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State Emergency Management Division Launches New Business Internet Site

CAMP MURRAY – Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) today launched one of the nation's most comprehensive internet sites to help state businesses plan for and respond to emergencies. The web link is < http://emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prep_business.shtml >.

"Since about 85% of the U.S. critical infrastructure is owned by private industry, much of the success of our state's emergency response and recovery programs will depend upon a high degree of disaster resilience by businesses and the private sector," said Jim Mullen, EMD Director.

"Our goal is to ensure that Washington businesses are provided a roadmap to prepare and be ready to face the most challenging conditions—the site is geared to save businesses time and effort and reinforces the idea that Washington strives to remain an easy place to do business," he said

He said the portal is designed as a one-stop destination to provide the most user-friendly, comprehensive information available to assist business in achieving their highest possible readiness level to withstand a variety of emergency impacts.

"We would encourage every Washington business to bookmark and access this site on a regular basis as new tools, templates and information will be added to ensure businesses stay ahead of innovations in the emergency management field," Mullen said. "Only a handful of state Emergency Management organizations around the US have provided business specific web sites, and the Washington site is destined to become known as one of the most comprehensive."

The new site offers several notable features including:

- A 12 Step Comprehensive Business Preparedness and Planning guide developed to provide a systemic approach on the sequence of actions a business owner can take to enhance their disaster resilience.
- Statewide local training, exercise and volunteer program listings provided in one location for those companies doing business in multiple jurisdictions.
- Embedded links that allow users to jump directly to related web sites, source documents, and easy to use templates that can be customized for use in their business.
- An Industry Standard, Best Practice and Benchmarking section which provides a variety of tools and source documents that businesses can access to track their progress in relation to established standards within their business sector.

As with all web sites, the new site is a work in progress so feedback is welcomed as EMD strives to meet the needs of the Washington business community. The new web site was developed by EMD staff in collaboration with the Washington Department of Information Services.

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