



Essential Tips for Fueling Through a Storm

Being prepared in the face of an emergency or natural disaster helps minimize disruptions and ensures your business is back up and running as quickly as possible.

Here are a few fuel-related tips gathered from FEMA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and World Kinect Energy Services' Emergency Support Teams, that may help with your business continuity planning.



Know your risk.

Operations

Fuel supply

Ensure you are aligned with fuel suppliers and their capabilities. Include having documented plans for managing supply disruptions, compliance with safety and environmental regulations, and solutions that help maintain critical operations under pressure. Consider your options for contracting at least a portion of your supply.

Fuel storage

How much is enough? Be fully aware of your need for onsite fuel and determine ahead of time if additional storage – either permanent or temporary – is needed. Many options, including portable storage, are available for commercial and government operations of any size.

Back-up power

Know your needs. Major power-disrupting events are on the rise, making it critical to have a plan for maintaining power to strategic locations. Assess all your existing power sources and infrastructure needs, and build contingency plans for back-up support.

Business

Price

History proves that emergencies can have a profound impact on fuel price volatility. And for many businesses, it can be difficult to quickly or fully pass along price increases. If you haven't already, find out if you qualify for Fixed Forward Pricing contracts, where you lock in a portion of your projected gallons.

Credit

When disasters strike, credit can get tight, quickly – potentially limiting the amount and/or timing of necessary fuel deliveries. If your supplier is at risk, so are you. Make sure your fuel supply partner is a strong counterparty with a solid balance sheet that reflects their ability to deliver when you need it most.

Personnel

If the COVID-19 pandemic has proven anything, it is of vital importance to keep people safe, at all costs. Make sure your suppliers reflect your commitment to employees and customers by examining every touchpoint and ensuring that cleanliness and safety are at the top of every delivery checklist.

“Even in times of tight supply and demand, such as inclement weather and hurricanes, our team at Fred Smith Company and World Kinect will work together and to come up with a game plan to make sure we don't go without fuel.”

Gray Smith, Fleet Manager, Fred Smith Company

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), roughly **40-60% of small businesses** never reopen their doors following a disaster.



Mitigate your risk.

For operations with onsite fleets and fuel, here are a few items to consider for your business continuity checklist.

Ahead of a Storm Watch [Be Prepared]

- Walk your property. Begin making and maintaining a log of actions needed and steps taken.
- Review OEM manuals and other sources for potential alternatives to your current fuel types. Knowing what critical equipment can use and still operate, could buy much needed time during emergency situations.
- Inspect all roof, canopy, and tank farm drains to ensure they are clear of debris.
- Set up plans for fuel deliveries, well in advance of an emergency event if possible. And if under contract, be sure to know your suppliers' contingency plans for getting to you.

Ahead of a Storm Warning [Take Action]

- Identify vulnerable and/or critical equipment that needs to be moved or protected with waterproof covers.
- Top off fuel tanks, service vehicles, back-up generators, pumps, compressors ventilators.
- Store and/or secure an extra supply of fuel.

- Test to ensure that back-up generators are operational.
- Check fuel systems including storage tanks and fuel transfer pumps.
- Take product inventory and water level readings of all Underground and Aboveground Storage Tanks. If possible, print a copy of the tank and line leak test results from automatic gauging system in case of power loss. This will help account for possible product loss.
- Secure tanks with enough materials to protect them against the forces of buoyancy should they be exposed to flooding, surface water runoff, or storm surge.
- Ensure your vehicles and equipment are serviced, fueled, and ready to roll. Relocate as many as possible to higher ground.
- Make sure all fuel cards are activated and widen the distribution of cards if possible.
- Prior to evacuation and/or sheltering in place: initiate an orderly shutdown of equipment and systems that rely upon normal power; turn off circuit breakers for all electricity, except refrigeration.



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