

Infrastructure Disaster Recovery

After Water Damage

When disaster strikes, getting schools back up and functioning is critical for the entire community.

Consider the following actions when a disaster includes water damage:

Recovering the Data Center

- Inspect all equipment for water damage and unplug before turning power back on. This includes all hardware: battery backup systems, generators, cable plant and other technology equipment. Water damage may have shorted out the equipment and power could do further damage to hard drives and data.
- Contact a data recovery company immediately to help recover the data from the drive(s).
- Get in touch with an IT recycling company to destroy compromised hard drives and also help with recovery.
- Inspect CAT5 cables and punch blocks. Corrosion will occur quickly if water has entered the exposed ends of cables. Replace the cables or, if there is enough length, reterminate.
- Inspect and clean all fiber termination points to ensure connectivity.

Seeking Expert Help

- Reach out to contacts at hardware vendor partners. They have teams with experience in disaster recovery and have likely dealt with similar situations.
- Contact cloud service providers to see how they can help in your efforts get systems up and running.
- Partner with community organizations such as the local emergency response team. They can have personnel with expertise in disaster recovery and can help.
- The National Guard is a great resource and may help get schools back up by providing a staging area with temporary power and Internet.
- Work with your state dept of education - they may have expertise to help and may be coordinating assistance efforts.

Planning for the Future

- Consider moving critical infrastructure to the cloud. See CoSN's [Cloud Computing](#) initiative.
- Develop contingency contracts or Memos of Understanding with out of state agencies, including disaster recovery backup in the event of a catastrophic event.
- Create advance purchasing agreements to speed up the recovery process.
- See CoSN's [IT Crisis Preparedness Resources](#) for more information.