



December 8, 2016

## Disasters Don't Have to be Devastating to Operations

*A Business Continuity Plan (BCP) can help to minimize disruptions – large and small.*

By Jackie Fiocca

Businesses can, and most likely will, encounter a variety of threats to normal operations, interruptions ranging from minor equipment failures to catastrophic natural disasters. In fact the frequency of severe weather-related events is increasing. In 2016 in the United States alone, 12 weather disaster events have been recorded with losses exceeding \$1 billion each – and with three months left in the year. This figure also represents the second highest total number of events in a single year since such recordkeeping began in 1980.<sup>1</sup> In France this spring, torrential rains closed freeways and caused evacuations of schools, medical centers, retirement homes and prisons. And in Paris, where the River Seine rose 20ft (6.1m) above normal and reached a 34-year high, floods closed part of the metro system, major landmarks and bridges. Still, it does not take a major natural disaster to shut down a business. With companies often relying on complex supply chain networks or running 24/7 operations, even minor disruptions or a single downtime event – power failures or computer data loss – can be financially devastating.

Of course there is no way to prevent calamities, but companies can prepare for and minimize the risks associated with them. Formally this preparation includes a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) – a strategy based on recognized threats and the actions required to ensure operational continuity in the face of disruption. A key component of a successful BCP is that multiple sources are identified and available for critical supplies and processes.

### Flexible Operations

Given that 25 percent of businesses do not reopen following a major event<sup>2</sup>, the best way to ensure your company's ability to quickly get back up and running is to institute redundancies in the supply chain. Ideally this includes a wide range of both global and local operations to ensure that no customer is left without the parts it needs should one location suffer a shutdown or disaster.

Included in Saint-Gobain Process Systems' mission statement is "Our flexible, global operating model will react quickly to customer needs." As a leader in high-performance polymer solutions and with a global supply chain that includes 16 manufacturing sites on four continents, our words are our actions. In combination with our custom capabilities, our flexible operations enable us to produce the same products and materials at multiple Saint-Gobain sites. This includes key products such as: TygonS3™ M-34-R, Tubing for Milking Equipment; Tygon® SPT-3350, Silicone Tubing for Food & Beverage Transfer; and Versilon™ FEP, high performance transparent fluoropolymer tubing.

### Saint-Gobain Capabilities

	PVC, TPE, TPU, Engineering Plastics	Silicone	FEP, PFA, PTFE, PVDF, ETFE, HDPE, PP
	<u>TygonS3™ M-34-R</u>	<u>Tygon® SPT-3350</u>	<u>Versilon™ FEP</u>
Extrusion	North America South America Europe • Asia	North America Europe Asia	North America Europe
Molding	North America Europe	North America	
Braided Extrusion	North America South America	North America	North America Europe
Assemblies	North America	North America	North America Europe

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## Resources

<sup>1</sup> Source: National Centers for Environmental Information (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>)

<sup>2</sup> Source: Insurance Institute of Business & Home Safety (<http://www.disastersafety.org/>)

### About Saint-Gobain

*Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and solutions which are key ingredients in the wellbeing of each of us and the future of all. They can be found everywhere in our living places and our daily life: in buildings, transportation, infrastructure and in many industrial applications. They provide comfort, performance and safety while addressing the challenges of sustainable construction, resource efficiency and climate change. With 2015 sales of \$43.9 billion, Saint-Gobain operates in 66 countries and has more than 170,000 employees.*

*Saint-Gobain's Performance Plastics business is headquartered in Solon, Ohio, and employs 6,000 people in 22 countries. It is a world leader in high-performance plastics, including flexible tubing, seals, coated fabrics, foams, window film, barrier/release films, tapes, medical components, fluid handling systems and bearings.*

*Saint-Gobain's Process Systems business unit helps customers achieve safety, performance and brand assurance through a broad range of capabilities that rely on superior engineering and customer support. Our product applications include those in the food, beverage, habitat, aerospace, chemical and electronics sectors. We've helped customers in all of these industries achieve goals in innovation, efficiency, sustainability and product integrity through customized solutions such as flexible tubing, gaskets, seals, hoses, fittings, pumps, valves and manifolds.*

