Does Leadership understand the risk of not addressing risk? Many businesses Ignore Risks and Potential Threats

Why do businesses ignore risks and potential threats? There are many reasons, such as the business is willing to accept specific risks, but the majority will have a negative impact on your business. Responses we have heard from businesses over the years.

- Risks are too expensive to fix and will impact the profitability of the business.
- The fix may have a negative impact on our culture.
- Regulatory compliance may impact the customer and my ability to make a profit.
- Spending money to protect leadership and assets sends a negative message to employees.

What are some of your potential exposures?

- Potential business shutdown for not complying with regulatory issues.
- Safety risks impacting employees and visitors.
- Executive protection and security vulnerability.
- Business interruption due to absence of leadership.
- Vendor Risk Management.
- Failure to prepare for continuity of business resulting from significant events such as natural disasters, economic recession, and pandemics.
- Reputation Risk.
- Business negligence in avoiding risk, compliance, and threat awareness resulting in litigation and unfavorable verdicts. Below are recent examples.

Verdicts in the United States in 2019

Source: TopVerdict https://topverdict.com/

| Amount | \$30,000,000.00 |
|--------|---|
| Case | Estate of Sledge v. The DCH Health Care Authority, et al. |
| Туре | Medical Malpractice, Professional Malpractice, Wrongful Death, Failure to |
| | Treat, Negligent Tort, Vicarious Liability, Respondeat Superior |
| State | Alabama |

| Amount | \$325,000,000.00 |
|--------|---|
| Case | Olson v. Brenntag North America Inc., et al. |
| Туре | Asbestos Exposure, Failure to Warn, Personal Injury, Product Liability, Toxic |
| | Exposure, Defective Product, Talc Exposure, Mesothelioma, Negligent Tort, |
| | Strict Liability |
| State | New York |

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| Amount | \$8,115,000.00 |
|--------|--|
| Case | Rodriguez v. County of Los Angeles |
| Туре | Civil Rights Violation, Hostile Work Environment, Whistleblower Retaliation, |
| | Labor & Employment, Intentional Tort, Workplace Harassment, Wrongful |
| | Demotion |
| State | California |

| Amount | \$13,060,000.00 |
|--------|--|
| Case | Estate of Hermenegildo, et al. v. Blunden, et al. |
| Туре | Business Liability, Dangerous Condition, Falling Object, Premises Liability, Wrongful Death, Negligent Maintenance, Failure to Supervise, Negligent Tort |

| Amount | \$45,000,000.00 |
|--------|--|
| Case | Carmichael v. Georgia CVS Pharmacy L.L.C. |
| Туре | Assault & Battery, Dangerous Condition, Failure to Warn, Personal Injury, Premises Liability, Negligent Security, Failure to Maintain, Gunshot Wound, Negligent Tort |
| State | Georgia |

• Cyber Security Risk.

Risks can present themselves in all Business Functions. From cultural challenges, departmental silos, customer driven process improvement while identifying non-value driven processes and the elimination of waste.

What can business do to prepare?

- Develop, maintain, and fund effective continuity of business, security, and emergency preparedness functions (both operational and technical).
- Educate all employees and vendors on company policies and their individual responsibilities.
- Do not ignore regulatory compliance.
- Practice continuous process improvement.
- Business Interruption, Professional Liability, and Errors and Omissions coverage are just a few coverages you should discuss with your insurance carrier or broker.

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- Establish a process on how to predict risk and prepare for uncertainty.
- Retain an experience Risk / Threat consultant such as Michael D. Ness, Business Risk Consulting, to conduct annual assessments or your business. Periodic assessment can track your risk mitigation progress throughout the year and ensure compliance with applicable regulatory governing bodies.