

NEWSWIRE

Issue: March 2010

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If you have been keeping up, there is a lot going on in the South TX chapter and in ACP in general. Recently, the chapter co-sponsored a national pandemic readiness survey with other ACP chapters, ImpactWeather and the Energy Security Council. As promised, the results of the survey were presented at our February meeting at SecureWorld Expo and have been posted to the chapter website. Please take time to review the analysis. Nearly 200 companies were surveyed, and the report disclosed a number of significant findings that you should find of interest.

- Nearly 60% of companies viewed the H1N1 pandemic as a potential threat to their business operations; a third saw the pandemic as a serious threat
- About 90% of companies instituted special employee awareness and communications programs
- Special vaccinations efforts were launched by over 80% of the companies surveyed
- Few companies instituted access/visitor clearance controls; however, most had exposure response procedures in place
- About half of the companies revised or updated their existing business continuity procedures in the face of the H1N1 threat
- Fewer than half of the companies adjusted their HR, compensation or facility policies and procedures
- Most companies made technology enhancements to mitigate the pandemic's impact

On April 6 and 7, along with the InfraGard National Members Alliance (www.infragard.net), the National Sheriff's Association as well as various State Sheriff's Associations and critical infrastructure associations/firms, ACP is co-sponsoring a multi-state exercise of a disaster-scene access control tool being developed for use by law enforcement checkpoint operators, with a view toward nationwide adoption. The exercise will seek to empower and re-use any existing credential trusted by law enforcement, and facilitate the handoff of Essential Personnel Lists from large firms and groups needing disaster reentry permission to law enforcement personnel charged with operating disaster reentry checkpoints.

The exercise will cover the Central Gulf Coast (Mobile and Anniston, AL, Gulfport, MS, Lafourche Parish, LA and Houston/Galveston, TX) in the aftermath of a major hurricane passage and landfall. If the tool is proven viable, DHS and ACP will sponsor a follow-on national level exercise in 2011 to further evaluate the access control tool and related processes and best practices. Organizers are seeking private sector organizations to participate in the April 6-7 exercise that will involve companies providing names of personnel they wish to have disaster scene access passage rights, and a limited number of personnel presenting themselves for checkpoint access in Houston/Galveston, TX, Lafourche Parish, LA, Gulfport, MS, Mobile, AL, or Anniston, AL. More information is available on the chapter and national ACP websites. Companies wishing to participate should contact Dennis Kelly at dkelly@pegasusprogram.us not later than March 15.

Mike Thomson

Quote of the Month

"You don't need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice!"

"Unknown."

Announcements and Discounts

ACP South Texas Program Survey

To deliver greater value to our chapter members, our Program Committee has created a brief survey to obtain your current interest in Training/Certification and monthly program content.

This survey will only take a few minutes of your time and your input will be of great value to our efforts to provide quality monthly programs and support to South TX chapter members.

Please participate in the survey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Member_Trng_and_program_prefs

The results of your input will be reflected in future meetings and actions to leverage training opportunities.

FULL SCALE EXERCISE: REGISTER BY MARCH 15th – Featured in President's Pen also

Gulf Coast Chapter Members,

On April 6 and 7, the InfraGard National Members Alliance (www.infragard.net), in coordination with the National Sheriff's Association as well as various State Sheriff's Associations and critical infrastructure associations/firms, will conduct a multi-state Full Scale Exercise of a disaster-scene access control tool being developed for use by law enforcement checkpoint operators, with a view toward nationwide adoption. The Exercise will seek to empower and re-use any existing credential trusted by law enforcement, and facilitate the handoff of Essential Personnel Lists from large firms and groups needing disaster reentry permission to law enforcement personnel charged with operating disaster reentry checkpoints.

More information is available on the website. Companies wishing to participate should contact Dennis Kelly at dkelly@pegasusprogram.us or 504.324.1884 not later than March 15.

Call for Articles to be published on ACP corporate website!

The continued publication on the ACP website will feature monthly articles relating to a relevant and timely topic. Articles from ACP members are encouraged. Please contact our Education Director Angela Mestre if you are interested in having an article published.

- March: Tabletop and functional exercises
- April: Chapter Seminars
- May: Hurricane preparedness

Business Continuity Awareness Week 2010 (3/22 – 3/26)

The Business Continuity Institute will launch Business Continuity Awareness Week on 22nd March 2010 with a webcast. Register at <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=65758&pw=BCI>

ISSA South Texas Chapter Meetings

Reminder - The ISSA South Texas chapter meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. For more information, including the **topics and speakers** click see the website at http://issasouthtexas.sharepointspace.com/Shared%20Documents/monthly_meetings.aspx

DISCOUNTS ON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES for ACP Members

Business Continuity Trainings from ContinuityLink - 10% discount for ACP members

Register at <http://www.continuitylink.com/En/training.htm> (Discount code: ACP-SouthTexas)

Continuity Insights Management Conference - \$100 off registration fee for ACP members

Register at <http://www.continuityinsights.com/Conference/> (Discount code: ACP)

Texas Technology Summit – FREE for ACP members!

ACP South Texas Sponsored, register at <http://texas.technologysummit.net/> (Discount code: TTS10-ACP)

Business Continuity Courses in Houston

Locations set for the BCM-BIA and BCM-Audit courses in Houston in June. See <http://www.continuitylink.com/logistics/Houston.htm>. For more information see the training opportunities section further down in this newsletter.

Upcoming Meeting April 2010

Keith Benton with BP will be our speaker and will present on 'Using ICS in an Office Environment'

Previous Month Meeting Recap – February 2010

We had approximately 15 members and several guests at our February meeting, which was held in conjunction with SecureWorld Conference at Reliant Center. Mike Thomson, President opened the meeting with introductions around the room, which gives members and guests an opportunity to get to know each other. Dave Stacy, Amarillo sister chapter president was in attendance.

The presentation was a very interesting presentation on the results of the Pandemic Flu survey presented by Chuck Monroe, South Texas ACP member. The presentation is posted on the ACP South Texas website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for month ending February , 2009:

Beginning balance	\$ 8,889.92
Receipts	\$ 200.00
Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Ending balance	\$ 9,909.92

Membership Numbers

As of February 2010 – 89 Active Members.

The South Texas Chapter thanks you for your participation, time, and commitment to continual growth. Remember, every visitor is a potential member, so BRING a friend or two.

Welcome New Members!!!



Welcome to the following new members. Please reach out to them at meetings to say 'welcome' to our South Texas Chapter.

Keri Griffith

Upcoming Meeting

2010 – March Monthly Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, March 9th, 2010**

Subject: ***Hurricanes, Pandemics and Natural Disasters- Is your HR Dept Prepared?***

Speaker: David Barron

Affiliation: *Epstein Becker Green Wickliff & Hall*

Location: Spectra Energy, 5400 Westheimer

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

For driving directions and special parking instructions see the <http://www.acp-international.com/southtx/>

MODERATOR BIO

Please join us for this practical and informative seminar presented by David Barron of Epstein Becker Green Wickliff & Hall. David is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and has been quoted in the Houston Chronicle, Fox News, CBS Channel 11, and other media on employment law topics.

PRESENTATION SYNOPSIS: Hurricanes, Pandemics and Natural Disasters: Is Your HR Department Prepared?

It is hard enough to follow the myriad of labor and employment laws under the best of circumstances. Under emergency situations, however, it is critical that each organization have a plan in place to deal with the unique labor and employment issues that can arise, so that ad hoc decision making does not unnecessarily create legal liability. This seminar will address the common HR issues that arise in emergency situations, including hurricanes, pandemics and workplace violence situations. These issues will include:

- Requiring critical employees to work during hurricane evacuation or other disasters
- Compensation issues related to disaster recovery and volunteer efforts
- OSHA compliance
- Responding to employee and family medical conditions and related issues affecting the workplace

Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise announced, the chapter meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at IBM, Room 1553, Two Riverway, Houston, Texas. Please feel free to bring a guest. We would love the opportunity to make them members.

Remember that attendance at ACP chapter meetings count toward your continuing education credits (CEUs).

For directions to our meeting location, see the Chapter Meeting Section of the website or click here:

<http://www.acp-international.com/southtx/meet.htm>

Training and Seminar Opportunities

CONFERENCES

3/21 - 3/24	Orlando, FL	DRJ Spring World http://www.drj.com/ *Pre- and Post-Conference Courses. 10% off for ACP members.
3/29 - 4/2	Orlando, FL	2010 National Hurricane Conference http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/
4/7	Houston, TX	Texas Technology Summit http://texas.technologysummit.net/ * ACP South Texas Sponsored, FREE for ACP members! (code: tts10-acp)
4/11 – 4/14	Orlando, FL	2010 SunGard BC Software International User Group Forum http://www.availability.sungard.com/
4/12 - 4/14	New Orleans, LA	The Continuity Insights Management Conference with Post-Conference Courses http://www.continuityinsights.com/Conference.html \$100 off registration fee for ACP members (code: ACP)
4/19	New York, NY	2010 Business Continuity and Corporate Security Show and Conference http://www.flagmgmt.com/bc/
5/10 - 5/13	Las Vegas, NV	Contingency Planning & Management Conference - CPM West http://www.cpm-west.com
6/6 - 6/9	Toronto, CA	The 20th World Conference on Disaster Management http://www.wcdm.org/
7/19 - 7/20	Toronto, CA	Texas Regional Infrastructure Security Conference (TRISC) http://www.trisc.org

EXERCISES, TRAINING AND SEMINARS

5/4 – 5/6	Houston, TX	BCP 501 Business Continuity Planning Review with Qualifying Exam https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=252&courseid=3
5/17 - 5/21	Dallas, TX	BCLE 2000 Business Continuity Planning https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=256&courseid=4
6/19	Houston, TX	2010 Hurricane Workshop by Houston/Galveston National Weather Service www.HurricaneWorkshop.com FREE
6/21 - 6/22	Houston, TX	Comprehensive BIA process – Methodology http://www.continuitylink.com/En/Description-BCM-BIA.htm 10% off registration fee for ACP members (Discount code: ACP-SouthTexas)
6/23 - 6/24	Houston, TX	Auditing a Business Continuity Program http://www.continuitylink.com/En/Description-BCM-AUD.htm 10% off registration fee for ACP members (Discount code: ACP-SouthTexas)

CERTIFICATIONS

CBCP	DRI	https://www.drii.org/certification/index.php
CBCI	BCI	http://www.thebcicertificate.org/bci_5daystraining.html
CBRM	BRCCI	http://www.sentryx.com/disaster-recovery-calendar.html
CEM	IAEM	http://www.iaem.com/certification/generalinfo/intro.htm
CHS	ABCHS	http://www.abchs.com/

Featured Articles

Explosion Allowed Hospital to Test its Disaster Response

While contractors conducted tests at the site of the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown, CT, a natural gas leak caused an explosion. The plant was under construction at the time, and not operating. In an article on www.healthleadersmedia.com, Scott Wallask says Sunday night's explosion at the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown brought repercussions for the nearby Middlesex Hospital. The hospital uses the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) to define staff roles during an emergency response. While many top administrators aren't at the hospital on weekends and off-shifts, the nursing supervisor becomes the designated incident commander and sprang to action on Sunday.

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/print/COM-246255/CT-Hospital-was-Prepared-for-Power-Plant-Explosion>

Did D.C. Snowstorms Merit Disaster Status?

The snowstorms that left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity caught everyone in Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia off guard. Now the mayor of Washington D.C. is hearing he should have declared a state of emergency, as did the neighbouring states.

<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2010/subpages/v323/newsclip5.htm>

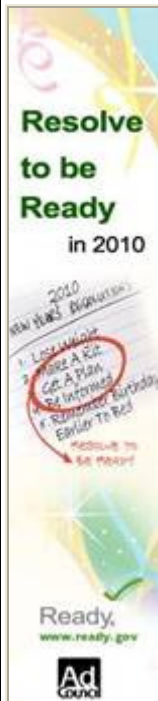
Researchers show how far South American cities moved in 8.8 Chile quake

The massive magnitude 8.8 earthquake that struck the west coast of Chile last month moved the entire city of Concepción at least 10 feet to the west, and shifted other parts of South America as far apart as the Falkland Islands and Fortaleza, Brazil.

<http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05032.html>

Resources ACP Members Can Use

Resources ACP Members Can Use - Please note the monthly themes courtesy of ACP E-News:



2010 Themes & Events

Mar:

[American Red Cross Month](#)
[Flood Safety Awareness Week](#)
[Business Continuity Awareness Week](#)

May:

[National Hurricane Preparedness Week](#)

Jun:

[National Lightning Safety Awareness Week](#)
[National Safety Month](#)

Sep:

[National Preparedness Month](#)

Oct:

[National Cyber Security Awareness Month](#)
[National Fire Prevention Week](#)
[National Animal Safety and Protection Month](#)