



“It will take at least one year to clean the toxic spill in Hungary, with untold damage to the environment”

It seems that disasters are continuing to strike across the globe. Hungary says it will cost tens of millions of dollars and take at least a year to clean up the damage caused by a spill of toxic, red industrial sludge. Also, the triple disasters striking Indonesia recently are a timely reminder that the region must be prepared for the worst with an Earthquake followed by a Tsunami and then a Volcano.

Welcome once again to our seasonal newsletter. Accidents and Acts of God are the theme of this publication. In Hungary, red industrial hazardous sludge escaped from a reservoir at an aluminium plant in Ajka causing fatalities, injuries and disruption to thousands of people and untold serious environmental damage to an area of 40sq km. The walls housing the reservoir were breached even though the reservoir was examined a few days earlier. Weeks of heavy rain are likely to have played a role in the accident; nevertheless the walls were somehow breached causing costs of up to tens of millions of dollars and a prolonged period of recovery for the region, stretching the country's resources during this most challenging of economic times.

In Indonesia a major 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck off the Sumatra's Mentawai Islands, triggering another tsunami resulting in the loss of almost 500 lives. The Mentawai earthquake was quickly followed the next day by a volcanic eruption in Mount Merapi in central Java, which to date has killed at least 38 people. This unprecedented number of major incidents affecting a relatively small area proves that businesses, big or small, should plan for every eventually no matter how far fetched the likelihood may seem.

Be warned, in the UK we are not immune to earthquakes. Starting with the largest, in February 2004 a tremor measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale was recorded near Basildon in Essex. In February 2008 a tremor was recorded near Lincoln measuring 5.3 and in April 2007 near Folkestone measuring 4.2. In fact, it has been reported by Dr Roger Musson of the British Geological Survey that a fracture in the earth's crust beneath the English Channel could slip at any time, sending a tremor rippling across the south east of England. Do you have property in the South east of England? How prepared are you for extreme circumstances like these?

The important point to understand here is that few of us in business can prevent a tremor from occurring wherever you operate or trade around the globe. What you can do is understand the risks geographically and geologically in your area, then use this information to assess the impact these risks could have on your business, particularly in relation to employees, assets and your balance sheet and how you can best continue your business should this incident affect your operations.

On a separate note, I have been busy giving several presentations to various groups and businesses, a lecture at Cranfield University and attending conferences, including the BCM World Conference and Business Resilience in the Supply Chain in order to continue to develop our knowledge and research in up to date Business Continuity planning.

I'm off now to continue planning for a busy 2011, in the meantime, to assist your seasonal planning, I have attached a simple premises checklist you may find useful, particularly when many businesses close down for a period over the season.

May we also take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

2 b continued is a company, providing independent, Business Continuity & Security solutions across all business sectors. We have real life, practicable experience of major incidents in the UK & International in business. We can help you with the planning and preventative measures required in respect of Accidents and Acts of God providing you and your company with the risk assessments and the tools to protect your employees, as well as your reputation, assets and the balance sheet. We can also provide the preparation and information on what to do leading up to and in times of a crisis as well as how to prepare you to keep your business running as normally and as quickly as possible.

2 b continued can really help you and your business to continue regardless of the situation faced. If you would like us to help, visit our website www.2bcontinued.co.uk or e-mail me direct at trevor.partridge@2bcontinued.co.uk My full contact details are listed below.

Thank you once again for taking the time to read these newsletters. We hope you find them informative.

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