Helping Small Businesses Mitigate Impacts of Natural Hazards

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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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Business</th>
<th>Possible Chemicals on-site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hardware Stores, big box stores</td>
<td>Lawn &amp; garden chemicals, propane tanks, pesticides paints, stains, lubricants, glues and adhesives, CFC light bulbs, road salt and de-icing products, cleaning products, solvents, degreasers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automotive Repair, Auto Supply, Salvage Yards, Marine Supply</td>
<td>Solvents, oils, lubricants, antifreeze, degreasers, tires, metals, antifreeze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscaping and Pest Control</td>
<td>Lawn chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacies</td>
<td>Pharmaceuticals, first aid items, cleaning supplies, lighter fluid, hair dyes, nail polish/remover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dry Cleaners and Laundries</td>
<td>Solvents, spot cleaners, detergents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Business</td>
<td>Possible Chemicals on-site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical / Surgical offices,</td>
<td>Medical waste, lab equipment, pharmaceuticals, mercury</td>
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<td>Veterinarians, Dentists</td>
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<td>Funeral Homes</td>
<td>Preservative chemicals such as formaldehyde, disinfectants, dyes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beauty Salons, Nail Salons</td>
<td>Products have plasticizers, solvents, pigments and dyes</td>
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<td>Gyms, hotels</td>
<td>Pool chemicals, cleaning supplies, winter de-icing chemicals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small manufacturers</td>
<td>Solvents, dyes, metals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Supplies, Printers</td>
<td>Paints, inks, solvents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning and Carpet cleaning</td>
<td>Bleach, detergents, solvents, degreasers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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).
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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