**Insert Health Coalition Name/Logo Here**

*Shore Health System's Dorchester General Hospital, Cambridge, Md., evacuated patients early Sunday morning because of wind and water damage from Irene and closed for several days. The decision was made after severe damage to the laboratory room warranted the lab's closure. The hospital also saw damage to its operating rooms, central supply, some patient rooms and chemotherapy unit.*

Case Example

The cross-section of requirements by ASPR, CMS, HIPAA, and Meaningful Use increasingly stress the need for hospitals to maintain their capacity to operate during emergency events.

An unprecedented number of healthcare facilities have closed temporarily or permanently following events due in part to facilities lacking continuity strategies. Aligning these strategies with executive priorities and organizational strategy is essential.

It is recommended that the region develop an integrated, multi-disciplinary program focused on supporting and strengthening the healthcare capabilities and resiliency of the region through the development of a business continuity program.

Two things that every organization is advised to do:

1. Review the Healthcare Business Continuity Executive Briefing
2. Complete the Healthcare Business Continuity Maturity Index to see how your organization scores against best practice business continuity strategies.

In January 2012 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released eight (8) capabilities they identified as the basis for healthcare preparedness.

We have assessed our planning efforts to date against these capabilities and identified the development of a business continuity program; also called continuity of operations (COOP), as a key initiative throughout our current 5-year grant cycle.

Recent events have pointed to remaining gaps in healthcare preparedness – mainly the capacity of our clinics, hospitals and long-term care to continue to deliver essential services when impacted by a service interruption or disaster.

Healthcare Business Continuity Planning improves the capacity of our hospitals to maintain essential services in the event normal operations are adversely affected. The Metropolitan Hospital Compact's Business Continuity Workgroup is working collaboratively across the region to identify requirements and deliver training and tools that align with the specified needs of the region’s healthcare provider organizations.

R

Recommendation

A

Assessment

B

Background

S

Situation

Business Continuity for Hospitals