



The CHRONICLE

A SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PUBLICATION

2020 VOL. 27

TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

*Will Drive the
South Jersey Recovery*

NJ's Life Science Companies Rise to Challenge

How Can We Be More Prepared

Supporting Local Businesses Through PPP Loans

Marketing After COVID-19

**Cumberland County's Impact and
Anticipated Adaptations**

C O V I D - 1 9 S P E C I A L E D I T I O N



Advancing Our Client's Vision.



Improving Our World.



Learn more at FPAengineers.com

How Can We Be Better Prepared for the Next COVID-19 Scenario?

An All-Hazards Approach to Building Resilient Organizations and Operations

Jay Appleton, PE, NJCEM, CHC,
GREYHAWK North America, LLC

As I write this, it's the end of April, and we are about 50 days into the State of Emergency declared by Governor Phil Murphy in response to the Coronavirus, a pandemic that is radically changing the way that we conduct virtually every aspect of our lives. Hardly anyone could have imagined an event like this that would so significantly affect the ways that we work, play, learn, worship, and even eat. In addition to the tragic loss of life resulting from the virus, businesses have shut down, many have lost their jobs, schools are closed, and masks are the new fashion statement.

How Can We Know What to Plan For?

An "all-hazards" approach to planning accounts for natural (e.g., hurricane, earthquake), technological (e.g., fire, utility interruption), and human (e.g., active shooter, cyber-crime) hazards. A risk assessment process that identifies and ranks threats, vulnerabilities and consequences that are relevant to a specific organization and/or location will facilitate an efficient planning approach.

What Should We Do to Prepare?

As we're (hopefully) on the downside of the pandemic impact curve, it's time to think about recovery and, most importantly, strategies and planning to make sure we're more prepared for another event of this magnitude. Here are answers to five questions we can ask ourselves to guide effective planning for response to, and recovery from, catastrophic events that disrupt our businesses.

When specific threats and vulnerabilities are identified by the risk assessment process, mitigation measures can be developed to reduce or eliminate the potential consequences of a disruptive event. For example, if the risk assessment notes that frequent local power outages interfere with critical business operations, the installation of an emergency generator would be an appropriate mitigation measure.

(continued on page 21)



COVID Challenge

We Listen, We Collaborate, We Build...

To
Valued Clients
and Associates,

USCG is here
for you!

First, to all who read this newsletter, all our best to you and your families. We hope this find you well. These are difficult and trying times that we are facing in this country. COVID-19 has impacted and is expected to continue to impact all aspects of the economy including the construction industry and its associated supply chain for the foreseeable future. The resulting product shortages, project delays, increased lead times, additional mobilization costs, social distancing orders, and workforce protection compliance, are all unforeseeable events outside of our control. Moreover, the ultimate duration and scope of these and other still unknown effects remain unclear.

Until this is over, or perhaps the new "norm" is in place, USCG will continue to think outside the box to protect our clients as well as our project craftsmen and office team. This means prior approaches, terms, conditions, commitments, methods of communication, scheduling, and meetings among others, require adjustment and patience as we work together to navigate and mitigate the effects of this pandemic. We are always looking for new ways to conduct business and restore profitable and value generating operations. Let us survive and succeed together and emerge greater than before. I am confident that we will come out of this stronger and more resilient.

-Tony Onesti, President, US Construction Group

Retail • Commercial • Hospitality • Institutional • Project Management

How Can We Be Better Prepared for the Next COVID-19 Scenario?

(continued from page 9)

Is Our Facility Good Enough?

It is critically important to understand the status of the buildings and infrastructure that support core business operations. The best way to document facility condition and thus plan mitigation of deficiencies is to have a comprehensive facility assessment conducted and documented by qualified professionals. Such an assessment would evaluate site conditions, building envelope, structural condition, building systems such as HVAC, plumbing, and electrical, as well as life-safety and overall facility security.

Will We Be Able to Survive Through and Past A Disaster?

Preparation of a thoughtfully crafted Emergency Operations Plan that is informed by a comprehensive threat/vulnerability assessment will enhance the probability that an organization will respond effectively to most disasters, thus preserving life, and minimizing physical damage. Likewise, a Continuity of Operations Plan that makes provision for alternative workplaces and teleworking, technology redundancy, leadership succession, supply chain integrity, protection of vital records, and reconstitution following the disruption will give an organization the best possible chance to continue operations through most disaster scenarios.

Who Should Be Involved In Planning?

A planning team should include representation from organization leadership, and should have a seat at the table for key people from every operating department within the organization including finance, facilities, technology, and security.

One of the most important lessons we've learned so far from the COVID-19 pandemic is the need for self-sufficiency at every level - from states to counties to municipalities. This doctrine extends to corporate, healthcare, educational, and senior living organizations. For a variety of reasons, we can't always count on getting the help we need from the next rung up the ladder. Smart planning, training, and exercising the plan will build resilience and make a positive difference, no matter what we need to deal with next.

About the Author:

Jay Appleton, PE, NJCEM, CHC, is a Project Executive with GREYHAWK North America, LLC. With over 35 years of experience in design, construction, project management, emergency planning/operations, and critical infrastructure protection, he brings an integrated perspective to organizational and facility resilience. Contact Jay: jappleton@greyhawk.com



LiUNA!

Eastern Region

- Skilled Workforce • Federally-Approved Apprenticeship Program
- Government Relations • Industry-Accredited Training Program
- Business Development • Occupational Safety & Health

The Power of
PARTNERSHIP

FOLLOW US LIUNAEASTERNREG