

Hurricane Tech Tips

HURRICANE TECHNOLOGY TIPS

- 1) HAVE A PLAN** You may lose people and/or power and/or computers and/or data and/or programs. Make sure your staff knows what it is.
- 2) BACK UP** your critical data off-site or copy it onto a CD-ROM, floppy disk, data stick, or laptop that you with you if you evacuate. Practice back-up and restoration NOW!
- 3) PACK YOUR DATA** along with your water, flashlight, and batteries.
- 4) PRINT YOUR CONTACTS** -- all critical information -- for important business and personal contacts, in computer or electric power is unavailable.
- 5) RECORD YOUR USER NAME AND PASSWORD** for your email account as well as your incoming POP server. This information can be used if you are out of town to retrieve your email by logging on to an Internet server.
- 6) RECORD ALL YOUR PASSWORDS** Prepare and take your list of user names and passwords for your connection, router, modem, PC, network, website, on-line billing accounts, etc. If you find you need to rely on that information with you to access from an Internet Cafe or Public Library.
- 7) SECURE THE HQ** and be sure your machines are Log-On password protected, in case you have to leave behind and don't want anyone else getting into them.
- 8) TAKE THE DISKS** and the license information or codes for all software programs that are critical for your operations, so you can reinstall the programs if you need to change to new hardware.
- 9) UPS GUARD** units should be in place -- storm or no storm. Plug your computers and monitors into Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) units to guard against electricity spikes as well as loss of power. A UPS can give you a chance to properly shut down your PC when a storm threatens.
- 10) REMOTE SERVER CONTACT** If you store your data off-site, get in touch with your remote server host that their list of Authorized Personnel on your account includes anyone you want to be able to give instructions to access the equipment.

Call us at 713-403-9150 if we can help!

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE A MAJOR STORM HITS

- Do you have a backup generator if the power goes off to your building?
- If the Air Conditioning goes off, will you have to turn your servers off to avoid heat damage?

- Are your computers protected by surge protection or an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)?
- Do you have your server connected to a UPS?
- Can your UPS sustain power to your critical systems for over 30 minutes?
- Are you prepared to systematically shut down and turn off your computer equipment to avoid power outages?
- Are the running configurations in your routers properly written to memory?
- Do you have all the passwords required to access your server and your data if your system shuts down?
- Would a secure location with redundant Internet access and backup electrical power serve your needs?

HOW CAN THE ALDRIDGE COMPANY HELP?

Dave Aldridge, President of The Aldridge Company, a Houston-based IT and Internet Services firm, says, "You can rest assured about their equipment being available on the Internet due to The Aldridge Company's Network Operations Center power redundancy via UPS and diesel generator for backup power generation and multiple routes to the Internet for accessibility.

"The brownouts that recently occurred in Houston are of concern to all IT professionals and people who need their computers in order to make a living. Electrical power surges and power loss can adversely affect your company. Owners of all mission critical servers, especially in Houston, should consider backup power due to weather-related power outages."

If you have mission critical servers, that keep your business going, then your server needs to be local to a facility that has backup power and multiple routes to the Internet.

If you are an Application Service Provider then your server IS your business, and your servers NEED to be connected to the Internet at a NOC with reliable resources!

If your network is composed of **multiple routers, switches or other hardware with running configurations** that equipment's configuration was not properly saved, then the power to your network may be critical. When power goes off, it may be necessary to reconfigure your equipment to be able to access data on your network. The Aldridge Company can review your network and your equipment to be sure configurations are saved and protected from the power going off. After the storm, The Aldridge Company can reconfigure your hardware and get it up and running.

If your office computers are **not plugged in to UPSs**, then power spikes and power outages can affect them. Let us install, test, and replace the UPSs for your computers.

Call or email The Aldridge Company for a free hurricane preparedness assessment and recommendations for your critical computer and networking needs.

Call us at 713-403-9150 or e-mail info@aldridge.com if we can help!

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