



Welcome to the Cotton Connection

Delivering The Latest Cotton Companies Updates & Industry Related News



Is your business at risk of suffering from "Hurricane Amnesia?"

5 Ways to Prepare Your Business for Hurricane Season

June marks the beginning of The Atlantic Hurricane Season in the United States, a time when business owners who are geographically located in hurricane prone areas may suffer from "Hurricane Amnesia." This phenomenon occurs when one is unprepared for the potential threat ahead due to previously inactive seasons that had no effect on their business. If a hurricane were to strike your city, can you ensure your business will survive? Follow these 5 ways to prepare your business for Hurricane Season:

1. Ensure your business' roof can withstand the storm. Have the roof of your building evaluated to ensure it is structurally sound and best suited to endure heavy rains, hail and high winds that are characteristic of hurricanes.

2. Anchor large furniture and protect valuable equipment. Mount bookcases, filing cabinets and appliances to walls and floors to avoid further damage to your assets. Secure electronics such as computers and other office equipment with straps or velcro and cover with plastic. Remove items of high value from the property or relocate them to higher locations within the building, if possible, to avoid damage from rising waters.

3. Protect and backup vital records. Back-up records that are not easily produced such as insurance documents, legal contracts, tax returns, accounting statements and other personnel and administrative documents in case of loss.

4. Be prepared when the power inevitably goes out. Turn off all utilities prior to a hurricane making landfall if possible. In the event of a power outage, have a generator on site, and refuel all company vehicles, motors, and other equipment to be available at a moment's notice.

5. Organize “emergency contacts” prior to a disaster. Compile and save important contacts that are crucial to business operations, such as employees, banks, lawyers, accountants, suppliers, and a [full-service disaster recovery firm](#) capable of assessing the damage, developing a scope of work, liaising with insurers and carrying out necessary repairs.



COTTONUITY

Cotton Launches 90-Day Culture Campaign

At Cotton, culture is part of our internal Cottonuity, and is the glue among our team that ensures our consistency in quality. As our COO Randall Thompson always says, “...it’s not our service lines, it’s our culture that sets this company apart.” Over the past month, a companywide initiative began with the launch of our internal “Cottonuity Culture

Campaign,” and will continue over the course of the first 90 days of Fiscal Year 2018. Part of the campaign consists of sending a letter from different members of the Founders and C-Suite, and includes a hand packaged gift to each of our employees. The goal is to touch and inspire them to carry on the culture of Cotton and be ambassadors of the brand, whether out in the field, or mentoring a new Cotton Team member at the office.

Pete Bell, Cotton Co-Founder and CEO, kicked off the campaign with a letter inviting the Cotton Team members to join him and the C-Suite on June 2nd for a “State of Cotton” address, where together they would close out FY17 and discuss the mission for FY18. Randall Thompson sent out a challenge coin, symbolizing “a tangible source of pride in all that you do to make Cotton an unsurpassed leader in the industry through our Cottonuity.” Daryn Ebrecht, our retired Co-Founder, sent everyone remastered versions of our original brochures that Cotton first printed back in 1996, which exemplify the immense growth Cotton has experienced over the past 21 years.

At the "State of Cotton Address" the Cotton Executives gathered the Cotton Team for a town hall style meeting to recognize and congratulate them on a successful year. Focusing on the same key ingredients that have contributed to Cotton's success, they also shared their vision for future growth. To say thank you to all our hard working employees and to kick off the new year, Cotton celebrated with crawfish and ice cream, prepared by Cotton Culinary.

Here's to another wonderful year of growing, and thank you to our clients for entrusting us to continue to deliver quality and service!



Cotton Roofing Has Your Business Covered

Gauge your businesses' possible exposure to tornado damages

Can your business handle the financial burden of a possible tornado? According to FEMA, the average cost of damages from a tornado is \$1 billion per event. Since tornadoes are most damaging to the roof of a structure, it is paramount to have the integrity of your roof evaluated, and also make sure that it is properly insured in the event of a disaster. Cotton is trusted, experienced, and capable in assisting in the wake of a tornado, whether in repairs or complete roof replacement. [Cotton Roofing](#) provides 24/7 on-call rapid response, immediate assessment of the damages for insurance purposes, and quality repairs to commercial roof structures and surrounding areas, and much more.

COTTON'S FINEST



Richard Harris

Director of Financial
Planning & Analysis

"...coming from a budgetary perspective at Cotton, I see how much time and efforts goes towards giving our clients the absolute best end-product."

Cotton's Finest

Employee Spotlight on Richard Harris

1. What is your role on the Cotton Team? What are three words you would use to describe it?

My title is Director of Financial Planning & Analysis. Three words to describe what I do is: forward looking, budgeting, and modeling, but that's actually 4!

2. Where is your favorite place in the world? My favorite place in the world is anywhere that I am able to enjoy the company of my wife and three sons.

3. What does "Cottonunity" mean to you? I ran a postal business around the time when Hurricane Ike struck in 2008. The restoration process was a very stressful time. If I could have just turned over all of my loss-related needs to one company who could have taken care of all the components of restoring my business, the weight as a business owner would have been lifted off my shoulders. After an experience like that, Cottonunity speaks volumes to me as it signifies a reduction of worry and cost for business owners and successfully becoming operational in a timely manner once again.

4. How does Cotton go above and beyond for our clients? When I first joined the company, I had the opportunity to visit one of our jobsites at a hotel. I saw the attention to detail that Cotton applies to their projects. Everything was clean and there were no piles of trash laying around on a live jobsite. It was nearly spotless and very impressive! Also, coming from a budgetary perspective at Cotton, I see how much time and efforts goes towards giving our clients the absolute best end-product.

5. Tell us something about yourself that might surprise us! When I was in elementary school, I was on two television shows in my hometown of Pittsburgh, PA!



A "Best In Show" Win For Cotton Logistics

Exciting win for Best in Show at the Hart Energy Midstream "Heart of the Market" Conference

After a rough patch for oil and gas operations in Texas, the outlook for 2017 is quite optimistic. With oil prices gradually rising, and market stability beginning to take shape, Cotton Logistics is poised for growth in the coming year. Drilling has started to ramp back up in the Permian Basin and the Eagle Ford Shale region, and upstream operations as a whole are increasing.

[Cotton Logistics](#) recently attended the Hart Energy Midstream "Heart of the Market" Conference in Midland, Texas. At the conference, Cotton Logistics sought to gather market intelligence in regards to midstream operations growth, and how to be better

positioned in this sector of the oil and gas industry with the rise in domestic oil consumption fueling construction projects and facility expansions.

At the conference, Cotton Logistics took home the “Duggie Award” for Best in Show for their booth! Cotton Logistics was also an official sponsor of the Midstream Mixer after party, further showcasing their workforce lodging and catering services.



Crawfish In The Snow!

Cotton Culinary takes Denver by (snow) storm during a recent Corporate Catering Event

At [Cotton Culinary](#), we know that our clients expect the very best. Our corporate catering team is devoted to excellence, and we strive to go above and beyond for every event. This commitment to quality was seen at one of our most recent corporate catering events, where five hundred people gathered for a crawfish feast designed to thank their clients, employees, vendors and partners. Read on to learn how Cotton Culinary made this corporate event a success!

The Menu

Our team of culinary experts planned a specialized menu to meet our client's needs. First, fifteen hundred pounds of fresh Louisiana crawfish were brought to the event in Denver, Colorado. Once there, our skilled chefs boiled them onsite so guests could enjoy piping hot crawfish and the lively atmosphere of a true crawfish boil. We also created a New Orleans-themed menu of pork sliders, boudin balls, jambalaya and bread pudding. It's safe to say that nobody left the event hungry!

Additional Services

Cotton Culinary worked through all phases of the event from creating a commemorative logo for souvenir cups, to setting up and tearing down tents needed for the guests'

comfort. We also took care of the parking lot rental, traffic control, restrooms, decorations, and even hired a band to add to the atmosphere, allowing our client to entertain their guests and not worry about the details.

Overcoming Mother Nature

Thanks to our proper planning and execution, the entire event was a success from start to finish. Our team's experience allowed us to quickly shift gears when the weather changed from sunny and 60-degrees to rain, sleet, snow and freezing temperatures! Temporary facilities were set up to provide guests with a secure venue, protecting them from the inclement weather without causing a delay in scheduled activities.

Contact Cotton Culinary Today

At the conclusion of the event, our client was extremely pleased and thanked our team for their hard work, noting this was their best event to date! Cotton Culinary brings dedication, attention to detail and, of course, wonderfully delicious food to every corporate remote catering event we're a part of. [Contact us today](#) to learn more about how we can make your next corporate event one to remember!

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