DISASTER RECOVERY AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY

There are several levels of business continuity planning taking place at the College. At one level, academic and business divisions address threats to college operations. The senior administrators consider how offices could function if, for example, essential staff were unavailable or if power were turned off. At another level, Information Services reviews the technology components of the College-wide risk assessment plan and any other threat to technology systems and services, and makes plans to respond to emergencies.

Information Services staff members use recognized IT best practice procedures along with internal risk assessments to identify potential events that could disrupt College educational and business activities that utilize technology. This would include most academic and business activities, from presenting a lecture to submitting semester grades. In addition, the IT Information Security Committee meets two or three times per semester to review information security activities and risks.

Information Services addresses serious issues and develops strategies to reduce the risks. In addition, the IS Disaster Recovery Plan and the Incident Response Plan are reviewed and updated each year. The College has two data centers and redundant servers to counteract equipment failure. In many cases, backup equipment can be deployed in hours. The primary data center has a generator that can power the equipment during prolonged power outages. Essential servers are frequently backed up to reduce the possibility of data loss. Moreover, the Enterprise Systems Team conducts regular drills to test our systems by restoring data from backup tapes.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
DISASTER RECOVERY AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY:

- The College's auditing firms review the College's Disaster Recovery and Incident Response Plans. The firms were complimentary in their most recent report.
- The College maintains an externally hosted Web site to provide emergency updates if the College's internal Web servers are out of service.
- Information Services' staff is researching the use of offsite backup services that provide servers, as well as private cloud storage, for business continuity.

For more information, contact Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support and Information Security Officer, at x5242 or bwcar@conncoll.edu.