According to the National Fire Protection Association, there are over 130,000 non-residential fires every year that cause over $3 billion in property damage.

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4 STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS FROM FIRES

Fires can cause widespread devastation and are one of the biggest threats to any business. According to the National Fire Protection Association, there are over 130,000 non-residential fires every year that cause over $3 billion in property damage.

The best way to protect your business from a fire is to analyze your risk exposures and train your workforce on how to act. Even if you believe that your business is prepared for a fire, it's important to review your fire prevention plan in order to make sure it's up to date.

Here are four steps you should take to protect your business from fires:

1. **Create an emergency evacuation plan**. Your employees and customers should know how to leave your business at any time by locating a clearly marked, unobstructed emergency exit. You should also conduct an evacuation drill at least once every year to ensure that your employees know how to act.
2. **Follow all of your fire code requirements**. Depending on your business's size, industry and location, the fire code will require your business to take certain steps to prevent fires.
3. **Install and maintain fire suppression systems**. Make sure that your workplace is outfitted with automatic fire sprinklers and portable fire extinguishers. You should also make sure that fire extinguishers aren't used after they have expired and that your workforce is trained to operate them.
4. **Get in touch with local first responders**. Establishing a relationship with your local fire department and providing them with your building's floor plan will help ensure the fastest possible response time.

For more information on protecting your business from fires, contact us at 909-303-4300 today.

A business was targeted by a ransomware attack **every 40 seconds in 2017.** The frequency is expected to **increase** to every **14 seconds by 2019.**

Source: Cybersecurity Ventures

RESPONDING TO RANSOMWARE ATTACKS

Although all types of cyber attacks are dangerous, ransomware is quickly becoming the most popular way for hackers to exploit businesses. In mid-2017, the WannaCry ransomware attack affected over 250,000 devices in at least 150 countries and caused massive financial damage. Ransomware attacks caused $5 billion in damage in 2017 compared to only $325 million in 2015, according to global cyber research company Cybersecurity Ventures.

During a ransomware attack, hackers covertly gain access to an organization's computer systems through phishing scams, denial-of-service attacks or unsecured devices. Then, the organization is "locked out" of its own systems until a financial ransom is paid, usually with the anonymous and digital bitcoin currency.

The best way to prepare your business for ransomware is to take steps to strengthen your cyber security and establish a response plan to resolve an attack as quickly as possible. Here are some of the best ways to respond to ransomware quickly and limit data loss:

- **Determine how long your business can afford to lose access to its computer systems**. The time that you can spend addressing ransomware will vary based on your business's size, industry and reliance on customer data. Determining this time frame before an attack occurs can help you plan the rest of your response process.
- **Update your business's software regularly**. Although no app or operating system is completely safe from hackers, software developers frequently release security updates that remove ransomware exploits. You should also encourage your employees to update their personal devices, especially if they're allowed to use them on your Wi-Fi network.
- **Create regular backups of your most important data**. Many ransomware attacks only target online systems, so keeping an offline backup of your business's most important data can help mitigate the impact of an attack.
- **Train your employees on cyber security best practices**. Ransomware attacks often begin with an easily avoidable event, such as an employee clicking on a seemingly innocent link from an unknown sender. You can help train your workforce by contacting Golden Compass Insurance Services today and requesting our Employee Cyber Training Manuals.