

# Continuity IQ

from  DSPN

September 2006 **Fast Facts for Our Valued Friends and Clients**

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at DSPN. Since this month is National Preparedness Month, this issue is about planning and preparedness. If you'd like to forward this message to your colleagues, just click the "Forward Email" link at the bottom of this page.

## Fast Facts about Being Prepared

### Did you know....

1. A good way to make sure your Advisory Committee is appropriately staffed is to look for a sponsor among high level executives. Those who have been involved personally in a disaster are often the best candidates.
2. One way to reduce your risk of biochemical or hazmat hazards is to install technology for rapid shut-down of HVAC.
3. You can use existing communications methods to improve redundancy to your communications strategy. Consider pre-programming cell phones, voice mail and pagers so you can send simultaneous notifications. You should include home email addresses and text messaging for cell phones.
4. When organizing damage assessment teams for your facilities, you can provide them with damage assessment checklists and facility drawings.
5. Some organizations store emergency supplies in externally accessible storage bins, where they can be easily accessed during an event.
6. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training teaches employees fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and medical operations.
7. Some companies enhance the skills of their Emergency Response teams by creating an exercise that allows the teams to compete with each other while demonstrating their skills.
8. Executives often need to communicate with each other from remote locations during the early stages of a disaster. One way to manage this need is to pre-establish conference circuits with pre-set meeting times.
9. You can reduce accounting delays during a disaster by pre-establishing tracking codes for all disaster-related expenses.
10. September is National Disaster Preparedness Month. April is Earthquake Preparedness Month in California, and Hurricane Preparedness Week occurs in June (in Florida). You can use these public events to create awareness for your local program.

## Brain Teasers

### True or False:

1. In the U.S., tornadoes are more deadly than floods.
2. According to FEMA, the most common cause of drowning is swimming alone.
3. A person can be injured by lightning while indoors.
4. The primary cause of hurricane-related fatalities is storm surge.
5. NFPA 1600 is a business continuity standard recommended for the private sector by the 9/11 Commission.

## Check your answers here...

### Answers to the above questions:

1. False. Floods are the most lethal natural disaster in the U.S.
2. False. According to FEMA, most drowning deaths are the result of driving into rushing water. An average of 107 drownings per year occur in the U.S.
3. True. Using the telephone during a thunderstorm is the biggest inside risk.
4. False. Most hurricane-related fatalities result from inland flooding.
5. True. NFPA 1600 is also recommended as a standard by the National Response Plan

## Readiness Check

### Hard-to-remember details:

1. Do you have a formal procedure to ensure that your plans are actually updated after an event or exercise?
2. Do you update your hazards assessment when updating your Business Impact Analysis?
3. Have you reduced your risk of workplace violence by providing appropriate training to employees?
4. Do you require each of your departments to maintain a list of alternate suppliers?
5. Have you recently held a damage assessment drill?

## New From DSPN

### Check these out on our website:

1. DSPN is the official sponsor of the Mock Disaster event at Disaster Recovery Journal's Fall World. [Click here](#) for more detail.
2. [DSPN's business continuity workshops](#) will be offered in Philadelphia, Dallas, Bellevue, and Irvine during 2006.
3. DSPN's Free Resources Page now has a [Flood Safety Guide](#).

## Contributors to This Issue

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## Comments and Contributions



### Tell us what you think...

Thanks to all of you who have sent us comments about this mailing.

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.

**Paul**

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