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Fast Facts for our Valued Friends and Clients January 2009

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at Disaster Survival Planning Network (DSPN). In this issue, we provide information about 2009 predictions. 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 Holiday Hazards

Did you know...

- On December 10, 2008 forecasting pioneer William Gray issued his forecast for Atlantic hurricanes during 2009. His team predicts 14 tropical storms, seven of which would develop into hurricanes. This forecast is followed closely by energy and commodity traders.
- The 2008 Atlantic hurricane season, which ended on November 30, was one of the most active on record and produced 16 tropical storms, eight of which became hurricanes. According to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, it spawned a record number of consecutive storms that struck the United States.
- On January 7, 2009 the Ministry of Health in China reported a new case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The victim, a 19-year old female developed symptoms on December 24, was hospitalized, and died on January 5. The case was confirmed by the national laboratory. Of the 31 cases confirmed to date in China, 21 have been fatal. Of the 107 cases confirmed to date in Viet Nam, 52 have been fatal.
- The past five major earthquakes along the Hayward Fault have occurred at regular 140-year intervals. The last one occurred 141 years ago in 1868. But the 1868 event has garnered more distinction recently: October 2008 marked the 140th anniversary of that magnitude 7 quake. "We don't know when the next big quake [will be], but we do know that the Hayward Fault is ready," Tom Brocher, a seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, told National Geographic News. New research also suggests the Hayward is much longer than previously believed, which could portend a disastrous earthquake two to four times bigger than was once thought. "It's going to be right in Oakland," Brocher said of the quake's likely epicenter. "The shaking is going to be much stronger and much more damaging."
- Earthquake prediction is a popular pastime for psychics and pseudo-scientists, and extravagant claims of past success are common. Predictions claimed as "successes" may rely on a restatement of well-understood long-term geologic earthquake hazards, or be so broad and vague that they are fulfilled by typical background seismic activity. Neither tidal forces nor unusual animal behavior have been useful for predicting earthquakes.
- According to Raffael Marty, Chief Security Strategist at Splunk, with the current economical situation, security budgets for 2009 are not going to be any easier to justify. Therefore, he sees a trend toward convergence projects: Security is going to piggy-back on other IT projects, for example, change management. CM is an integral part of a lot of security requirements, such as PCI. Visibility into the IT infrastructure is another project that will help fund security. SIM, SEM,

SIEM, or ESLIM will need to extend their messages and capabilities to show how they can help provide visibility into the complete IT environment. IT search is going to be especially well situated for that.

- "There is no more fire season as we know it - the fire season is now all year-round," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in July while touring wildfires in northern California.
- Poor tornado predictions cause two problems: foolish behavior, when people ignore a warning, or hours wasted in shelter, during false alarms. Tornadoes, unfortunately, are tough to predict. Monster thunderstorms that should produce them don't. Smaller storms that shouldn't, do. According to Project VORTEX, the world's largest storm-chasing project, the tornado prediction picture seems to be getting worse.

Brain Teasers

True or False

1. The 2008 hurricane season saw a tropical storm that formed before the season began and the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in November.
2. For the first time since 1851, six consecutive named storms hit the U.S. mainland during the 2008 hurricane season.
3. For Texas, the 2008 hurricane season was the costliest ever.
4. The 2008 hurricane season in Florida was more severe than in Texas.
5. Although La Niña refers to a cycle in Pacific weather conditions, it apparently made the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season more active.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. *True.* Tropical Storm Arthur formed in May before the start of the season, and the most powerful storm ever recorded in November was named Paloma.
2. *True.* The names of the six consecutive storms were Dolly, Edouard, Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike.
3. *True.* Texas was hit by two costly hurricanes in 2008--Dolly and Ike..
4. *False.* "Although much of the state was flooded by Fay, Floridians were fortunate that steering currents narrowly diverted hurricane activity away from the Sunshine State," said state meteorologist Ben Nelson.
5. *True.* La Niña refers to a cycle in Pacific weather conditions that affects weather globally. "The La Niña that began in the fall of 2007 ended in June, but its influence of light wind shear - meaning relatively weak upper-level winds that, when stronger, tend to break up hurricanes - helped set the stage for the busy 2008 season," said Gerry Bell, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. Are your employees safe-guarding confidential information when they work from home?
2. Do you update your hazards analysis each time you update your business impact analysis?
3. Has your executive committee reviewed your program's priorities for 2009?
4. Has your IT department benchmarked their disaster recovery plan against [ISO 24762](#)?
5. Have you reviewed [BS 25999](#), the world's first British standard for business continuity management?
- 6.

Comments and Contributions

Tell us what you think...



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

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share with our readers? 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 Klier](#)

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