

Dangerous Animals and Avoiding Disaster

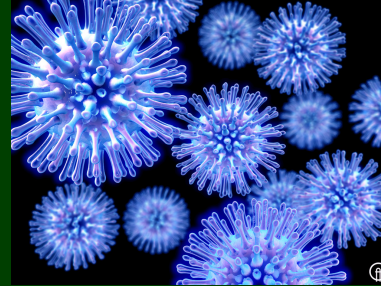
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Abstract

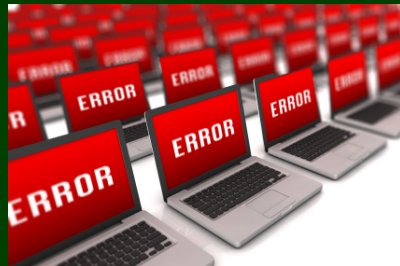
Working with venomous animals presents several obvious challenges, but coupled with a climate of economic instability and civil unrest, you have a volatile situation. This presentation will provide insights on the unique higher level lab and business management that were needed to evolve Venomtech Ltd into the business it is today. Health and safety is of course of paramount importance, but protecting people is only one aspect of averting disaster and truly protecting your business. It is estimated that 80% of businesses affected by a major incident close within 18 months if they did not have a contingency plan in place. By working with Risk Protection Solutions Ltd, Venomtech Ltd has adopted a proactive and wider approach to risk protection considering not only how to protect people, but also how to protect the business and avert disaster in the wider sense.



Could you meet the deadlines when half your staff are off during a flu pandemic?



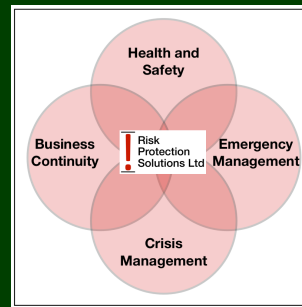
Spiders aren't the scariest thing in business - Failure is!



Could you still write papers if you couldn't access your data?

Method

Like a standard risk assessment a business continuity plan considers all the potential hazards and the risk they present to the business as well as directly to the health and safety of the staff.



We already knew how to cope with bites and stings but know we're prepared for anything



Could your lab still operate if next door collapsed and you couldn't get in?

Conclusion

Risk assessment is critical to all work places: we all know this, but it's important to understand it's not just the hazards you know and directly work with that can affect your labs' performance and continuation. We knew how to safely work with venomous animals and what to do in the event of envenomation. We now know how our business can continue to operate in a comprehensive range of situations. The events may be largely beyond our control such as fire in a neighbour's building or an influenza pandemic, but being prepared isn't. Getting professionals to assess the risk posed by hazards outside our laboratory has opened our eyes to what our business was potentially at risk from and how best to continue, i.e. building a business continuity plan. Such that when our landlord sold our premises and we had to relocate over 400 venomous animals we had a plan in place and business continues.

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