The Resilient Dry Cleaning Business

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Connie Mendolia & Mary Sherwin - CT DEEP
DECD meeting

Funded in part by a pollution prevention grant from the USEPA
Resilience is ...being ready

It’s the ability to:

• anticipate,
• prepare for, and
• adapt to changing conditions; and
• respond to, and recover rapidly from disruption.
Did Any of these Connecticut Storms Affect Your Business? How?

- 2013: Nemo Blizzard
- 2012: Super Storm Sandy
- 2011: Winter Storm Alfred & Tropical Storm Irene
- June 2010: Tornado
Flooded Shopping Plaza

Image by NOAA via http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/states/ri-flood.shtml
Flooded Laundry, Floating Tank

Image by Rutland Herald via http://rutlandherald.typepad.com/.a/6a00d83452358f69e2015434f942a8970c-800wi
Flooded Dry Cleaner

Overturned Tractor Trailer

Image by KFOR.com Channel 4 via
http://kfor.com/2017/04/21/semi-truck-carrying-oil-field-chemicals-overturns-after-driving-into-deep-water/
Risk of Chemicals Released from Businesses
From National Climate Assessment 2014 Report
FEMA Flood map: South Main St, Middletown

*Floodway (River Channel)

100-year floodplain

500-year floodplain

*Floodway is part of the 100-year floodplain
FEMA Flood Map: Putnam Ave, Greenwich

100-year floodplain

*Floodway (River Channel)

500-year floodplain

*Floodway is part of the 100-year floodplain
FEMA Flood Map: Farmington Ave, Farmington

- 500-year floodplain
- 100-year floodplain
- *Floodway (River Channel)

*Floodway is part of the 100-year floodplain
What kind of damage can a business sustain from a storm event?

Costly Clean-Up

Image by abc news via
http://a.abcnews.com/images/US/RT_louisiana Cf_160822 Mn_4x3t_384.jpg
Chemical Spill

Location: Along Tods Driftway at Greenwich Point Park in Greenwich, CT
Ways to Best “Weather the Storm”

“No doubt you’re asking yourself, what are hatches? And how the heck does one go about battening them down?”
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste

Spot Cleaner area

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste

Spot Cleaners
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste
Keep machine doors closed
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste

Label all chemicals

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste

Check for & fix leaks (gaskets, seals, valves)
And keep records
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste: Still Bottoms – Empty into Waste Drum
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste:

Label waste drums & keep tops closed!
Bermed Storage Area
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste:

- Clean out lint traps and replace filters
- Put in waste container ASAP
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Keep good records of what you buy, use and dispose of:

What chemicals, hazardous & other materials are on-site?

- Purchase records
- Haz waste manifests
- Daily log chemical used
- Weekly inspections
Prevent Problems with Chemicals & Waste

Reduce or Eliminate Them

• Increase use of Professional Wet Cleaning
• Substitute Wet Cleaning for Other Solvent Use
  – Rely on non-hazardous detergents and spot cleaners
Emergency Contingency Plan

Include:

• Emergency coordinator
• Emergency response equipment (absorbents, gloves or other protective equipment)
• Contact phone numbers for Emergency Coordinator, local police, fire and emergency medical service (EMS), and spill contactor(s)
• Post in hazardous waste storage areas & near phone
Benefits of Being Prepared

• Avoid inventory loss & damage to equipment
• Avoid expensive special clean-ups
• Recover quickly, re-open & get back to business
• Reduce liability and fines from widespread chemicals contamination

Result: Save $
Questions?

Name: Mary Sherwin, Connie Mendolia
Email: @ct.gov
Phone: 860-424-3297
Web: ct.gov/deep/p2