The Survival of Small Businesses in Northeastern Florida After a Natural Disaster

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Abstract
Many small business owners lack strategies needed to prevent permanent business closure in the wake of extreme natural disaster situations. After a natural disaster, small businesses suffer financial losses in millions of dollars related to damage and destruction that disrupt their lives, families, and communities. This multiple case study explored strategies that 5 small business owners in northeastern Florida used to avoid permanent business closure in the aftermath of a natural disaster. The theory of planned behavior and vested interest theory were the conceptual frameworks used in this multiple case study. In-depth interviews with purposively selected small business owners were supplemented with a review of documentation from archival records. Yin's 5-step analysis guided the coding process of participants' responses, and member checking was used to validate the transcribed data. The major themes of the study revealed the owners' strategies relating to flood barriers, maintaining adequate insurance coverage, damage and destruction aftermath, and experience with natural disasters. This study's implications for social change include contributing to social stability and continuing economic growth by benefiting small business owners without a natural disaster plan or a plan that needs updating, new small business owners, and community organizations. This study may benefit small businesses by providing lessons learned on how to survive natural disasters.

Recommended Citation

Natural disasters set records around the world in 2017 — these were the worst. Hilary Brueck. 2017-12-24T17:17:00Z. Hurricane Irma hit Florida hard. Growers are worried about the long-term effects on their crops. US Senator Bill Nelson, left, speaks with Vic Story as he tours the Story Grove orange grove where large numbers of oranges sat on the ground in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Brian Blanco/Getty Images. The earth is parched in northeastern Brazil, where a five-year drought is the worst dry patch on record. Residents told Reuters that their water is dirty, smelly, and undrinkable. In Somalia, dry conditions are causing starvation. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Natural disasters in Florida. Subcategories. This category has the following 4 subcategories, out of 4 total. E. Earthquakes in Florida (1 P). Natural disasters in the United States by state. Geography of Florida. Hidden categories: Commons category link is on Wikidata. Natural disasters are also caused by natural activities in the crust of the earth. Natural processes can cause tension inside the earth's crust which are sometimes released through earthquakes. Tectonic movement. Hurricane Andrew was a hurricane of category 5 that hit the Bahamas, Louisiana and Florida. Although the number of fatalities was relatively low, the economic damage was one of the largest in history and amounted to 27.3 billion USD. 2003 Bam earthquake. How to Survive a Natural Disaster. Three experts share their tips on withstanding a devastating catastrophe. 13 Minute Read. By Lindsay N. Smith. A lot of people just can't afford to buy all the survival things you'd need, but there are some basic things you must have. The first thing is some type of lighting system or flashlight you can use for a week or longer, along with the batteries to run it. And one of the most dangerous things after a disaster are uncontrolled intersections. People go down the road, and they'll drive right into a major intersection without even stopping. A animal rescue volunteer carries a small dog he found abandoned inside a
flooded home after Hurricane Harvey. If a natural disaster forces an evacuation, it’s best to evacuate with your pets or take them to a shelter.