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## Hills Bank and Trust Company and Safeguard Iowa Partnership Co-sponsor Business Continuity Workshops

With all of the priorities faced by businesses, emergency and continuity planning is not always at the top of the “to do” list. That’s why Hills Bank and Trust Company partnered with the Safeguard Iowa Partnership: to provide useful tools in helping businesses prepare for the worst. “We typically hear that people know it’s important, but can’t find the time,” explained Jay Allpress, Information Security Officer for the eastern Iowa bank. “We wanted to give them tools to make the process easier.”

While the bank promoted the workshop, the Safeguard Iowa Partnership provided a speaker and educational materials, which included a PowerPoint presentation, business continuity workbooks and templates on a CD for each participant.

“We had a plan in place and this gave us a chance to review and update it,” explained Pam Jaben, Executive Officer with the Iowa City Area Association of Realtors. Jaben said she would “absolutely recommend” the workshops to other businesses. She stressed that plans should be regularly reviewed rather than “filing [them] away.”

David Kacena started his planning at the beginning of the year and viewed the workshop as a chance to learn more about the process. Kacena, who owns a property management firm, wanted to be sure his business was not part of the 40% that typically do not survive a disaster. He was motivated in part because of his sister’s experiences during the recent Joplin, Missouri, tornadoes. “I was headed in the right direction, and this provided me with more encouragement,” he said. In addition to the useful templates and tools, Kacena said he is considering a disaster’s impact on key employees who might be affected by a disaster. He is developing procedures to hire temporary workers to fill that void. Kacena would “strongly recommend” the workshop to other business owners.

The workshops have been so successful that Hills Bank is planning to offer them again later this year. “This was a win-win for our customers and us,” Allpress stressed.

If your business, chamber or association is interested in partnering with Safeguard Iowa to offer a free business continuity lunch-and-learn, workshop or seminar, contact Safeguard Iowa Partnership at 515.246.1707 or [sip@safeguardiowa.org](mailto:sip@safeguardiowa.org).

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The Safeguard Iowa Partnership is a 501c3 nonprofit involving government, private-sector, higher education and nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of Iowa to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters through public-private collaboration.

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