

Disasters Based in Violations

Written by Steve Marr
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Over one hundred killed in nightclubs in West Warwick, Rhode Island, and Chicago, Illinois, and a manufacturing company explosion in Kentucky – each had a history of apparent past violations:

The nightclub in Rhode Island had passed safety inspections but failed to obtain a permit for pyrotechnics as required.

The E2 Nightclub in Chicago had been ordered closed but was operating a second floor facility despite the order to close.

The CTA Acoustics Company in Kentucky had been cited for past safety violations and was in the process of being cited again by state authorities when the explosion occurred.

In business we are often alerted to a problem that needs to be corrected. If we act quickly to resolve the situation, we can usually avoid a major blow later. Instead of fixing the problem just to get by today and then forgetting about it tomorrow, the changes we make in our businesses should be permanent.

Not every ignored violation will result in death or injury, but warnings are often signs of things to come. I know of a restaurant in Arizona that passed several health department inspections with just the minimum scores required. Because the owner cared little about the violations-only the passing score-little was done to improve the situation. However, the restaurant failed the next inspection because two new violations were added to the list. The result was an embarrassing public news article that cost many customers. Moses gave us a brilliant word picture that

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applies today: "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall surely be stoned.... If however, the ox was previously in the habit of goring, and its owner has been warned, yet does not confine it, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death"(Exodus 21:28-29 NASB).

Tragic accidents will continue to occur given our humanness, but everyone in business has the responsibility to correct-and keep corrected-any health or safety violations.

Steve Marr, Your Christian Business Coach

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