5TH ELEMENT
NETWORKS & TECHNOLOGY

Has flood damage ruined your computers? All your data may not be lost!

Your office may have been severely damaged or even destroyed by the recent flooding of the Atlanta area, yet this does not necessarily mean your data is unrecoverable, so don't start throwing out your computers just yet! Even if your computer has sat in flood waters of over 6 feet in height, we may still be able to recover your important data! You're probably asking, "How is this possible?" The answer comes in 2 parts:

First, while the hard drive may have been submerged in water, many times the internal disc drive itself did not actually get water infiltration, sounds strange but true. If the internal drive remained dry, recovery can be attempted. Usually once the drive is cleaned we can then download the data off of the drive and transfer that data to a new drive.

Second, but equally important, is the order of events that occurred in your office relative to power to the computers. If the breaker box shut off power to the computer system before water hit your computer there is a greater chance that recovering your data is possible.

If neither of these options works, there is a second but more costly way to recover your data, using a company that uses clean room environments where your hard drive is actually broken apart and copied in a clean room to a clean unit. Since this option is so much more costly, it is recommended to be used only as a last chance strategy.

Just to let you know, at 5th Element Networks & Technologies, Inc. we have already been successful in the data recovery of several office's servers and workstations which held the company databases and QuickBooks for 2009. Those jobs are averaging a few hours per workstation, but since those machines spent almost a week under six feet of water, our customers could not believe we were able to do it! Those companies would have lost months of full time resources to rebuild their information and, YES, they are all ecstatic that we recovered their data!

 I'm no expert in your business but I do know that recovering QuickBooks for example could take some companies weeks at this point in the year (if not more), to reconstruct . Reality is that it might be nearly impossible to do. If you have lost your main database that includes your customer list of phone numbers, emails, outstanding invoices, etc. what would it be worth to you to recover? In other words, how much is your time worth to bring the data back to you?

How will you know if your data can be recovered? Unfortunately we cannot give you that information until we start working with the hardware, so there will be a cost regardless if we can recover your data. Normally we can tell within a few hours if your data is recoverable and at what expense. But I can tell you one thing that is certain… it may be the smartest investment you've made all year!

David Johanning,
President and CEO