

Association of Contingency Planners South Texas Chapter

Message from the Information
Manager

by Jon Pulling, CBCP

I am glad to see all our fellow chapter members made it back from DRJ safe and sound. I will assume the same for those that attended the IBM Summit in Orlando. These conferences provide us with opportunities to find out the latest developments in our field, learn about the experiences of other folks just like us, an opportunity to visit with old friends and make new friends. Plus, they can contribute significantly to the education requirements for re-certification.

I would urge all of you to try to attend at least one conference every year. I have noticed a marked difference in the quality and content of the programs since the first one I attended in 1995. As a general rule, the material is much better and covered much deeper. I agree with John Link's comment (see his column below) that some speakers are real good and some are not as good, but overall, I think the quality of presentation has improved.

I think that the improvements have come about because of the growth in our industry and a better understanding and appreciation of the significant role of "Business Continuity" in the life of a company.

Business Continuity Planning has been able to attract more of the "best and brightest" of the

NewsWire

organization. After all, isn't that why you are here?

President's Message

John Link, CBCP

DRJ: It was difficult to return to work after being in sunny San Diego for the DRJ Disaster Symposium and Exhibition, but one had to return to reality to deal with the ever present Y2K circus. One of the keynote speakers asked those in attendance if they were tired of hearing about Y2K – the roof just about fell in with the response.

I was pleased to see our chapter represented by Paula Leiker, Connie Scales, Robert Knighton and Bob Janusaitis. Bob's company, Business 911 International, had a booth in the exhibition area and appeared to draw a pretty good crowd (and he wasn't even giving anything away).

They announced that there were over 850 registered attendees, plus, if you included the speakers and exhibitors there were 1,500 plus at this symposium. As far as the speakers, I believe that is a personal thing, you either liked them or you didn't.

Project Impact: W.D. Koempel and I will be attending the first meeting of the Harris County Project Impact Partnership on April 7th. We will report back to you the outcome of that meeting.

Advertising: I have been talking with the Houston Business Journal regarding a classified ad for our meetings and also to be a resource for them to write editorials regarding BCP/DR when invited. I am currently waiting for ACP National to respond

with a non-profit document so we can qualify for the non-profit pricing.

SEE YOU IN APRIL!

Report of March Meeting

Our guest speaker for March was Ms. Normal Head from Reliant Energy (you know...The Light Company). She spoke about their plans regarding Y2K.

Reliant began addressing Y2K back in mid-1997 after a mandate from Corporate management. They began formulating their plan by assigning priorities to the many functions of their business. Priority 1 items were identified as any activity that may immediately disrupt the physical production and delivery of energy; Priority 2 items consist of any activity that may impact financial and/or operations processes; and Priority 3 items are any activity that may cause an inconvenience or productivity loss in normal business operations. The target dates for completion are:

Priority 1 – June 1999

Priority 2 – September 1999

Priority 3 – December 1999

Their plan addresses all areas of the business: power generation, transmission, distribution and vendor assessment. Thus far, their testing has uncovered only minor problems. In fact, no problems have been encountered that would cause a shutdown.

Reliant Energy, as a member of the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), has participated with other member companies to share information and work together to ensure that power supply and distribution problems do not occur, or at least kept to a minimum. In addition to their own testing, they will also participate in NERC sponsored drills later this year. On April 9, a communication test will be conducted that focuses on loss of communication and restoration of communication within the electric industry. This is primarily communication between control centers, power plants and independent system operators

(ISO). A second test will occur September 9-10 when an operation failure is simulated.

In summary, the electric industry feels confident that there will be only minor disruptions and these will be isolated to small areas. I sure hope they are right.

For additional information refer to the following websites:

www.naruc.org

www.nerc.com

www.puc.texas.gov

www.nrri.ohio-state.edu

www.epri.com

April Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Subject: Weather Wakeup Call

Speaker: Weather Research Center

Place: IBM, 2 Riverway, Room 1501

Lunch and networking: 11:30 – 12:00

Presentation: 12:00 - 12:30

Upcoming Program Schedule

May 11 Y2K Individual Preparedness

June 8 FEMA Project Impact

The South Texas Chapter of the Association of Contingency Planners meets regularly on the Second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in RM 1501 of the IBM Building at Two Riverway, Houston, TX.

Upcoming Conferences

April 21-23, 1999

CPM 99

New Orleans, LA

For Info: (908) 788-0343 ext. 135

June 14-16, 1999

ACP International Symposium

Los Angeles, CA

For Info: (949) 222-1202

September 13-15, 1999

DRJ Disaster Symposium and Exhibition

Orlando, FL

For Info: (314) 894-0276

If you know of any conferences or meetings , national or local, that should be included, please let me know by the end of each month. I will be happy to include them in the list.