



DSPN

Disaster
Survival
Planning
Network

Continuity IQ

Fast Facts for our Valued Friends and Clients

June 2008

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at Disaster Survival Planning Network (DSPN). In this issue, we provide an update on hurricanes. 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 Hurricanes

Did you know...

- Hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin officially begins this month and runs through the end of November. However, peak season in the Atlantic is August-October. In the Southwest Pacific basin, peak season is February-March.
- The annual forecast for the Atlantic Basin from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) calls for considerable activity. There is a 90 percent chance of a near or above normal season. For 2008, the outlook indicates a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 named storms, including 6 to 9 hurricanes and 2 to 5 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Scale). An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes for which two reach major status.
- According to [records maintained by the National Hurricane Center](#), Category 3 hurricanes struck New England in 1938 and 1954.
- According to FEMA, high-rise buildings are vulnerable to hurricane-force winds, particularly at the higher levels since wind speed tends to increase with height. Recent research suggests you should stay below the tenth floor, but still above any floors at risk for flooding. It is not uncommon for high-rise buildings to suffer a great deal of damage due to windows being blown out. Consequently, the areas around these buildings can be very dangerous.
- As a hurricane moves over land, it quickly loses strength. However, intense hurricanes can deliver strong winds inland. For example, during Hurricane Hugo in 1989, Charlotte, NC, which is 175 miles from the shore, lost more than eighty thousand trees to the storm, many of which were more than seventy years old. Ninety-eight percent of the city's residents lost power, and for some, repairs were not made for more than two weeks.
- New Orleans-based Compucast Interactive is thankful that they had an emergency plan in place, especially when Hurricane Katrina blew through the city. As a Web services company for more than 250 New Orleans businesses, it was paramount for those businesses and their thousands of employees to have the ability to continue making announcements and sending e-mails to their colleagues and customers. To prepare for a disaster, Compucast had secured dedicated servers outside of New Orleans in San Francisco and Philadelphia.

- According to a [FEMA testimonial](#), here are the contents of the Emergency Evacuation Kit which was used by The Leidenheimer Baking Company during Hurricane Katrina: financial and payroll records, utility contact information, updated phone lists for customers and employees, back-up files and software, as well as computer hard drives.
- Most experts agree that Hurricane Katrina was the costliest natural disaster in United States history with \$200 billion in damages, but it was not the most powerful storm that has struck the U. S. According to [records maintained by the National Hurricane Center](#), here are the 3 most powerful hurricanes that have struck the continental U.S. since 1851: Unnamed (Florida Keys, 1935), Camille (Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, 1969), Andrew (Florida, Louisiana, 1992).

Brain Teasers

True or False

1. These 3 terms describe the same type of hazard: "hurricane", "cyclone", "typhoon".
2. A cyclone in the Southern Hemisphere rotates in the opposite direction from a hurricane in the Northern Hemisphere.
3. The partial vacuum at the center of a strong hurricane allows the ocean to rise up in response, thus causing a destructive storm surge as it makes landfall.
4. Hurricanes weaken quickly when they come ashore because of friction caused by the land.
5. A relatively small hurricane is usually not a very intense hurricane.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. True. Depending on their location and strength, tropical cyclones are referred to by other names, such as hurricane, typhoon, tropical storm, cyclonic storm, tropical depression and simply cyclone.
2. True. Cyclones in the Southern Hemisphere always have clockwise rotation while hurricanes in the Northern Hemisphere always have counterclockwise rotation.
3. False. Low pressure causes only 15% of the surge. According to NOAA, 85% of a storm surge is caused by winds pushing the ocean surface ahead of the storm on the right side of the track. (Northern Hemisphere).
4. False. According to NOAA, a hurricane over land will begin to weaken rapidly. not because of friction, but because the storm lacks the moisture and heat sources that the ocean provided. This depletion of moisture and heat hurts the hurricane's ability to produce thunderstorms near the storm center. Without this convection, the storm rapidly fails.
5. False. According to NOAA, there is very little association between intensity and size. Hurricane Andrew is a good example of a very intense tropical cyclone that was also relatively small.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. *How specifically does your insurance policy define water damage? Does the definition include damage caused by a plumbing break? Rising water? Wind-driven water? Storm surge? Many Katrina victims are still litigating imprecise water damage definitions.*
2. *Do you have enough generator capacity and fuel to manage a power outage that lasts for a week or more?*
3. *If you operate from your alternate work locations for an extended period, are the suppliers you will need located in that area as well?*
4. *Is the water for drinking fountains and toilets dependent on having electrical power in your building?*
5. *Have you pre-defined pay policies for your employees who you will ask to stay home during a hurricane?*

New Workshops from DSPN

Workshop #501: Implementing Enterprise Risk Management

This workshop provides an opportunity for your Enterprise Leadership Team to learn about their roles and responsibilities when implementing Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). Content for your workshop will be customized for your session, based on a pre-session telephone discussion about your situation and priorities. To begin the session, attendees will receive an overview of ERM, including foundation concepts for expanding traditional risk management into an ERM structure. Overview topics include ERM objectives, risk identification and measurement, risk types that must be managed, ERM benefits, obstacles, and best practices. Then the session will focus on the elements identified as priorities during the pre-session telephone discussion. Each session is delivered by two senior executives who have been chosen to match your situation and priorities. Two hours. \$3,000 per session.

Workshop #202P: How to Build a Pandemic Contingency Plan...That Works!

This session examines best practices for building and maintaining a pandemic contingency plan that is fully compliant with standards published by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). Using recommendations from the March 2008 edition of the FFIEC BCP handbook and best practices collected by DSPN, attendees examine proven techniques for developing programs that are fully compliant with FFIEC requirements. Each participant will receive a specialized planning template that has been created by DSPN to simplify the planning process. DRII-certified professionals who attend this session can receive 16 continuing education points for re-certification. Two days. \$995 per seat. Quantity discounts available.

Workshop #302P: How to Stage a Pandemic Test...That Works!

Whether you already have a pandemic plan or are about to build one, this workshop will show you how to design and execute exercises that will speed the development of your plan while improving its effectiveness. Using recommendations from the March 2008 edition of the FFIEC BCP handbook and best practices collected by DSPN, attendees examine proven techniques developing robust testing programs. As a culminating activity, you will participate in pandemic tabletop exercise to experience first hand the challenges that organizations face in responding to this type of emergency. One day. DRII-certified professionals who attend this session can receive 8 continuing education points for re-certification. One day. \$445 per seat. Quantity discounts available.

Workshop #401P: Pandemic Experience for Executives

Pandemic Experience for Executives is a half-day tabletop exercise to help your leadership team define and practice their roles in reducing the impact of a pandemic emergency. The event is customized for your organization's circumstances and experience level and is facilitated at your site. Price varies depending on your requirements.

To find a session near you or to discuss options for staging a session at your site, email [Paul Klier](#).

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](#)

Popular Services from DSPN

- [Benchmark Your Program Using NFPA 1600](#) is a one-day workshop we are staging in Irvine, California on October 22, 2008. Sign up now!
- [How to Create Drills and Exercises... That Work!](#) is a one-day workshop we are staging in Irvine, California on October 23, 2008. Sign up now!
- In addition to our public workshops, DSPN offers [on-site workshops](#) that are customized for your priorities.