

June 1999

Message from the Information Manager

Jon Pulling, CBCP

As I was doing my yard work over the long weekend in the sweltering heat, it was hard to imagine that hurricane season was already upon us. That thought quickly vanished when I turned on the TV and saw the thunderstorm and tornado warning that was being broadcast. Sure enough, it wasn't long before the monsoon weather came through and interrupted my outdoor activities. I was reminded how quickly the weather around these parts can turn.

Those of us who have grown up or lived in the Gulf coast area for a long time know about the unpredictability of hurricanes. A great deal of research has occurred that allows the hurricane forecasters to give a reasonably accurate forecast within a 24 hour time period, but that accuracy diminishes rapidly for time periods over 24 hours. The bottom line is that we need to be prepared before the storm starts churning up the waters of the Gulf. To assist with your personal preparedness, I have included a checklist for your use. This area is long overdue for a major storm, so let's make our preparations early.

Once again, our chapter was represented at the 1999 Hurricane Workshop in Pasadena. Members lending a hand were W.D. Koempel, Bob Janusaitis, Sherrye Rameriz and myself. This year we were able to display our very own chapter banner. Give Bob Janusaitis a pat on the back for getting the banner made.

Not only was the chapter represented at the our booth, but I saw 5 or 6 other chapter members in attendance. Michelle Gregory won one of the door prizes. So all things considered, it was a good outing for our group.

Don't forget about the National ACP Symposium coming up June 14 in Los Angeles.

Report of May Meeting

Due to publishing deadlines (i.e., I am running way behind schedule), a full report will not be included at this time. The topic was "Y2K – Individual Preparedness". For further information on this very timely topic, I will refer you to the Gartner Group web page:

www.gartner.com/public/static/home/00073955.html

Bob Janusaitis had some helpful tips for getting your neighborhood involved. He has created a web page with information that specifically talks about issues and concerns that he and his neighbors should address. His site requires a user id and password for access so contact him for information.

June Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Subject: FEMA Project Impact

Speaker:

Place: IBM, 2 Riverway, Room 1501

Lunch and networking: 11:30 – 12:00

Presentation: 12:00 - 12:30

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

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 cs2001@txmail.sbc.com or call her at 713-567-8675.

PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Before the Hurricane Season

- Know the hurricane risks in your area.
- Learn safe routes inland.
- Learn location of official shelters.
- Review needs and working condition of emergency equipment, such as flashlights, battery-powered radios, etc.
- Ensure that enough nonperishable food and water are on hand.
- Obtain and store materials, such as plywood, necessary to properly secure your home.
- Clear loose and clogged gutters and down spouts.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- Determine where to move your boat in an emergency.
- Review your insurance policy.

During the Storm

When in a Watch Area...

- Frequently listen to radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins of the storm's progress.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Prepare to cover all window and door openings with shutters or other shielding materials.

When in a Warning Area...

- Closely monitor radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio for official bulletins.
- Complete preparation activities, such as putting up storm shutters, storing loose objects, etc.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned food, first aid supplies, drinking water, and medications.
- Prepare to bring inside lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, etc.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. *Leave immediately if told to do so!*
- If evacuating, leave early (if possible, in daylight). Stay with friends or relatives, at a low-rise inland hotel/motel, or go to a public shelter outside a flood zone.

Plan to evacuate if you...

- Live in a mobile home.
- Live on the coastline, an offshore island, or near a river or a flood plain.
- Live in a high-rise.
- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of you evacuation plans.
- Put food and water out for a pet if you cannot take it with you.

If Staying at Home...

- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and open only when necessary.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water for sanitary purposes.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace external doors.
- If you are in a multistory home or building, and away from the water, go to the first or second floors and take refuge in the halls, bathroom, closet or other interior rooms away from windows, such as a bathroom or closet.

After the Storm

- Keep listening to radio, TV, or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
- Roads may be closed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, **turn around and go another way.**
- Avoid weakened bridges and washed out roads.
- Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Check gas, water, and electrical lines and appliances for damage.
- Do not drink or prepare food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
- Avoid using candles and other open flames indoors. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage.
- Use the telephone to report life-threatening emergencies only.
- Be especially cautious if using a chain saw to cut fallen trees,