

# NEWSWIRE

Issue: July 2010

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**PRESIDENTS PEN**

We certainly do not need to look too far to see examples of why it is important to plan, prepare, respond and recover. The first tropical storm of the season, Hurricane Alex, has entered the Gulf and took aim on the Texas coast. The print and electronic media carries daily in-depth coverage of the Macondo well blowout off the Louisiana shore – the largest environmental incident in US history. All of this comes on the heels of an economic turnaround that resulted in contingency planners losing their jobs, corporate planning budgets being cut and everyone it seems willing to take on greater risk and roll the dice.

Both events are a reminder and a time when professional contingency planners and ACP members need to speak out concerning the criticality of preparing for, responding to and mitigating the effects of expect and unexpected events. Now is not the time to “hold your peace”. While hindsight may be 20-20, prevention, protection and corporate survival depend on foresight and pre-planning. That means committing resources, expertise and time. Today’s high risk, hyperactive, complex and interdependent global community and environment require nothing less. So, I encourage every chapter member to write letters to the editors, seek opportunities to speak to civic and community groups, to hold frank discussions with co-workers and managers and to turn these disastrous events into “teachable moments” about the importance of doing what we all do.

In this regard, some of the findings from AT&T’s 2010 Business Continuity Survey may help along with what you hear on TV, read on the internet or in newspaper about the events and see discussed at conferences or in professional journals:

- Gulf Coast executives are most likely to have fully tested their plans in the past year (yet only 61 percent compared to 54 percent, nationally). Given the susceptibility to and recent experiences in this area with hurricanes and flooding, it is not surprising that the site of the gallows tended to somewhat focus the mind.
- 63 percent include wireless network capabilities as part of their plan.
- 50 percent have virtualized their computing infrastructure and 38 percent have implemented a business continuity plan for the virtualized infrastructure.
- Four out of ten (40 percent) require suppliers and other vendors to have a business continuity plan in place in order to do business with the company.
- Three out of four companies surveyed are very/somewhat concerned about the increased use and security risks of social networking capabilities (77 percent) and mobile networks/devices (76 percent).

Summing things up, Chris Costello, assistant vice president @ AT&T said "Reflecting back on previous years' studies, it's evident that businesses and organizations throughout the United States are focusing more and more on business continuity planning." As perhaps they should?

What are you as an ACP member and contingency planning professional doing to speak out?

**Mike Thomson**

**Quote of the Month**

He will win who, prepares himself,”

*Tu Mu(The Art of War)*

## Announcements and Discounts

### Call for Articles to be published on ACP corporate website

#### 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.

- July: BCP/DR Return on Investment
- August: Aligning BCP/DR to business processes such as enterprise risk management, privacy and security
- September: What do BC planners do? Direction of the profession issues, certifications, training, etc.

### DRI Training Course and Certification in Houston!

- Based on feedbacks received from ACP-South Texas Members' Survey, our Education Director Angela Mestre is in the process of working with Disaster Recovery Institute to bring training and certification course in Houston later this year! Our chapter will be hosting the event and as a result, discounts are offered to our fellow members. Details to follow...

### December Appreciation Lunch

Mark your calendars!! Christmas Luncheon at Polo's again this year on Tuesday, December 14 at 11:30 AM.

### 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.sharepoint.com/Shared%20Documents/monthly\\_meetings.aspx](http://issasouthtexas.sharepoint.com/Shared%20Documents/monthly_meetings.aspx)

### Consec Symposium – Austin Texas – Sep 27-29

#### ConSec 2010 Symposium

Hosted by the ACP Capital of Texas chapter, the symposium features two and a half days of information security topics with a full day of specialty workshops. For early bird and ACP member discounts register at [www.consec.org](http://www.consec.org)

### ACP National Meeting Sep 21st

This meeting will be held during the *DRJ* Fall World Conference on Tuesday, September 21 from 5:30 pm-8:00 pm PDT. More details will be forthcoming. Come learn about the progress made on the 2010 ACP Goals and be a part of determining where the organization will go in the future. Following the meeting, you are invited to a picnic hosted by the San Diego Chapter of the ACP. Join us for fun and information. We hope to see you there.

### Serve on the National ACP Board

The Nominating Committee of the National ACP is seeking nominations for qualified individuals to serve on the National Board. To be considered for nomination, the individual must:

1. Be an individual member in good standing and
2. Served on the Executive Committee of a local chapter for not less than 1 year or in a Director position of a local chapter for not less than 2 years.

Elected Board members should expect to spend between 8 and 12 hours per month on ACP related business.

If you are interested in serving or nominating an individual, please complete the attached nomination form and return it **no**

**later than July 20th** to [sue.kerr@continuityfirst.com](mailto:sue.kerr@continuityfirst.com). We will be electing six Board members during this election.

### Energy Security Council Summer Quarterly Meeting

Energy Security Council Summer Quarterly Meeting  
Wednesday, August 25, 2010 9:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.  
BP Helios Training Facility  
501 Westlake Park Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77079

ESC is pleased to announce that Harris County, TX **District Attorney Patricia Lykos** has agreed to speak at their upcoming summer meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>. District Attorney Lykos is the first woman to hold this crucial elected position in the 170 year history of the DA's office. See the website for a detailed agenda at

## Next Month's Meeting – August 2010 –

Business Continuity "Best Practices" survey results presented by Chuck Monroe.  
Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for month ending June 2010	
Beginning balance	\$ 8,900.05
Receipts	\$ 360.00
Expenditures	\$ 0.00
Ending balance	\$ 8,260.05

## Membership Numbers

As of May 2010 – 85 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.

**Peter Cirrone**

**Harvey Grodjesk**

**Fernando Vallejo**

## Chapter Meeting

### July Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Subject:** Houston Office of Emergency Management

**Speaker:** James Palmer, Assistant Director OEM

**Location:** 5320 N Shepard, Houston Office of Emergency Management. See the ACP website for a map.

**Time:** 11:30 – 1:00

**RSVP:** By July 9<sup>th</sup> however if you do not RSVP you can still attend. Give the guard your name/ACP affiliation. Picture ID required.

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

### Synopsis:

*Join us at the Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on July 13th for an overview of the emergency management function and a tour of the Houston OEM.*

At the local, state, and federal levels of government, Emergency Managements core function has always been and will most likely continue to be Emergency Preparedness. Although the title of the profession and one of the Principles of Emergency Management, Response, indicate a role in managing an emergency or disaster, the primary mission is to actually prepare jurisdictions resources to respond to everything that cannot be Prevented or Mitigated. Following an incident, the primary mission of Emergency Management is Recovery of the impacted area to its pre-incident state with an emphasis on Mitigation and Prevention projects toward similar incidents in the future. Recovery typically begins when life safety and incident stabilization response activities have been or are being demobilized and may continue long after the first responder has gone home. This seminar will define Emergency Management at the local level and will focus on:

- Mission
- Scope
- How to engage your Local Emergency Management
- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery resources available

Following this presentation given by Jim Palmer of the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management

(OEM), the group will take a tour of the Houston Emergency Center (HEC) which houses the City's 911, Police Dispatch, Fire and EMS Dispatch, and Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This is a secure facility so you must have a valid picture ID to enter.

#### Moderator Bio:

**Jim Palmer** is the Assistant Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) in the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Mr. Palmer supervises the OEM Preparedness Section and is the City's Continuity of Operations (COOP) Manager. Mr. Palmer is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) and a FEMA Certified Professional Continuity Practitioner (PCP).

Mr. Palmer:

- Maintains the City's Emergency Management Plan and directs the development or revision of specific hazard or function supporting annexes
- Manages all OEM Public Outreach activities
- Coordinates Emergency Management Training and Exercise activities for all City Departments
- Serves as the EOC Supervisor during Emergency or Disaster Response Operations

Mr. Palmer has presented at numerous local, state, and federal events to include the Department of Homeland Security's Inaugural National Planning Workshop, The Texas Homeland Security Conference, and the Disaster Preparedness Summit - Houston. He was also selected to serve on the FEMA Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) Working Group which has been charged with developing and maintaining national planning standards for Emergency Management

## 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

7/19 – 7/20	Dallas, TX	<b>Texas Regional Infrastructure Security Conference (TRISC)</b> <a href="http://www.trisc.org">http://www.trisc.org</a>
7/22	Houston, TX	<b>Disaster Preparedness Summit</b> <a href="http://www.nationaldisastersummit.org">http://www.nationaldisastersummit.org</a>
9/13 – 9/15	Las Vegas, NV	<b>ISACA Information Security and Risk Management Conference</b> <a href="http://www.isaca.org/isrmc">http://www.isaca.org/isrmc</a>
9/19 – 9/27	San Diego, CA	<b>Fall World 2010</b> <a href="http://www.drj.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4085&amp;Itemid=1039">http://www.drj.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;task=view&amp;id=4085&amp;Itemid=1039</a>
9/28 – 9/30	Online	<b>ContinuityInsights E-Conference</b> <a href="http://www.continuityinsights.com/Resources/Events.html">http://www.continuityinsights.com/Resources/Events.html</a>
10/29 – 11/4	San Antonio, TX	\$100 off registration fee for ACP members (code: ACP) <b>International Association of Emergency managers (IAEM) Annual Conference</b> <a href="http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm">http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm</a>
11/3 – 11/4	Dallas, TX	<b>SecureWorld Expo</b> <a href="http://www.secureworldexpo.com/">http://www.secureworldexpo.com/</a>

### EXERCISES, TRAINING AND SEMINARS

7/12 – 7/16	Dallas, TX	<b>BCLE 2000 - Business Continuity Planning with Q-Exam</b> <a href="https://www.drii.org/education/uscoursesch.php?showall=yes">https://www.drii.org/education/uscoursesch.php?showall=yes</a> ACP member discounted price available
9/27 – 10/1		
11/15 – 11/19		
7/20 -7/22	Dallas, TX	<b>ITIL Foundation Training</b> <a href="http://www.itsmacademy.com/Detail.bok?no=96">http://www.itsmacademy.com/Detail.bok?no=96</a> ACP member special discounted price available, contact: <a href="mailto:John1.Rowe@citi.com">John1.Rowe@citi.com</a>
8/16 – 8/17	Online	<b>BCP 601- Web-Based Training Masters Case Study Review</b> <a href="https://www.drii.org/education/uscoursesch.php?showall=yes">https://www.drii.org/education/uscoursesch.php?showall=yes</a>
10/25 – 10/26		
9/22 – 9/24	San Diego, CA	<b>BCP 501 Business Continuity Planning with Q- Exam (Post-DRJ Fall World)</b> <a href="https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=288&amp;courseid=12">https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=288&amp;courseid=12</a>
9/22 – 9/26	San Diego, CA	<b>BCLE 2000 Business Continuity Planning with Q- Exam (Post-DRJ Fall World)</b> <a href="https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=290&amp;courseid=4">https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=290&amp;courseid=4</a>
10/25 – 10/26	Online	<b>BCP 601 Web-based Masters Case Study Review</b> <a href="https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=298&amp;courseid=52">https://www.drii.org/education/course_desc.php?courseeventid=298&amp;courseid=52</a>
TBD	Houston, TX	<b>BCLE 2000 - Business Continuity Planning with Q-Exam</b> <a href="https://www.drii.org/education/uscoursesch.php?showall=yes">https://www.drii.org/education/uscoursesch.php?showall=yes</a> ACP member discounted price available.

## CERTIFICATIONS

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

## DEGREE PROGRAMS

<b>M.S.</b>	Norwich University	Masters of Science in Business Continuity Management Online degree, 15-18 months. Special offers to ACP members. <a href="http://businesscontinuity.norwich.edu/admissions.php">http://businesscontinuity.norwich.edu/admissions.php</a>
<b>M.S.</b>	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, etc). <a href="http://www.bu.edu/">http://www.bu.edu/</a>
<b>M.S.</b>	New Jersey's Science and Technology University	Master of Science in Business and Information Systems (MSBIS) Online Option. <a href="http://is.njit.edu/academics/graduate/msbis/online_msbis.php">http://is.njit.edu/academics/graduate/msbis/online_msbis.php</a>

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

## ARTICLES and Surveys

### Hide from the Wind

<http://www.houstonhidefromthewind.org/>

### Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities:

<http://www.disability911.com/>

## **Ready Campaign**

FEMA's Ready Campaign would like to take a moment to remind all Coalition Members of the resources available online to assist with this campaign. The Coalition Members section of our NPM Web site offers a toolkit (<http://ready.adcouncil.org/PreparednessToolKit.asp>) which includes templates, resources and tips to assist you with promoting emergency preparedness.

**Emergency Preparedness: A Personal Responsibility - Your Responsibility.** Preparing our country must be done at the grassroots level - family by family, business by business, and community by community. Is your family prepared? Your company? Tommy Rainey tells us more  
<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2010/subpages/v342/meettheexperts.pdf>

## **Social Networking Like a Social Flare**

"Here I am!" That's what you announce through tracking sites, simply by using mobile social networking. New research says they can find out your physical location.  
<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2010/subpages/v341/newsclip2.htm>

## **New Hurricane Proofing beats Plywood**

The latest storm abatement technology allows a strong mesh - not unlike what trampolines are made of - to protect buildings from wind while letting in the light and air

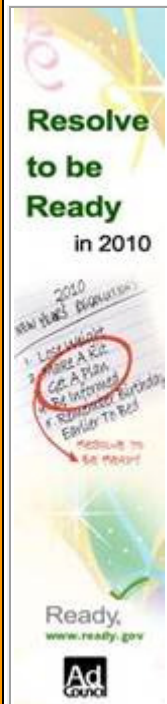
<http://disaster-resource.com/newsletter/2010/subpages/v340/newsclip6.htm>

## **BC Management News – 9TH Annual BCM Study Now Available**

How do Organizations Measure their Program's Effectiveness? What is a competitive compensation for business continuity professionals? - We're polling thousands of continuity professionals internationally and we want to hear from you! All ACP Chapters with 50+ study respondents will receive an exclusive, complimentary report customized for their local geography.

## **Resources ACP Members Can Use**

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



#### **2010 Themes & Events**

#### **Sep:**

[National Preparedness Month](#)

#### **Oct:**

[National Cyber Security Awareness Month](#)

[National Fire Prevention Week](#)

[National Animal Safety and Protection Month](#)