

NEWSWIRE

Issue: May 2010

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PRESIDENTS PEN

The results of an annual survey of state homeland security advisors, released during the National Governors Association (NGA) Winter Meeting, showed similar homeland security governance structures across states, evolving priorities as a result of recent events like the H1N1 pandemic and concerns about sustaining security capabilities under current funding mechanisms. The 2009 State Homeland Security Advisors Survey, which is in its sixth year, provides an overview of states' homeland security governance structures, strategies and priorities, as well as an examination of the evolving relationship between the US Department of Homeland Security and states in the areas of communications, intelligence sharing and coordination of efforts.

Key findings of this year's survey include:

- Pandemic influenza preparedness, which had fallen from the list of priorities in 2008, reemerged as a priority for the states as the H1N1 pandemic played out
- More than half of states have placed their homeland security operations within a broader cabinet-level department
- More than half of respondents have positioned their state's primary fusion center under the command of the homeland security director
- Communications from DHS to the states continued to improve in 2009
- A strong majority of respondents believe DHS should improve the grant allocation process and work with Congress to permanently restore allowable management and administration funding to 5 percent
- States are struggling to sustain their capabilities with the amount of grant funding that is available to them and are hoping for some relief from the administrative burdens that come with that funding.

The priorities identified by homeland security advisors echoed those of previous years and include coordinating the efforts of state and local agencies; developing interoperable communications for emergency responders; identifying and protecting critical infrastructure; exercises and simulations to improve preparedness; and strengthening citizen preparedness.

How often are you checking your information security? Members of the security industry are applauding new guidelines from the National Institute of Standards and Technology that call for closer monitoring of IT systems to evolve with increasingly sophisticated adversaries. In an article on the Government Computer News website, William Jackson says the focus of the Federal Information Security Management Act has shifted from "static check-box compliance" to more real-time situational awareness of government IT systems. While early FISMA publications recommended that security controls be assessed "at least annually" and all other controls "at least once during the information system's three-year accreditation cycle," the revised version eliminated these isolated snapshots of system status. The new guidelines state, "Continuous monitoring of security controls using automated support tools facilitates near real-time risk management and promotes organizational situational awareness with regard to the security state of the information system."

Survey details can be found at

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Homeland-Security-Priorities-Survey.html>**Mike Thomson****Quote of the Month**

"Just because the river is quiet does not mean the crocodiles have left."

Malay proverb

Announcements and Discounts

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.

- June: Regional stability
- July: Return on Investment-how BCP/DR adds value directly to the business

ACP Survey May 17th – June 30th

The ACP is conducting a national survey designed to provide insight into “actual” continuity practices versus the principles documented in the DRII Best Practices material and we greatly need your help. In order to provide insight into the maturity of our profession and the implementation of relevant, tactical procedures or capabilities, please commit 30 – 40 minutes and complete our online survey. Surveys are anonymous.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACP_Best_Practice

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

FEATURED DISCOUNTS ON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES for ACP Members

DRJ Announces Group Discount Rates for Fall World 2010 Sep 19-22 in San Diego

Find everything you need in one convenient location – for the lowest price in the industry. And, as a bonus, all ACP members can receive an additional 10 percent off of the already low registration fee. Just enter ACP on the [registration form](#). Prices are as follows:

- \$895 through 7-19-10: Group Discount Pricing: \$805.50
- \$995 through 8-19-10: Group Discount Pricing: \$895.50
- \$1095 through 9-19-10: Group Discount Pricing: \$985.50

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)

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

June's meeting will be held on Tuesday May 10th at the IBM site. The topic will be Hurricane Contingency Houston.

Previous Month Meeting Recap – May 2010

We had approximately 123 attendees at the May Meeting, which was held downtown at the Wortham location. Mike Thomson, President, opened with introductions, which gives members and guests an opportunity to get to know each other. Chapter business updates were presented

The presentation was on “Is Your Critical Staff Prepared for Hurricane Season” and a modified version of the presentation is loaded on the website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for month ending March , 2010:

Beginning balance	\$ 8,380.05
Receipts	\$ 200.00
Expenditures	\$ 30.00

Ending balance

\$ 8,550.05

Membership Numbers

As of April 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.

Stephen Barnes

**Linda
Schoellmann**

Richard Arias

Chapter Meeting

June Meeting

2010 – June Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday June 8th, 2010

Subject: Hurricane Contingency Housing

Speaker: Michelle Lowther, Global Account Executive & Disaster Recovery Housing Expert

Location: IBM Riverway, 15th floor

Time: 11:30 – 1:00

For diving directions see the ACP website Chapter Meeting section at <http://www.acp-international.com/southtx/>

Synopsis:

You've identified your recovery site. You've run your tests. You've communicated the plan within your organization. So you're ready for hurricane season, right? Well, that depends... If a storm comes and you haven't secured housing for your mission critical personnel, you could not only face a daunting task, but you could also encounter business interruptions as a result. Housing is a small but crucial part of any hurricane plan. This presentation will help you navigate the often murky waters of hotel contracts and provide ways to secure guaranteed accommodations on a "just in case" basis.

- Why hotels do what they do, and how to get what you need from them
- Things to look for in a hotel contract
- How to guarantee your organization will be a priority for hotels
- Ways you can be proactive to make securing housing a smooth, efficient process during an event

Please join us for this interactive presentation of housing best practices for hurricane season. If you're like most people, and you've been frustrated, price gauged or unable to secure appropriate housing in the past, you won't want to miss this one!

Moderator Bio:

Michelle joined ConferenceDirect in June 2006 and has been recognized for booking record-breaking revenue as well as creating and implementing an innovative contract for corporate disaster recovery programs. In February 2007, she was honored as the 2007 Rookie of the Year at ConferenceDirect's Annual Partner Meeting in Chicago.

Michelle's hospitality career began at the Embassy Suites Downtown Austin in 1990 while attending the University of Texas at Austin. She quickly advanced through hotel operations as a Front Desk Agent, Reservations Manager, Front Office Manager and Revenue Manager. She then moved to Corporate Sales Manager, Senior Sales Manager and Director of Sales & Marketing. She was an active member of the Austin Business Travel Association, serving as the Membership Chair and subsequently on the Board of Directors.

As a native Houstonian, Michelle was delighted to return home in 2003. She spent a year as a Group Sales Manager at the

DoubleTree Downtown followed by two years covering the Western and Southern US for Hotel Derek.

Michelle is an active member of Meeting Professionals International. In 2005-06, she chaired the Houston Area Chapter's inaugural Supplier Special Interest Group and in 2006-07 she served on the Board as the Director of Special Events/Fundraising, chairing two Texas-wide receptions, the chapter's annual golf tournament and their annual awards gala. Her efforts earned record profits for the association.

In 2008, Michelle was invited to join the PEC-NA and WEC 2008 Peer Review Committees for MPI Headquarters in Dallas, Texas. She served on those committees as well as on the Special Events/Fundraising committee and the Leadership Development committee for the Houston Area chapter.

In 2009, Michelle relocated to Fort Worth, Texas where she currently serves on the Communications Committee for the MPI-D/FW chapter. She is also an active community volunteer through the Junior League of Fort Worth.

Michelle's expertise in business continuance housing, fundraising, conference planning and hotel contracting have made her a sought after resource and popular speaker.

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

5/10-5/30	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
5/21	Houston, TX	Hurricane Seminar for Business and Industry http://hurricaneseminar.com/
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/

DEGREE PROGRAMS

M.S.	Norwich University	Masters of Science in Business Continuity Management Online degree, 15-18 months. Special offers to ACP members. http://businesscontinuity.norwich.edu/admissions.php
M.S.	Boston University	Master of Science in Business Continuity, Security & Risk Management (MSBCSRM) Online degree. Special offers to ACP members (Wave application fee, max transfer of credits) http://www.bu.edu/
M.S.	New Jersey's Science and Technology University	Master of Science in Business and Information Systems (MSBIS) Online Option. http://is.njit.edu/academics/graduate/msbis/online_msbis.php

For more Colleges, Universities and Institutions offering Emergency Management, Disaster Relief, and Business Continuity courses, visit <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/edu/collegelist/>.

SURVEYS and ARTICLES

Nashville Flooding May 2010 - It is the single largest disaster since the Civil War

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFjaQoOdJvI>

Information risk examined

Recommind has released the results of a survey into information risk research conducted on its behalf by Vanson Bourne. This reveals a 'stark disconnect between organizations' awareness of the risks associated with electronically stored information (ESI) and their ability to address the situation with adequate budget'. <http://www.continuitycentral.com/news05152.html>

Impact on coastal residents eyed

As damage assessment of what may be the worst U.S. oil spill in history continues, disaster response organizations are preparing to assist those who are most impacted by the economic consequences of the disaster.

<http://www.disasternews.net/news/article.php?articleid=4033>

Lack of Telework Preparedness Puts Business Continuity in Danger?

Research from Telework Exchange finds organizations expect employees to work from home in a pandemic, yet don't provide adequate resources

http://www.csoonline.com/article/510552/Lack_of_Telework_Preparedness_Puts_Business_Continuity_in_Danger

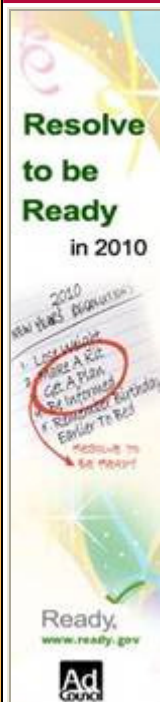
Pragmatic Business Takeaways from the Icelandic Volcanic Ash Events

While the impacts of the recent Icelandic volcanic ash clouds are worked through, there are some pragmatic and practical takeaways being seen which have wider business benefits.

<http://contingencyplanning.com/articles/2010/05/05/pragmatic-business-takeaways-from-the-icelandic-volcanic-ash-events.aspx>

Resources ACP Members Can Use

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



2010 Themes & Events

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](#)