

Safest in America

A Publication of The Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security

October 2006

SPREADING THE WORD ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

“The ultimate reward is having businesses realize that the Coalition is here to help.”

Comiskey was profiled in the October issue of *Smart Business Pittsburgh*. To see a copy of the article go to the Coalition's web site by visiting www.pittsburghcoalitionforsecurity.org

Executive Director Mike Comiskey has been spreading the word about the Coalition at various conferences.

Presentations have been given at:

State of Pennsylvania Emergency Management meeting in State College August 29th. Here we reached over 300 of our State's emergency management personnel and left them with 60 copies of our disaster planning CD. Subsequent to this meeting we have received and filled 80 requests for additional CDs from this group. Of particular interest to many of the attendees was how Region 13 has been able to organize a close relationship with the business community, how was the Coalition formed, and any lessons learned after its first 18 months of existence. Special thanks to Chief Full for getting us the invitation to attend.

We gave a presentation at the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Public Health's Conference, "Weathering the Storm", September 20th, in Oakland. This conference was on lessons learned from Hurricane Ivan. The audience took 40 cds from the meeting.

The Coalition participated September 26th on a panel at the recent CIO and Executive IT Summit in Cranberry. This confer-

ence is attended by over 150 region Chief Information Officers and their company's Executive Management to discuss business continuity issues as they relate to the information field. Special thanks to Ken Sochats for getting us invited for the second year in a row.

At the Concordia Club on October 12, the Coalition participated in a round table to discuss region-wide pandemic planning needs and the need to carry pandemic education to the public. We were there at the invitation of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics and the Pittsburgh Foundation.

The State Emergency Management meeting resulted in an invitation from Thomas Sullivan, Director of Public Safety, to speak at a Montgomery County Pandemic Plan meeting on October 16th. They were very appreciative of our region's willingness to travel to Montgomery County and share our experiences on the formation of the Coalition. They are taking the very first steps in the process of forming stronger ties to their business community and encouraging the business community to form a coalition similar to Region 13.

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WORKING WITH CHAMBERS

One of the avenues that the Coalition is exploring to expand its reach into the community is establishing partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce throughout Western PA.

One recent success story is the collaboration with the Pittsburgh Airport Area Chamber. The Coalition and the Chamber partnered to host 2 one-hour roundtable discussions with Carnegie business owners in June. The discussion focused on obtaining a better understanding of their post Hurricane Ivan issues. The status of Chartiers Creek improvements was the overwhelming issue discussed at these meetings.

Recently Sally Haas, Airport Area Chamber President followed up and issued a newsletter to her members giving answers to there

concerns, particularly the status of improvements to Chartiers Creek. Included in this newsletter was an offer by the Coalition to provide free disaster planning workbooks and CDs to area businesses.

“Working with area Chambers is a natural path to reaching local business, and encouraging a focus on disaster planning and preparedness,” said Coalition Executive Director Mike Comiskey. “When Chambers mention the Coalition’s mission and resources in their own newsletters, it becomes one more avenue for getting the word out. We appreciate the support of the Chambers.”

“The more complete our network of communication with local businesses, the greater the Coalition’s positive impact can be.

COALITION PLANS MEMBER MEETING

Plans are being finalized for the first member meeting to be held this fall.

“Our main goal is provide content that is relevant to our business members, so our approach to the meeting is to first seek topics of interest from our members,” said Comiskey. “We also hope each member company will invite 1 or 2 non-member companies to join us.”

There is no cost to the event.

WHEN: November 6, 2006
WHERE: Doubletree Hotel, Downtown Pittsburgh
TIME: 3:30-6 pm

Networking and cocktails from 5 to 6 p.m.

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The Coalition will address the State meeting of Chamber’s of Commerce November 8th in Harrisburg

“Each of these audiences has been anxious to hear about the activities and the mission of the Coalition,” said Comiskey. “We estimate

that through these meetings in September and October we will have told our story to over 500 people representing emergency managers, university staff, company IT management and executives, chamber members and citizens of our region and the State.”

COALITION PARTNERS WITH THREE RIVERS CONTINGENCY PLANNING ASSOCIATION AND SUNGARD

We are pleased to announce that the Coalition is partnering with our member organization, TRCPA, to hold a business table top exercise focused on “Pandemic Flu”. Conducting the exercise will be Coalition member company SunGard.

Because of anticipated demand, there will be two sessions on November 10, the morning session will start at 9:00 am and an afternoon session beginning at 1:00 pm

Both sessions will be held in the conference room on the 31st floor of the Regional Enterprise Tower, 425 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA (formerly the Alcoa Building across from William Penn Hotel)

To register for this table top exercise, click on TRCPA’s website

<http://www.trcpa.org/trcpa/meetings.asp>

HOW DOES INVOLVEMENT IN THE COALITION BENEFIT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY?

One reason often stated is that membership “just seems like the right thing to do”! Some larger businesses have stated a desire to support the improved disaster preparedness of the region’s smaller businesses, who in many cases are their suppliers. Some of our smaller member companies are providing disaster related services and see membership as a networking opportunity. Some companies are anxious to support our emergency responders, and see our relationship with Region 13 Task Force as a key. Small to mid sized companies in particular are looking for help in their disaster planning. I’ve often heard that the member company wants to show their employees that they care about them and the readiness of their business and region to withstand disaster. Whatever your reason, the Coalition is extremely pleased to have each of our member companies.

FREE PREPAREDNESS CD NOW AVAILABLE

The Coalition has developed a CD based on the Department of Homeland Security’s, “Ready Business Mentoring Guide” to help business owners and managers prepare business continuity and disaster recovery plans. The CD is free to regional business owners.

“It would be in the best interest of business owners and managers to add emergency planning to their priority list,” said Coalition Executive Director Mike Comisky. “Many people fall victim to the belief that ‘it won’t happen to me,’ but instead of becoming a victim of circumstance, business owners should be armed with an emergency plan. Furthermore, business owners and managers should educate and prepare their employees

in the case of an emergency. The CD includes information on protecting your investments and includes a sample business continuity and disaster preparedness plan.

“Business owners invest a tremendous amount of time, money and resources to make their ventures successful, so it would seem natural for owners to take steps to protect those investments.”

Contact the Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security at 412.392.2416 for a free CD or email mcomisky@pittsburghcoalitionforsecurity.org.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES



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SunGard Availability Services is an Information Availability provider that aids organiza-

tions maximize and safeguard their Information technology investments. Its mission is to keep people and information connected. Utilizing people, technology and infrastructure, SunGard aids organizations construct a strategy and devise the solutions to provide the access to information their business requires. SunGard also offers workshops on ways to improve organizations' abilities to swiftly and effectively respond to incidents.

Services offered include Managed IT Services, Business Continuity and Professional Services, 48-hour disaster recovery hotsites to always-on, high-availability infrastructure, co-location and electronic vaulting services.

For more information, visit www.availability.sungard.com/default.



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a non leaching interpenetrating network when applied to surfaces. Primary completion includes leaching technologies such as triclosan, silver, and antibiotics.

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Life-Counts® is a secure web-based service that allows building owners, companies, management, life-safety directors, and training departments to post and communicate their building's plans to the occupants in one or multiple buildings.

Although Life-Counts® concentrates on emergency preparedness it can provide

any type of testing for any user to test their understanding of any plan with tracking of scores. Life-Counts® data base sorts various groups of users for e-mail contact including but not limited to; those who are registered, those who have been tested, those who have not been tested, those who have passed, those who have failed, and more. Life-Counts® allows quick e-mail communication with all groups of users. When plans are updated all users can be easily and quickly notified. Life-Counts® also allows quick and easy design of floor warden teams and fire drill record keeping.

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NEW MEMBER PROFILES