

# Disaster Preparedness for Small Businesses

## Invest in the Future of Your Business

Disasters can take many forms and the financial cost of rebuilding after a disaster can be overwhelming. You'll be in a better position to recover and continue operations should disaster strike.

## Be Prepared

### Step 1: Assess your risk.

Every business has unique vulnerabilities and weaknesses. Knowing which disasters are most likely to affect your business can help you to return to operations faster. A back to business self-assessment can help you to assess your risk for the following hazards:



FLOODS



TORNADOES



HURRICANES



EARTHQUAKES



WILDFIRES

### Step 2: Create a plan.

Your response plan is your roadmap to recovery, so it should be tailored to your business's specific needs and operations. It should address immediate priorities and be easy to access. Checklists and online toolkits are effective resources to help you develop your plan. Find step by step guidance, including Spanish language materials at [ready.gov/business](https://ready.gov/business). Consider the following:



STAFF



PROPERTY



SUPPLY CHAIN



EQUIPMENT



IT

### Step 3: Execute your plan.

Practice your plan with your staff so you're ready when a disaster occurs.

## Consider an SBA Disaster Assistance Loan

An SBA disaster assistance loan may be increased for preparedness and mitigation purposes, ask your SBA representative how. There is no cost to apply, and you are under no obligation to accept a loan if approved. Don't delay, submit your SBA disaster loan application as soon as possible.

## Get Started

Apply for an SBA disaster assistance loan at [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela), call (800) 659-2955 or visit [sba.gov/disaster](https://sba.gov/disaster) to find more information.



U.S. Small Business Administration

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
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