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that safety plans are communicated regularly.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • May. 28, 2013

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2013

Although natural disasters are the top safety concern among office employees, the majority of businesses (60 percent) said recent disasters such as the Oklahoma tornado and Hurricane Sandy haven't led them to reassess their safety plans, according to [Staples'](#) second annual workplace safety survey.

Survey results on business risks and emergencies were issued in advance of [National Safety Month](#) in June.

Less than half of small businesses said they are prepared for severe emergencies or that safety plans are communicated regularly. Staples suggests that businesses stock

up on emergency items like food, water, flashlights and blankets, enough to help

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Furthermore, according to survey results, small businesses appear to be more at risk for safety concerns than medium-sized businesses. Specifically:

- Less than half of small businesses said they are prepared for severe emergencies or that safety plans are communicated regularly.
- Thirty-eight percent said their small business does not have safety training or drills.
- Medium-sized businesses were more likely to have plans in place for emergencies such as evacuation (90 percent), shelter in place (46 percent) and building lockdown (56 percent).
- Medium-sized businesses reported a wider array of safety equipment on-site.

“Staples knows that businesses take safety seriously in order to protect their greatest assets: employees,” said Bob Risk, senior strategic safety, health and wellness manager, Staples. “With an expanded assortment of safety supplies, from first aid kits, fire extinguishers and personal protective equipment to ergonomic furniture and technology accessories, Staples offers solutions to help businesses keep workers safe, healthy and productive.”

Staples Safety and Emergency Preparation Tips

Staples recommends these additional steps to help prepare for emergencies and maintain a safe work environment:

- **Stock up on emergency items:** In addition to an emergency evacuation plan, business should have enough food, water, flashlights and blankets to help sustain employees for up to three days. Items like masks and crank-powered radios can further help businesses be ready for any emergency.
- **Help prevent accidents:** The second foremost safety concern among survey respondents was trips, slips and falls. Prevent accidents by installing floor matting

and placing hazard signs where appropriate.

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