

## Message from the Information Manager

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Jon Pulling, CBCP

First let me say THANKS to Sherrie, Connie and Michelle for their contributions to the report of last months meeting. I appreciate your help.

As I was wrapping up this edition of the *NEWSWIRE*, the devastation surrounding the tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas was being broadcast on the news. The numbers I heard on the television this morning were 40 people killed and over 500 treated at area hospitals. Those numbers are likely to go higher after emergency response personnel finish combing through the destruction.

I personally find it hard to imagine something like that striking here in this area, yet these climactic events seem to be all around us. John Link in his column below mentions the events in Utah and Colorado. It really makes me wonder how prepared we really are to handle any of these types of situations.

When the media begins to report these events, I am always interested in finding out how emergency response people actually respond. Am I prepared to respond in the same way? Would I know what to do? What can I learn from how other responders do their jobs. Most of us, thankfully, will never have to deal with events as these. But we can't use that as an excuse for not doing everything we can to educate ourselves and those around us, to practice our response drills and to be prepared for any of these eventualities that WILL occur.

## President's Message

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John Link, CBCP

This last month has been a very traumatic one for two neighboring states; namely, Colorado and Utah. I talked with the two respective ACP Chapter Presidents recently regarding the incidents that occurred in their states. After the discussion, they both agreed that these were terrorist events that not only affected the city in which they happened, but literally the entire state.

Utah of course had the shooting at the LDS Genealogical Museum but they also had an anthrax scare and a noxious odor scare. In all cases buildings were evacuated with the possibility of not gaining entrance for some time. This has brought to the surface in the business community, the severe need to have up to date business contingency plans, which everyone is aware of and have been trained in.

It would seem that our society today is becoming more violent, with the upsurge of disruptive events occurring with much more frequency.

This has and should continue to highlight the need for individuals in our profession.

In order to be prepared for these events it would behoove all of us to attend as many conferences that we can and become involved in as much as possible in emergency management, business contingency/continuity planning and disaster recovery planning.

With that in mind, don't forget to register for the ACP 1999 International Symposium, June 13-16, 1999 in Los Angeles.

## Report of March Meeting

Mike Orelano from the Weather Research Center was the featured speaker at the April meeting. Mike provided some insight to the upcoming hurricane season. This was a very timely topic with the annual Hurricane Conference happening on May 7<sup>th</sup>, and the start of the hurricane season on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Weather Research Center provides hurricane information and warnings that can be found on KUHF FM 88.7. This is the radio station of the University of Houston.

Mike said that statistics show that the Texas coast gets a major hurricane every 10 years. It should be obvious that we are long overdue since the last hurricane to hit the Texas gulf coast was Alicia which occurred in 1983.

The Weather Research Center looks at the coastline and attempts to determine which areas are vulnerable to a hurricane or tropical storm. They use several forms of data to make predictions regarding hurricane landfall. Hurricane data is only available back to 1900, so it is difficult to make predictions based on historical data alone. They also use climatology and solar activity (such as sun spots) to analyze and make predictions.

Their predictions for the 1999 season are that there is a 70% chance that a major hurricane will hit the Texas coast. The percentage is even higher, 90%, for the likelihood of a hurricane hitting the coast of Alabama, Mississippi or Louisiana.

It is important to remember that meteorology is not an exact science and hurricanes seem to have a mind of their own. But there has been a great deal of improvement in accuracy over the last 10 years in how storms are tracked. A number of tools are being used to track storms and get warnings out, such as Doppler radar. If you pay attention to the warnings that are issued and give yourself sufficient time to prepare, then you will certainly minimize the risk of becoming a victim to these storms.

#### May Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

**Subject:** Y2K Individual Preparedness

**Speaker:** WD Koempel

**Place:** IBM, 2 Riverway, Room 1501

**Lunch and networking:** 11:30 – 12:00

**Presentation:** 12:00 - 12:30

#### Upcoming Program Schedule

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

##### June 14-16, 1999

**ACP International Symposium**

**“Setting the Trend for the Next Millennium”**

**Los Angeles, CA**

For Info: (414) 768-8000, ext. 134 or

e-mail at [www.ACP-International.com](http://www.ACP-International.com)

##### September 12-15, 1999

**DRJ Disaster Symposium and Exhibition**

**Orlando, FL**

For Info: (314) 894-0276; www.drj.com

*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.*

#### Miscellany

Our Secretary, Connie Scales, is updating the information on the membership roles. She is missing a number of e-mail addresses. Could you please send her a note with you e-mail address so she can update her records. Her address is or call her at 713-567-8675.

The North Texas chapter is selling an ACP lapel pin for \$10.00. If anyone is interested, contact John Link for information and ordering.

### **Things We'd Like To See On Company Motivational Posters**

If you do a good job and work hard, you may get a job with a better company someday.

It's only unethical if you get caught.

The light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off due to budget cuts.

Doing a job RIGHT the first time gets the job done. Doing the job WRONG fourteen times gives you job security.

Rome did not create a great empire by having meetings, they did it by killing all those who opposed them.

We put the "k" in "kwality"

If something doesn't feel right, you're not feeling the right thing.

Artificial Intelligence in no match for Natural Stupidity!