



BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Like many natural disasters, wildfires can impact your business. Whether you are a bed-and-breakfast nestled into the woods or a commercial storefront in a community adjacent to a fire, you have likely experienced some changes as a result of wildfire.

It is important to know that the potential impacts to your business do NOT end with wildfire containment. Homes and businesses adjacent to, or downstream from, the burned area are at an increased risk of flooding, erosion and debris flows. Floods and debris flows may not directly impact your place of business, but they still may pose a threat. Road closures, flood damage and erosion could reduce patronage, disrupt telephone and internet or make it difficult for employees to come to work.

Take the following steps to prepare now for post-fire impacts and better prepare for future disruptions:

- Plan NOW - get back in business quickly and efficiently.
 - Visit www.preparemybusiness.org/planning and www.ready.gov/business for checklists, toolkits, templates and more.
 - Do you have a communication plan?
 - What supplies are unique to your business (and where do you get them?)
 - Where does your inventory come from and is there an alternate route?
 - What would it take to shift your business to an alternate location?
 - Do you have adequate insurance for your needs?
- Use off-site storage - keep copies of what you can't afford to lose at a secondary location.
 - Back up electronic data.
 - Copy of important business records and insurance policies.
- Prepare for on-site emergencies - have a plan for the "what if" moment.
 - Have an evacuation plan and make sure all employees are familiar with it.
 - Keep smoke alarms, first-aid kits and flashlights operational.

If you have been directly impacted by wildfire, the Small Business Administration may be able to help. You can learn about their programs here: <http://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/training/disaster-recovery-guide-sbas-disaster-assistance-programs>

You are not alone. Other businesses and communities have been through disaster response and recovery and survived. However, the planning that you complete NOW will determine how well you weather the storm. Don't wait.

For More Information