

# when disaster strikes

#### HOW TO HANDLE AN EMERGENCY BEFORE IT HAPPENS

#### BY RACHEL CIERI

 $\mathbf{T}$  he hot July night at Concrete Protection and Restoration, Inc. started innocently enough. A chemical reaction ignited a trashcan near the center of the Woodlawn, MD, warehouse, and within minutes, the entire building went up in flames. Multiple propane tanks exploded, instantly destroying \$2.2 million in equipment, materials, facilities and personal belongings.

### Pandemic Proportions

Now that the possibility of a pandemic is once again in the media spotlight, businesses are facing tough decisions travel policies, sick leave and much more. Littler Mendelson attorney Nancy Delogu gives business leaders her advice on the questions they should be asking.



- What kind of sick leave is appropriate?
- What is the travel policy for locations with the virus?
- Should employees be allowed to vacation in locales where they can pick up harmful disease? What should the procedures be for when they return?
- What should employees do if their children's schools are closed?
- Should your business be considering touchless appliances like trashcans and hand dryers to reduce risk of infection?
- Are you doing enough to promote basic human hygiene in the office?
- Do you need personal protective equipment like face masks or respirators on hand?
- Do company healthcare plans include care for pandemic patients?

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