

Continuity IQ

from  DSPN

October 2005

Fast Facts for Our Valued Clients

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about recent events from your friends at DSPN.

Fast Facts

Did you know....

1. Since Hurricane Katrina made landfall, the Red Cross has provided more than 2.6 million overnight stays in 902 shelters across 25 states.
2. At one point after Katrina, Red Cross emergency shelters held more than 250,000 evacuees.
3. Text messaging kept working when cell phones didn't after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Employees of juice chain Smoothie King used text messaging to find each other and start reopening stores.
4. Starbucks has a wireless text system in place to warn its employees and give them instructions during emergencies.
5. According to FEMA, the most common cause of drowning is driving into rushing water.
6. In 1899 a hurricane produced a 42-foot storm surge at Bathurst Bay, Australia. It remains the largest surge ever recorded and more than doubles the 20-foot surge caused by Katrina.
7. According to NOAA, the U.S. locations with the highest probability for hurricane strikes are: Miami, Florida (48 %); Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (48 %); and San Juan, Puerto Rico (42 %). New Orleans has about a 40 % annual chance of a hurricane strike.
8. The global risk of hurricane disaster is increasing due to human activity. Populations are concentrating along the world's coastlines— particularly in large urban areas. Improved forecasting and emergency response have lowered hurricane casualty rates, but as more people and infrastructure move into harm's way, storms are likely to become more destructive.
9. The primary cause of hurricane-related fatalities over the past 30 years has not been storm surge or winds, but inland flooding. Most hurricanes produce rainfall of 6 to 12 inches, and slow-moving storms can be particularly dangerous for inland residents.
10. Wal-Mart's strategy for protecting frozen food during a power failure is to put it all in one freezer with a pallet of dry ice. That preserves it for 48 hours. By then, they plan to have a generator on the scene.
11. The most expensive hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. was Hurricane Andrew in 1992, which caused some \$25 billion worth of damage in the Bahamas, Florida, and Louisiana. Katrina's economic costs are unknown for

now but are sure to be staggering. Risk Management Solutions, a company that assesses the financial impact of natural disasters, estimated on September 2 that Katrina could drain some \$100 billion from the economy. That figure would make Katrina the costliest storm in U.S. history.

12. NOAA has predicted a 95 to 100 percent chance that the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season will be more active than usual. National Hurricane Center forecasters warn that the bulk of 2005's storms are likely still to come.

Brain Teasers

True or False:

1. Business leaders in Houston have their own emergency command center downtown.
2. Insurance companies have reduced rates for some customers who have BC plans.
3. Rita was the second hurricane to hit Houston since 2000.
4. This year has been the busiest hurricane season since record keeping started in 1851.
5. In the U.S., tornadoes are more lethal than floods.
6. Tornadoes spawned by hurricanes generally occur on the left side of the storm.
7. Hurricane Rita caused the biggest evacuation since 1927.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. True. It is equipped with generators, two-way radios, and emergency supplies.
2. True. According to a survey from Strohl, 12% of companies with BC plans pay lower insurance premiums.
3. True. Hurricane Allison hit Houston in 2001, causing \$5 Billion in damages and killing 22 people.
4. False. 2005 is the fourth busiest season with 17 storms so far. The record is 21 storms in 1933.
5. False. Floods kill more people each year than tornadoes.
6. False. Tornadoes spawned by hurricanes usually occur on the right side or "dirty" side of the storm.
7. False. In September 1999 Hurricane Floyd drove 3.5 million residents from their homes along the Atlantic Coast.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. Are your contact lists updated and ready to use in multiple formats?
2. When was the last time you changed the batteries in that portable radio you have stored?
3. Are your vital records properly documented?

New From DSPN

Check these out on our website:

1. DSPN now has [17 clients in Australia](#).
2. [DSPN Workshops](#) are coming to Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, and LA.
3. Our [Free Resouces Page](#) includes a Dirty Bomb Preparedness Guide.

Contributors to This Issue

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Comments and Contributions



Tell us what you think...

Thanks to all of you who contributed comments about this mailing. A special thanks to Janet Mebust whose ideas have been incorporated here.

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share? If so, send it along and we'll consider it for a future issue. If you want us to print a comment or submission about your company, be sure to give us permission when you write.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Paul

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