

Feature

Performance through Partnerships

| Are you ready for the unexpected?

An emergency can be defined as being;

“A serious situation or occurrence that happens unexpectedly and demands immediate action.”

Emergencies can affect all sectors of a business - health and safety, human resources and premises management - yet it tends to be an issue that we only think of when an emergency has or is occurring; it is often a case of too little, too late. If a company has no contingency plan for when the unexpected happens, it is unlikely it will be 'business as usual.'

The minds of many businesses will have been focused on this issue recently, with the extensive flooding and disruption over the last few weeks, and with the failed vehicle bombs in Central London and Glasgow Airport.

So what should managers and employers be doing to make sure they are prepared for any disruption of services?

Property owners and property managers are now using Emergency Preparedness Testing (EPT) as a way of providing themselves with peace of mind that their Health & Safety risk management can work both in an emergency, an incident or when used to prove innocence. EPT will help companies:

1. Review Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity arrangements by identifying possible/obvious risks that could impact staff, contractors, visitors, all primary operations, supply routes and all other features that might have or have not been identified in any plans; and
2. Undergo a 'table top' or real time rehearsals on a regular basis to ensure everyone knows what to do in an emergency, and organisations can quickly assemble a crisis team to make rapid decisions in situations where accurate details will most likely be difficult to obtain.

Ark Workplace Risk are leading the industry in EPT and have over the past few years developed a range of services relating to emergency preparedness and business continuity including;

- > Development of emergency and business continuity plans and procedures
- > Development of crisis management plans and programs
- > Emergency Preparedness Testing
- > Staff training programs,
- > Validation of existing plans,
- > Review of plans against prescribed/recognised standards such as BS25999, Part 1 2006 Business Continuity Management

Whether for the peace of mind of your key stakeholders, including staff, clients, shareholders, suppliers or to ensure that business operations continue to function effectively and seamlessly in the event of an emergency, it is never too soon to review your plans, arrangements and systems.

Are you ready for the unexpected? To find out how your business can benefit from EPT call Ark on 0207 397 1450, or email clientservices@arkworkplacerrisk.co.uk