental contamination & liability



Sample Business	Possible Chemicals on-site
Hardware Stores, big box stores	Lawn & garden chemicals, propane tanks, pesticides paints, stains, lubricants, glues and adhesives, CFC light bulbs, road salt and de-icing products, cleaning products, solvents, degreasers
Automotive Repair, Auto Supply, Salvage Yards, Marine Supply	Solvents, oils, lubricants, antifreeze, degreasers, tires, metals, antifreeze
Landscaping and Pest Control	Lawn chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides
Pharmacies	Pharmaceuticals, first aid items, cleaning supplies, lighter fluid, hair dyes, nail polish/remover
Dry Cleaners and Laundries	Solvents, spot cleaners, detergents

Sample Business	Possible Chemicals on-site
Medical / Surgical offices, Veterinarians, Dentists	Medical waste, lab equipment, pharmaceuticals, mercury
Funeral Homes	Preservative chemicals such as formaldehyde, disinfectants, dyes
Beauty Salons, Nail Salons	Products have plasticizers, solvents, pigments and dyes
Gyms, hotels	Pool chemicals, cleaning supplies, winter de-icing chemicals
Small manufacturers	Solvents, dyes, metals
Art Supplies, Printers	Paints, inks, solvents
Cleaning and Carpet cleaning	Bleach, detergents, solvents, degreasers

Include Strategies for Small Businesses in NHMPs

Sample Objective for Region

- Improve chemical safety practices by small businesses throughout the region to prevent disruption of economic activity and protect the environment and public health.

Sample Objective for Municipality

- Increase awareness by small businesses of any chemicals/toxic products they use, store, and/or sell and to use best management practices (BMPs).



Include Strategies for Small Businesses in NHMPs

Sample Strategic Action:

Implement an educational program for small businesses with recommendations for best management practices to prevent pollution from chemicals getting out into the environment.

For example, provide information on:

- a municipal website,
- social media, or
- a brochure/poster, or
- workshop



Sample Details of Strategic Action

- **Lead:** Town with assistance from CT DEEP
- **Priority:** Medium
- **Status:** New Initiative

- **Potential Funding Source:** DEEP to develop information for dissemination

- **Timeframe:** Complete in Year 1.



Towns and Businesses Both Benefit by including Chemical BMPS into NHMP Planning

- Reduce property damage or loss.
- Avoid expensive, special clean-ups.
- Reduce liability and risk to the environment and public health.
- Businesses can recover quickly, re-open and continue economic operations contributing to the municipality's economic base.



Questions?

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