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What Would it Take to “Master Your Disaster”? Practical Templates can be a Great Way to Start

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Over the past decade, I’ve spent a significant amount of time working with communities on post-disaster business and economic recovery efforts. This includes the 2013 Southern Alberta floods, and 2016 Wood Buffalo wildfires. As part of this work, my goal was to seek out and apply international best practices in the field.

Alberta communities are not the first to deal with a disaster. Many communities deal with disasters on a regular basis. While their exact nature may differ, basic principles remain the same. Luckily, there are numerous best practices to draw from. Communities don’t have to reinvent the wheel.

One thing that became apparent to me was the absence of a comprehensive resource to help individuals, businesses and communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. So I wrote it. In December 2017, I published my “Master Your Disaster” series of guidebooks with easy-to-use templates to simplify the process.

Quite frankly, **we all need to be better prepared.** It could mean the difference between keeping our livelihood or maintaining our quality of life. Governments, emergency response organizations and humanitarian relief agencies cannot do it alone.

I believe that if every individual, business and community was better prepared we would not be witnessing the scale, impact or costs we are currently incurring globally. This absolutely needs to change. Templating our activity is a great way to start in making the chaos more controllable—and survivable in the future.

