
The latest from the government and leadership office of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

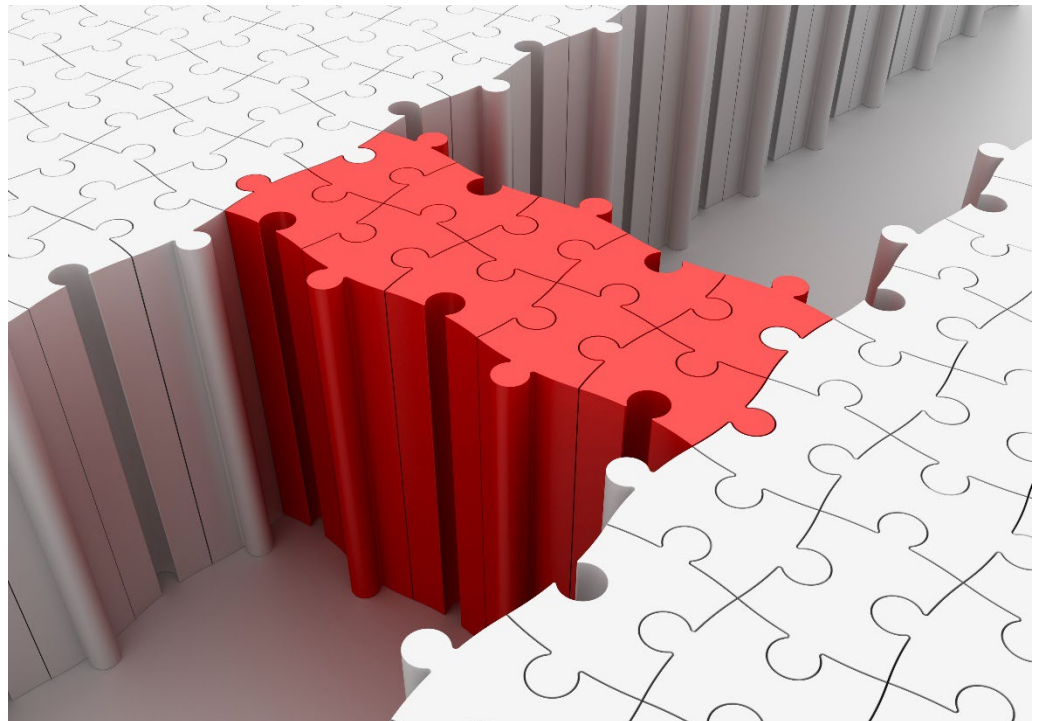
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Resilient Business Initiative - Week 4

Dependencies & Failure Mapping: What Supports Your Critical Operations—and What Could Break Them

This week builds directly on the Critical Operations identified in Week 3. The focus is understanding what those operations depend on and how they might fail during a disruption common to Venice area businesses, such as severe weather, power loss, cyber incidents, or workforce impacts.

Why This Week Matters

Most business disruptions are not caused by the original event itself, but by cascading failures that follow. Power outages become a communications failure. A staffing shortage becomes a customer service issue. Mapping dependencies in advance allows leaders to anticipate these failures rather than react to them.

Key Concept: Dependencies Drive Outcomes

Every critical operation relies on people, technology, facilities, vendors, and information. When one dependency fails, the operation weakens or stops entirely. Resilient businesses identify these dependencies in advance and proactively address the most fragile points.

Business-Friendly Incident Command Insight

In incident management, leaders assume systems will fail and plan accordingly. Decision-making improves when leadership understands which failures will happen first and which ones cause the greatest downstream impact. Dependency mapping supports clearer priorities and faster, more confident decisions during incidents.

Types of Business Dependencies

Review each critical operation and identify its dependencies in the following areas:

- People - specific roles, skills, or decision-makers
- Technology - systems, software, connectivity, data access
- Facilities - buildings, utilities, access points, physical security
- Vendors - suppliers, contractors, service providers
- Information - credentials, documentation, data availability

Failure Mapping: How Things Break

For each dependency, consider how it could realistically fail during a disruption. Focus on likely scenarios rather than worst-case extremes. The goal is awareness, not perfection.

10-Minute Weekly Task: Dependency & Failure Snapshot

Complete this exercise quickly and without overthinking:

1. Select your top 5 critical operations from Week 3
2. List at least one dependency for each operation (people, technology, facility, or vendor)
3. Identify the most likely way each dependency could fail during a disruption
4. Star (*) any dependency that would stop the operation completely

Deliverable

A simple written list that links each critical operation to its key dependencies and highlights the most fragile failure points.

Readiness Outcome for Week 4

By completing this week, participants should be able to say:

- We understand what supports each of our critical operations
- We know where our most likely failure points are
- We can anticipate cascading impacts during a disruption
- We are prepared to address vulnerabilities before an incident occurs

Connection to Local Emergency Partners

Businesses that understand their dependencies can communicate more clearly with utilities, emergency management, IT providers, and public safety partners. This clarity supports faster assistance and more effective coordination during real incidents.

Next Week

Week 5 - Incident Leadership & Decision Authority: Who leads, who decides, and how clarity prevents failure during crisis situations.

Teen Leadership Graduation

On April 7th the VACC had the honor of hosting Lt. Col. Erica Gregory (USAF Ret.) as our guest speaker for the graduation of fourteen excellent future leaders from the Teen Leadership program. It was a wonderful thing to see so many supportive family members fill the conference room to help mark the occasion for these graduates.

We will be opening the application period for this premier program for the 2026-2027 school year very soon, please watch for updates. If you can support the VACC Foundation that supports this program please see the link here: [Give to Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation | Giving Challenge](#)

The Chamber Foundation charges very little to the teen participants and we hope to bring in over twenty participants in the next run, please help us do that. The costliest part of the program is bus rental for each educational afternoon.



Candidate Forum

The VACC will host a candidate forum for local and state candidates for office on Wednesday July 29th at the Hotel Venezia from 4pm - 7pm. Please see the link if you are interested in sponsorships. [Candidate Forum Sponsorship Form](#). There is no cost to participants or candidates.

The evening begins with dedicated one-on-one time, giving attendees a chance to speak face to face with candidates ("hob-nob" format). Later we will shift to a 90- second spotlight format for candidates to express their positive impact message.

SAVE THE DATE and join us at Hotel Venezia.

Legislative Update

Of most significant note from the past week in local government is the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners voted to direct staff to deny Live Local Act projects in rural and low-density residential areas - despite a warning from the county attorney regarding potential openings for litigation over the summer. This is definitely a dynamic move by the Board to keep local considerations in the process of logical development.

The message here from the Chamber is that the Chamber is monitoring this topic and our membership should as well.

Closing Note:

Regarding the U.S. cease-fire and negotiations with Iran: While Venice is not directly exposed to the conflict, second-order effects such as fuel volatility, supply chain delays, cyber risk, and consumer sentiment-are relevant and may become more relevant to the local business community in the coming week.