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When Disaster Strikes: **Building a Business Continuity Plan**

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Things that can go wrong, that most don't think about...

- 1. End up with unqualified and formerly uninvolved family members as partners/decision-makers
- 2. Family members decide to fight over the value of the estate/buy out of shares
- 3. Sales and revenue drop precipitously upon loss of principal business generator
- 4. Loss of momentum/business stalls, from having taken the eye off the ball to deal with the crisis
- 5. Someone can't come to work, work doesn't get done, and quality, reputation & profits suffer
- 6. Post-event depression impacts performance companywide, people react slowly or freeze
- 7. People in control, who are grieving & tired, can make hasty or poorly thought-out decisions
- 8. Accounting & legal support have no clue about the business beyond taxes & contracts
- 9. EIDL, Main Street, and other loans have to get paid off as part of estate settlement
- 10. Families that depend on the business get left out in the cold









Do something about it today.

- 1. Think about what you want to happen if you are absent, then build it now
- 2. Get motivated: protect survivors, don't make chaos their last memory
- 3. Act like you have 60 days to put this in order prioritize your time
- 4. Put someone in charge of every area of the business, with goals and accountabilities
- 5. Build a succession plan for both ownership and management, put it in writing
- 6. Deal with externals: will, financial plan, insurance for family & business, banking partners
- 7. Pick and train advisors to step in to take over, make sure family members are on board
- 8. Build a tomorrow morning vault: keys, passwords, list of key relationships, payroll instructions, debts and repayment plan, cash flow projection
- 9. Set up a buy-sell agreement and key person insurance with all partners
- 10. Build up reserves & pay off debts so you/others can afford to buy solutions









What to do after disaster strikes...

- 1. Fiduciary: know your responsibilities
- 2. Bring in advisors to brainstorm, inform, provide backup legal, accounting, strategy
- 3. Banking: keep the bank in the loop, talk to the top level, ask for their advice
- 4. Take stock: review balance sheet, P&L, cash flow know what you can cover, make cuts fast
- 5. Form an action committee, assign responsibilities, delegate, meet daily
- 6. Inform employees: what's happened, what's likely to happen next, who does what next
- 7. Over-communicate with customers and prospects, ask for their support
- 8. Reach out to vendors, offer realistic assurances, don't overpromise, buy time
- 9. Hold a partner meeting: be honest, ask for help, uncover any issues
- 10. Take time out, avoid working 24/7, recognize you can only do so much, forgive yourself and others for falling short

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Q&A



Let us know how we did!







Thank you for joining us!