

September 1999

Message from the Information Manager

Jon Pulling, CBCP

Over the past several months, a number of programs have delved into preparations for the ominous bug called Y2K. One of the programs was about personal preparedness, and things you should do to be ready. Assuming we are all going to survive September 9, 1999 (9/9/99) which is just a few days away, and will have past by the time you read this, I found a place on the internet where you should be able to find everything imaginable in your own quest for survival.

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ridge/2100/y2kwerng.htm

This is the home address for "The Y2K Personal Preparedness Webring". This page specifically says, "**NO IT or computer technology sites promoting the latest "Silver Bullet" will be allowed. This webring is strictly to help individual families cope with Y2K.**"

So, take a look and find something interesting for your personal use. But you must hurry. Time is running short. Many of these items are already in short supply.

Report of July Meeting

Howard Meek from Rolm and Haas was the speaker at the July meeting. Howard was representing the Channel Industries Mutual Aid organization. He is currently chairman of the Steering Committee. He is also chairman of the Vision Committee and Speakers Committee. Howard has been involved with municipal and industrial response for the last 17 years.

The organization has been involved in emergency response to the Houston Ship Channel and surrounding communities since 1954. CIMA acts as the coordinating group for all member companies. Their activities include fire fighting, rescue, hazmat and emergency medical along the ship channel.

The organization was chartered in 1955, the group consisted only of companies doing business along the ship channel. By 1970, realizing the importance of having local governmental agencies involved, membership was extended to agencies such as fire departments, sheriff and other city and county emergency response groups. The fire marshals were included since they have responsibility for the unincorporated areas along the channel.

By 1980, a "zone" concept was introduced as membership increased to over 90 companies and agencies. Today, there are 110 members, of which 10 are governmental agencies.

One of the keys to their success is that, being a "mutual aid" organization, all members are required to attend meetings and participate in training and regularly scheduled response drills.

Their defined programs of merit include:

- Central dispatch
- Incident command
- Industrial hygiene
- Inspection procedures
- Multiple casualty incidents
- Response to non-member facilities
- Reciprocal aid agreements

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Subject: Internet Access Alternatives

Speaker: Pat Shannon

Place: IBM, 2 Riverway, Room 1501

Lunch and networking: 11:30 – 12:00

Presentation: 12:00 - 12:30

Pat has over 17 years in the high tech arena, having spent 10 years with CompuServe and 3 years with MCI. Now the Director of Sales & Marketing with Accelernet, Pat is a native Houstonian with a BBA in Finance from University of Houston.

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

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.

Executives	36%
Finance staff	34%
Public relations	25%

MVP Nominations

It is time once again to select candidates for the MVP award for our chapter. The requirements are simple. The individual should be an ACP member in good standing. The choice is agreed to by our Board (and can be a Board Member). The person should be someone who provides outstanding service and value to our Chapter, be that knowledge, enthusiasm, participation or/and interface with others.

If you would like to nominate someone for MVP, send their name to John Link, chapter President. Nominations will be open until the October meeting, at which time a vote of the membership will be taken. The winning candidate's name will be forwarded to the National office by November 1st for formal recognition.

Q. *Why is getting an elephant pregnant like fixing the Y2K problem?*

A. Both require tremendous resources, are logistically very difficult, and you won't know for a couple of years if you got the job done.

US Workers Getting Perks, Pay for Y2K

Survey finds companies planning extra pay, extra time off for New Year's Eve workers A new survey finds US companies are offering extra pay, compensatory time off, and special perquisites to key staff working over the [New Year's Eve holiday](#).

Nearly half (47%) of 272 organizations surveyed by human resource consultants William M. Mercer, Incorporated have policies in place to provide additional compensation or time off to employees who have been asked to work onsite, make themselves available remotely or on call, or forgo taking vacation during the weekend.

The survey, Year 2000 Practices: [Y2K Weekend](#), reports that nearly three-fourths of respondents have guaranteed that their computer-based services will be available to customers the day after the calendar shifts from 1999 to the year 2000.

"Customers expect, and companies are taking extraordinary steps to ensure, that information system-based activities will proceed seamlessly when the calendar changes," says Mercer consultant David Van De Voort in a press release.

While all of the respondents who have identified personnel to be onsite during the Weekend say their core Y2K team will be affected, some indicate that these non-IT employees will be affected as well:

Employee Group Affected	% of Respondents
Customer service	44%

"While IT professionals have known for months that they will be working or on call during the [Y2K Weekend](#), thousands of other employees, including many managers and executives, will receive an unexpected wake-up call as they learn that they, too, will need to work on New Year's Day," commented Van De Voort.

Additional compensation for employees working over the New Year's Eve holiday will typically range between 5% and 25% of base pay, averaging about 13%. Additionally, significant percentages of companies will provide such perquisites as meals (49%), lodging (34%), and transportation (14%) for employees required onsite during the period.

On a longer-term basis, beyond the January 1 2000, 28% of the organizations indicate they will pay retention bonuses to select IT employees who remain on the job until year 2000 issues have been resolved. Such bonuses range from 10% to 25% of base pay, averaging about 20%. Typically, they will be paid out in increments as an employee achieves certain project milestones.

In preparation for the "real thing" during the Y2K Weekend, most survey participants have already investigated potential problems or tested systems to verify that they will operate on two other unusual dates: [September 9, 1999](#) (9/9/99) and February 29, 2000 (a special date for Leap Year). In both instances, 30% and 40%, respectively, of the respondents reported that system modifications were needed.

Source: William M. Mercer Inc.
DATE: 9/07/99