

Governing Energy

Bounce Back

Volume 6 Number 11—June 8, 2017

When the volcano Mount Saint Helen erupted on May 18, 1980 it appeared to many that Armageddon had indeed arrived. However, scientists discovered that approximately 90% of the original botany was regenerated in the blast area within three years.ⁱ

Some continue to research environmental human caused failures such as Exxon Valdez and BP Macondo and challenge the belief of ecosystem's resiliency.ⁱⁱ Time will tell what the new environment looks like. However, can the case be made that Alaska and the US Gulf Coast have recovered, at least economically? The answer to that question depends on one's perspective and biases.

Natural and Economic forces have tended to outperform "conventional (negative) wisdom" when it comes to resiliency. Often they do not simply recover but thrive in a dramatically changed way following a major incident.

Ecosystems are agile and resilient to negative forces. The 19th Century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, is credited with the statement, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger."ⁱⁱⁱ We see confirmation of his statement often.

Adversity is a common human affliction. Most of us will not face the tribulation of warfare; however, most face tensions in the work place.

Companies (and individuals) that do not or cannot adjust to the so called "new realities" following some singularity are mostly like ill-fated. As with the fauna and flora living in Washington state almost 40 years ago, there is no reason for *bounce back* not to be quick!

How are You Making Your Organization More Resilient?

Additional details are available from the author.

About the Author

Dr. [Scott M. Shemwell](#) has over 30 years technical and executive management experience primarily in the energy sector. He is the author of six books and has written extensively about the field of operations. Shemwell is the Managing Director of The Rapid Response Institute, a firm that focuses on providing its customers with solutions enabling Operational Excellence and regulatory compliance management. He has studied cultural interactions for more than 30 years—his dissertation; *Cross Cultural Negotiations*

Between Japanese and American Businessmen: A Systems Analysis (Exploratory Study) is an early peer reviewed manuscript addressing the systemic structure of societal relationships.

End Notes

ii <http://creation.com/after-devastation-the-recovery>

ii <http://oceana.org/press-center/press-releases/new-oceana-report-highlights-long-term-impacts-deepwater-horizon-oil>

iii <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/f/friedrichn101616.html>