

White Paper

How Far is Far Enough?

2005 Survey Results

The results of a survey concerning how far an alternate facility should be from the primary operations facility.

Conducted by:

PreEmpt, Inc.

Business Continuity Planners

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White Paper - Survey Results

This paper is a compilation of survey information regarding the question:

How far should an alternate facility be from the primary operations facility?

The survey was conducted in September 2005 and documented in October 2005 by PreEmpt, Inc., with the primary source of information being chapter members of the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP). Survey results may also be viewed online at www.PreEmptInc.com.

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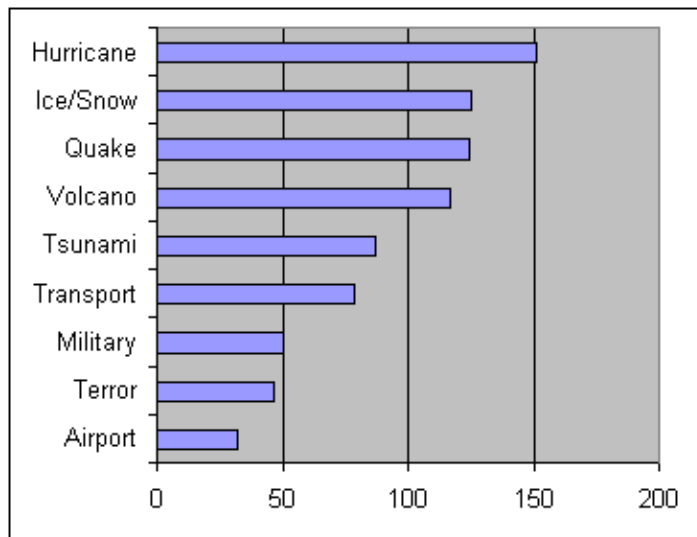
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The Survey Said ...

The survey simply asked how far the respondents thought an alternate site should be from the primary site, assuming that the primary location was vulnerable to certain threats. The chart with this article shows survey results clearly indicate an organization subject to a hurricane should consider having its alternate site at a considerable distance from the primary site. The average for organizations subject to hurricanes is 151 miles ... the highest average of any category ... while conducting operations near a civilian airport has the lowest result at 32 miles.



Analysis & Comments

When sorted by distance to the alternate site, the sequence **by threat** remained basically the same as that for the 2002 survey, with the exception that Volcano moved from second to fourth position. Hurricane remained at the top (greatest distance) and Civilian Airport remained at the bottom. However, distances in all categories were higher, and in some cases significantly higher. No categories showed a decrease. The survey was conducted during hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which may have had an influence on the results in that category.

Comparison of 2002 & 2005 Survey Results				
Threat / Risk	2002 Distance	2005 Distance	Change +/-	in Miles
Hurricane	105	151	46	
Ice/Snow Storm	68	125	57	
Earthquake	60	125	65	
Volcano	75	116	41	
Tsunami	51	87	36	
Transportation Disruptions	not included	79	n/a	
Military Installation	44	50	6	
Terrorism	not included	47	n/a	
Civilian Airport	26	32	6	

Four other surveyed questions regarding critical infrastructure at an alternate site are listed below:

General Questions	Agree	Disagree
An alternate site should always be on a separate power grid from the primary site	96%	4%
An alternate site should always be supplied with power from a power plant other than the one that serves the primary site	72%	28%
Neither of the <u>two</u> previous items matters if an alternate site is fully supported by generator	31%	69%
An alternate site should always receive telephone service from a central office other than the central office that provides service to the primary site	86%	14%

How the Survey Was Conducted

All surveys need a target audience for collection of data. In reviewing potential sources, we decided to ask for participation from the ACP chapters for a number of reasons:

- The group was definable *and* has an interest in the outcome of the survey.
- They were easily accessible and mailing lists were already in place.

However, the primary reason for selecting this group is:

- They practice business continuity on a daily basis.

For this reason, we felt ACP members would provide better information and their responses would reflect real-world experience and first-hand knowledge.

To begin the information-gathering process, an email with a copy of the survey form was sent to and distributed from the national ACP office requesting that chapter members participate in the survey.

In answering the survey questions, all participants were asked to assume they had only ONE alternate facility. Additionally, they were asked to answer all categories (not just the ones that apply to their location) and to make their answers general and not specific to their industry.

Completed surveys were received and compiled by PreEmpt. The results reflect analyzed data from a total of 97 surveys returned as of 9/30/2005.

How Averages Were Calculated

Responses to distance ranged from a low of 5 miles to an upper limit of 1000 miles in certain categories. However, extreme responses were the exception and, to avoid skewing survey results, the upper and lower 10% of responses in all categories were eliminated *before* average calculations were made.

Background

In 2002, PreEmpt, Inc., with assistance from ACP chapters, conducted a survey asking how far an alternate site should be from the primary site. Results were published by various means, including a direct email to all ACP chapters, posting of results on PreEmpt's website, and an article in the DRJ magazine. Over the past three years, we have received and granted numerous requests to reproduce the survey results and a white paper on our website is an ever popular download. However, in response to frequent requests to update the information, the survey was recently reconducted, again using ACP membership as our source of expertise. With support coming from the national level, a total of 97 completed surveys were received. The results are published here and on our website at www.PreEmptInc.com. We sincerely hope that you find this information useful.