

Preparing
your
business
for a flood

This time last year I arrived at my family's camp to enjoy a weekend of solitude on the Maine coast. When I opened the door I discovered a flooded first floor.

My plans quickly went from spending the day lost in a book to spending the day with a shop vac.

Six inches of water flooded a hallway, bedrooms, bath and closets. No one had been in the house for several weeks and it was clear that the water had been running awhile. The doors and walls had absorbed a lot of water and mold already was beginning to form.

The culprit: a hole in the water heater.

We lost nearly everything as a result of water damage and mold. The entire space had to be gutted and rebuilt. Fortunately no one was hurt and our insurance covered a lot of the expense.

I had never realized the damage even a little water can do to property until I experienced it for myself.

As I watch the news reports coming out of South Carolina and other states devastated by the floods this last week I can only imagine the devastating effects on families and businesses. Mainers also had our share of too much water in a recent storm that left many of us with flooded basements, cars and businesses.

These events should serve as a reminder that floods can and do happen for a number of reasons and we need to be prepared.

For businesses, this is especially true. Now is the time to make a flood plan to protect your personnel and your property.

Here are some steps you can take to prepare a flood plan for your business:

1. Contact your insurer and ask if you have flood insurance and what it does and does not cover. Work with the insurer to review your policy to ensure you are properly insured in the event of a loss due to a flood.

2. Check to make sure your equipment, materials, supplies and inventory are properly stored to protect them in the event of a flood. Consider getting those items up off the floor, out of the basement or away from any area prone to flooding. Water can get in through the roof as well, so protect your assets should that occur.

3. Make a "shut-off" plan that is easily accessible and visible to ensure that gas, water and power can be turned off safely in the event of a flood.

4. Before anyone shuts off anything, make sure your staff is trained on what to do and whom to call in the event of a flood emergency.

5. Have a communications plan in place to reach employees, customers and key stakeholders in the event of a flood emergency.

6. Consider how your business will be affected if someone you do business with experiences a flood. For example, if a key customer or supplier is located in an area that recently was affected by floods, it may temporarily or permanently

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DEB NEUMAN
BACK TO BUSINESS



ANTHONY BRINO | BDN

Space that used to store potatoes 20 feet high is now a pipe system at the Maine Malt House in Mapleton that cleans and screens the barley kernels into an exact size.

‘You can taste the local’

Maine brothers work to supply malt for craft beer economy

BY ANTHONY BRINO
BDN STAFF

MAPLETON — Among Aroostook County farmers trying to diversify and enter new markets, Joshua and Jacob Buck decided to focus on a crop they were already growing.

Joshua and Jacob Buck, two of four brothers, have spent the past few years thinking about potential crops to grow beyond potatoes and grains, leading an effort to diversify the third-generation Buck Farms under the guidance of their father and two uncles. Initially, their interest in craft beer drew them to hops, the flowers used for bitterness in beer brewing.

The hops have grown well, but the brothers had another idea last year when they were trying to sell them to the Sea Dog Brewing Co. in Bangor.

"They had malted barley sitting by the door," said Jacob Buck, a

recent University of Maine engineering graduate. "I thought, 'Hey, we grow barley.' By the time we left there, we were looking at how to malt barley."

In February, they founded the Maine Malt House, narrowly beating the Blue Ox Malthouse in Lisbon Falls in being the state's first modern malt house, and entering the competitive malt market dominated by multinational corporations.

Many New England farms have long grown barley and other grains, but beer breweries large and small tend to rely on malted barley, the source of the sugars fermented into beer, sold by large companies such as Cargill. Grain farmers have traditionally sold to big firms for malting, rather than try to process the grain themselves.

But the Buck brothers in Mapleton, as well as startup malt houses in places such as Massachusetts and North Carolina, are



Jacob Buck holds barley from Maine Malt House in Mapleton.

betting they can create a business in the "field to glass" movement, the marriage of the local food and craft beer economies.

"We're too far into it now. We're a craft malt company," said Joshua Buck.

Not long after the epiphany at Sea Dog, Buck attended a malt

academy in Winnipeg, Ontario, to learn "the biochemistry of barley" and the whole malting process, where the grains are steeped in water, germinated and then dried to preserve enzymes that help starches turn into sugars and eventually alcohol.

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Amanda Fogg, assistant teacher at Cornerspring Montessori School in Belfast since 2013, recently completed her Montessori training through Northeast Montessori Institute. Fogg received an Associate Early Childhood Certification from the American Montessori Society. She also holds an Associate of Science degree in early childhood education from Beal College.

ON THE JOB



Fogg

Paul Downing, U.S. Army, retired, an Indian Township Passamaquoddy Tribe member employed by the tribe, graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Basic Academy at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on Aug. 19.

FEMA's National Emergency Management Basic Academy is the entry point for individuals pursuing a career in emergency management.

TruChoice Federal Credit



Downing

Union recently hired **Geno Marks** as a financial services representative for the contact center in South Portland. Marks graduated from Noble High School and worked for insurance companies State Farm and Amica before joining TruChoice. He resides in Rollinsford, New Hampshire.



Marks



Blais

Marcel Blais of Lewiston has become chief retail officer at Maine Savings to replace Don Poisson, who recently retired as vice president of member services. Blais, most recently senior vice president and chief operations officer of the community banking division at Northeast Bank, will oversee all operations of the credit union's 10 branches and its member service center. A Maine native, he attended University of Maine at Augusta. He has held board and other positions with the Sanford/Springvale Rotary Club, Sanford/Springvale Little League, Sanford/Springvale Chamber of Commerce, Museum L/A and the city of Lewiston.

Feds rev new push for better truck gas mileage

BY RUSS VAN ARSDALE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHEAST CONTACT



It has been four years since President Barack Obama's administration proposed the first fuel standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks. Last Thursday, the comment period on the second round of rules closed, and it seems environmentalists and trucking industry officials like what they've seen.

On the day the president proposed standards, Rich Freeland, president of Cummins engines division, told reporters the target mileage figures were tough but supportable.

"This one lines up with what customers want, and they want fuel economy," Freeland said.

The industry originally asked the Environmental Protection Agency to write the rules. Congress asked the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or NHTSA, to do it. Some industry officials worried manufacturers

might have to adhere to multiple sets of rules if regulators worked separately. NHTSA and EPA spoke with one voice in writing the performance standards, and industry people say they worked in the real world.

When the second round of rules-writing began early last year, the president and CEO of the American Trucking Association called for a smart blend of science and economics. Bill Graves said better fuel standards will benefit the industry and consumers alike through lower costs.

"However, we should make sure that the new rules don't conflict with safety or other environmental regulations, nor should they force specific types of technology onto the market before

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We need to tell you something (and you're going to love it!):

Welcome to the new home of the Business section!
Watch here every Tuesday as we offer the latest tips, columns and industry information to keep you informed and up-to-date.

