

# Business Continuity Information Network

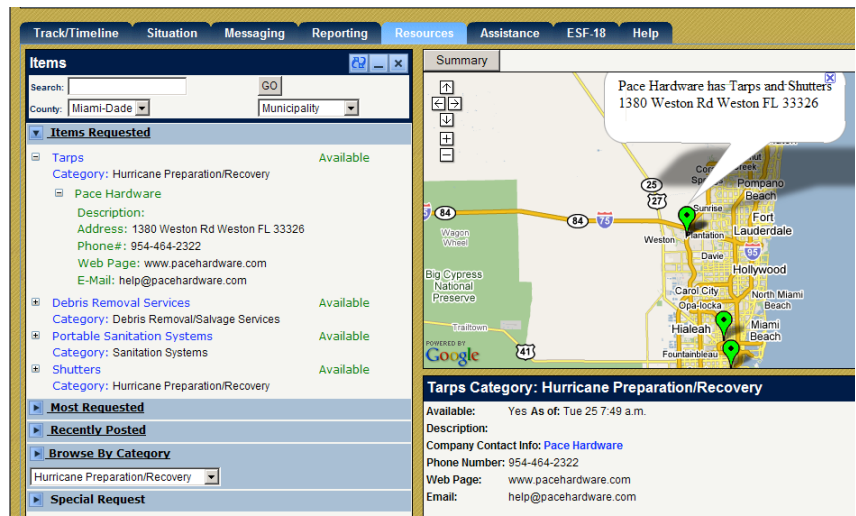
Helping Business Communities Prepare for and Recover from Disaster

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Studies have shown that businesses risk failure if they are unable to reopen quickly after a disaster. To reduce these risks and improve communications within the business community, FIU has developed the Business Continuity Information Network (pronounced "bee-kin"), a web-based service where local businesses, emergency management, and organizations that assist businesses can gather to share critical information and support continuity efforts before, during and after a disaster.

Available year-round as a public service, this business-to-business community network provides participating companies a tool to track their key employees and supply chain status, and locate needed recovery goods and services. The system facilitates professional organizations like Chambers of Commerce to assist their members, and helps government agencies to assess damage and prioritize recovery needs.

BCIN reports, maps and shares critical up-to-the-minute information about infrastructure conditions and recovery efforts by working with County Emergency Management Offices and major private infrastructure providers. BCIN will localize and tailor relevant information to business managers who will use this information to better assess an event's impact to their facilities, employees, suppliers and customers.



BCIN's B2B network, which includes companies from different industry sectors, business and trade associations and NGOs, helps businesses locate disaster recovery resources, products, and services while allowing them to collaborate on recovery efforts. Businesses can use BCIN to report their operational status and assistance needs to county government and NGOs so these organizations can prioritize their relief efforts. Recovery dollars spent locally helps to keep local businesses open and mitigates employment loss.

The BCIN South Florida Release supports business recovery programs initiated by county participants including Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe County through their respective Emergency Management offices. Private sector participants include Office Depot, Wal-Mart, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and a variety of local businesses across industry sectors. BCIN is supported by the Department of Homeland Security, IBM and the National Science Foundation.

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