

GEODC

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation

Proudly serving Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties

**WE CAN'T PLAN LIFE.
ALL WE CAN DO IS
BE AVAILABLE FOR IT.**
- Lauren Hill

DROUGHT WARNINGS

Spring sprang and now summer has arrived! I'm sure you've noticed with the onset of the heat...already in the 100's for many of us!

At the beginning of May, the majority of Oregon was considered to be in drought. "Drought results from prolonged periods of insufficient precipitation, leading to water shortages. That has implications for fish and wildlife, wildfire, irrigation, drinking water and recreation. It will force difficult decisions about how to ration water to make it through the dry season." Drought will have significant impacts on our agriculture community (which may cause food prices to increase). But don't panic yet; [Ready.gov/drought](https://www.ready.gov/drought) has resources to help you prepare and conserve water.

Also be sure to take care of yourself in extreme heat and use precaution when working outside, burning, and using firearms- the fire season has begun.

Operational Costs Assistance Grant

The Operational Cost Assistance Grant is designed for businesses with 100 or fewer employees in industries that were particularly affected by the pandemic, such as restaurants, bars, gyms, brewpubs, theaters, bowling centers, and salons. The program is open for applications
May 26 - June 6.

RESOURCE HUB

Links for COVID-19 info, upcoming events, and other supporting info for you.

[Click Here](#)

ONE SMALL THING A WEEK

No matter what size your organization is, it is important to think about your risks and how you can reduce their impact on your business. Be prepared on how to respond. This week is focused on testing your Business Continuity Plan:

- Know When and How to Test Your Plan
- How to Create a Successful Tabletop Exercise

9. KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO TEST YOUR PLAN

Tabletop Exercise



WHY:

Disaster exercises test company disaster readiness; train employees through practice; improve employees' ability to make informed decisions when responding to an emergency; identify what needs to be done during and after a disaster; and examine a specific scenario or situation more closely.

HOW:

Gather your team, key employees, and anyone else who would benefit from the exercise, present the scenario below, and begin the discussion with the questions provided. This can be done informally, such as during lunch or as part of a staff meeting.

POWER OUTAGE SCENARIO

It is a hot, rainy Friday morning. The current time is 11:30 AM. Suddenly, the lights go out and all of the computers, printers, and copiers turn off. For a few seconds, there is silence before the chatter begins to pick up. One of your emergency lights comes on, but the rest are not working. While many of the offices have windows to provide some light, most of the hallways and interior rooms are left in the dark.

1. Take the first 10 minutes to discuss what you will do next.

It is now 1:00 PM and the lights are still out. The building HVAC has been off now for 1½ hours and the temperature inside the building is gradually becoming unbearable. Your entire power grid is without power. There is no word from the electric company about restoration of power.

2. Now what are you going to do?

3. Is your technology/computer room being dealt with? By whom?

4. Has someone turned off all computers, printers, and equipment to prevent electrical surge when power is restored?

5. Is your phone system down? How are you going to manage the phone lines?

[Click here](#)
for PDF Worksheet

Last Updated:

Next Update:

Source: Institute for Business & Home Safety
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TAKE ONE STEP TOWARDS RESILIENCY

Know When and How to Test Your Plan

It's one thing to build a plan, but it's also important to test this plan periodically so you know it works. Make sure you are practicing your plan with employees every 6-12 months, or any time there are changes to your business.

Below is a short [video by FEMA](#) on the importance of testing continuity plans.



HOW TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL TABLETOP EXERCISE

• Choose a Realistic Threat

A successful tabletop exercise should resemble the real world as closely as possible. This means choosing threats that are viable to the organization, as well as designing a scenario that includes realistic attacker behavior.

• During the Exercise: Have Clear Objectives and Follow the Schedule

Once the imaginary threat has been set into motion, each member of the group should perform – in real time – the actions they would take were that threat actually playing out. These will be based on the organization's security plan that should be already in place.

• After the Exercise: Act on What Was Learned

The value in tabletop exercises is that you can help identify weaknesses and gaps in an organization's response. Confusion about responsibilities, poor decisions, identifying new vulnerabilities, and finding weak points in the processes don't indicate failure; rather, these are precisely what tabletop exercises are designed to weed out.²

Here are more links for testing your Continuity Plan:

- [9 Steps to an Effective Tabletop Exercise](#)
- [6 More Scenarios](#)
- [Ready.gov Exercises](#)
- [Why Successful Business Continuity Plans Are Put into Action Before a Crisis](#)

PROTECTING YOUR HOME OR SMALL BUSINESS FROM DISASTERS

This [free FEMA course](#) addresses different types of hazards (wildfires, flooding, wind and earthquakes) and describes specific measures that you can take to protect your home and place of business from disasters.

SUBSCRIBE

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1. Parks, B. W. (2021, May 3). Almost all of Oregon poised for drought to start the summer. opb. <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/05/03/drought-forecast-oregon/>.
2. How to Create a Successful Tabletop Exercise. Agility. (2019, April 29). <https://www.agilityrecovery.com/article/how-create-successful-tabletop-exercise>.