



## Disaster Recovery Program; Old News But Critical

Yes, I know, we have been reading about disaster recovery for well over 10 years now and it seems like “old news”. But as much as we dread the topic and the work that has to be done to create your recovery plans, reminders are truly critical so we are sure to stay on top of this critical topic. Though, nobody wants a disaster to happen, their sudden outbreak has made them an important and critical issue to consider and prepare for in daily business operations.

Disasters may encompass more than weather. They may involve internet threats or take on other man-made manifestations such as theft. It is almost impossible to predict the frequency and extremeness of the disaster. Therefore, it is essential that one should be ready for a variety of situations so that anyone can handle the adverse situations with intelligence.

There is no one right type of disaster recovery plan, nor is there a one-size-fits-all disaster recovery plan. However, there are three basic strategies that feature in all disaster recovery plans:

1. Preventive measures – Preventive measures will try to prevent a disaster from occurring. These measures seek to identify and reduce risks. They are designed to mitigate or prevent an event from happening. These measures may include keeping data backed up and off site, using surge protectors, installing generators and conducting routine inspections.
2. Detective measures - Detective measures are taken to discover the presence of any unwanted events within the IT infrastructure. Their aim is to uncover new potential threats. They may detect or uncover unwanted events. These measures include installing fire alarms, using up-to-date antivirus software, holding employee training sessions, and installing server and network monitoring software.
3. Corrective measures - Corrective measures are aimed to restore a system after a disaster or otherwise unwanted event takes place. These measures focus on fixing or restoring the systems after a disaster. Corrective measures may include keeping critical documents in the Disaster Recovery Plan or securing proper insurance policies, after a "lessons learned" brainstorming session.

A disaster recovery plan must answer at least three basic questions: What is its objective and purpose? Who will be the people or teams who will be responsible in case any disruptions happen? What will these people do (the procedures to be followed) when the disaster strikes?

According to Geoffrey H. Wold of the Disaster Recovery Journal, the entire process involved in developing a Disaster Recovery Plan consists of 10 steps:

1. Obtaining top management commitment
2. Establishing a planning committee
3. Performing a risk assessment
4. Establishing priorities for processing and operations
5. Determining recovery strategies
6. Collecting data
7. Organizing and documenting a written plan
8. Developing testing criteria and procedures

9. Testing the plan
10. Obtaining plan approval

Many organizations are now engaging in disaster management training to ensure employee and public safety. During disaster management training, employees are trained to the motions of disaster, this way they can learn to calmly handle needed activities during the event. In this type of training mere document information might not work – it is difficult to retain enough information to act smartly at the time of the incident.

Though, it is true that we cannot predict the future of disasters, we can be prepared by ensuring every individual is thoroughly trained in a variety of adverse conditions. This will give us the peace of mind knowing firstly, that the employees are safe and secondly, that expensive company assets are secured and business can go on as usual until normalcy returns.

OMG creates a comprehensive Disaster Recovery Plan for each client that relates to each service we provide. We ensure there is structure and order in place for the client's business to resume effective operations. Give us a call to learn how we can help you. 513-429-9526 or [info@omgservices.com](mailto:info@omgservices.com)