

## IBHS Urges Business Owners to Prepare for Winter Weather

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Recent record snowfalls and ice storms in many regions of the country are a reminder to business owners to be prepared for severe winter weather that is likely to continue throughout January and February, according to the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS)

Snow and ice can bring down power lines, resulting in electricity and phone outages. Also, fallen trees limbs or power lines over transportation routes can impede travel, not only for employees traveling to and from work, but for businesses that deliver essential products or services.

“Severe winter weather can be very disruptive,” said Diana McClure, business resiliency program manager IBHS’. “There are steps you can take to minimize the impact on your people property and business operations. Having in place a business continuity plan to help you resume essential business operations will help you to recover quickly following even the worst winter weather.”

“It is important to determine where you are the most vulnerable and what can you do ahead of time to minimize that vulnerability,” McClure said. “Also, what kinds of alternatives and redundancies can you put in place, so that you have options when an interruption occurs.”

Actions to take ahead of time include protection of employees and availability of workforce and protection of information and data to support business resumption.

IBHS website ( [www.disastersafety.org](http://www.disastersafety.org) ) provides guidelines on preparing business to handle the effects of severe winter

*IBHS is an independent, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization supported by the property insurance industry. The organization works to reduce the social and economic effects of natural disasters and other risks to residential and commercial property by conducting research and advocating improved construction, maintenance and preparation practices.*