

Safest in America

A Publication of The Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security

December 2010

DECEMBER MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Members attending the December meeting had the opportunity to hear about changes in communication systems, cyber security and Marcellus shale gas drilling—an agenda full of useful information.

Verizon's representative spoke about the launch of its 4G LTE network, revealing that it will be available in 38 major metropolitan

areas, covering more than 110 million Americans, by the end of the year. He spoke about the need for "real time" connections in emergency preparedness as well and backup system for redundancy and reliability. The 4G networks will change the way we communicate leading to a notable migration of gaming from PCs to wireless devices. He also stressed its potential impact on

commerce, security, and emergency response. A short video demonstrated how a 4G network will impact all emergency responders and aid in their ability to proactively address an emergency situation.

Continued on page 3

HUNKER DOWN FOR WINTER BLAST

Last year's winter blast, totaling 77 inches of snow, was the third snowiest on record. Can we expect a repeat performance? And is your business prepared? Now is the time to think about how winter storms can result in flooding, storm surge, closed highways, blocked roads, and downed power lines. Does your continuity planning have alternative plans for power backup and worker flexibility communications to keep the office open even if they are working from home?



So what is the prediction? For the past few months, Channel 11

meteorologists and the National Weather

Service analyzed the El Nino pattern which led to last winter's frequent storms.

Fred McMullen of the National Weather Service and chief meteorologist Julie

Bologna sorted through the research and found one of the biggest reasons for last year's high snow totals. "We had a band of snow that sat up and remained stationary over the area for some time," said McMullen.

Bologna is predicting that this year, the weather won't be as bad. She said for the first time in a decade, we are in a La Nina pattern. In a weak La Nina year, Pittsburgh can expect to get an average amount of snow, said Bologna. The area can also expect slightly above-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures. Expected total snowfall is 38.5" which is slightly below average for the region.

McMullen said instead of all snow events, Pittsburgh could see more rain, sleet or snow mixes. La Nina will start off strong, but weaken through the winter.

"If we go by history 60 years, we haven't seen a significant snow storm during a weak

La Nina year," McMullen said. "It's going to be an average winter. Now you have to remember, you can see bits and pieces, an inch here, inches there for the rest of the winter or we could see a decent snow several times."

Regardless if the snowfall is average or above average, you know our emergency responders, municipal workers and volunteers will be logging many long hours and night shifts plowing streets and responding to weather-related accidents.

Keep your gloves and shovel handy!

The Coalition can help your business with continuity planning. Also remember PARR, the Region 13 program through which area businesses pledge certain assets or subject matter experts for use by our county emergency management organizations in time of need. If you have equipment or expertise we can add to the database, let us know.

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Coalition Continues Strategic Initiative

One of the Coalition's major task force initiatives is the focus on the development of a membership model. This model will help to enhance the value of membership for each company.

The committee is now researching the existing perceptions of the Coalition in order to have a clear idea of what services members consider valuable. This two-sided evaluation will help measure the members' expectations and requirements against the Coalition's performance on those expectations. The task force also is evaluating tiered levels of membership.

Email Kelly at kbarcic@prbchs.org if you would like to join this task force any other of the four areas focused on Sustainable Funding; Organization Framework; Communications; and Maintaining and Enhancing Key Relationships.

COALITION OFFERS INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Coalition is seeking an Intern for winter semester. The goal of this Internship is to offer successful candidates an opportunity to improve their skills, as well as the experience of working in the homeland security sector. The work is fast-paced and requires independent workers with strong communication skills. Interested students (undergraduate or graduate) should send a cover letter and resume to Kelly Barcic at kbarcic@prbchs.org ASAP.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ability of an organization to recover from a disaster is directly related to the degree of Business Continuity Planning that has taken place **BEFORE** the disaster?

DID YOU KNOW:

The Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security is the **LEADING** organization to:

- Promote awareness, development and implementation of disaster planning within the business community.
- Develop and deliver products and services that assist the business community in their disaster planning.
- Provide a single point of contact to the business community on issues of regional disaster planning, response and recovery.
- Provide private sector support and assistance to the South Western Pennsylvania Region 13 Task Force

Is Your Business An Active Member?

You can't afford not to be.

Join Today or Renew Your Membership

For Less than \$2/wk. That's IT!

This slight investment assists the Pittsburgh Region in becoming

"Safest in America"

Smart Businesses are already members

Now, more than ever, it is critical for organizations to maintain operational effectiveness and flexibility in any scenario.

Click here to JOIN!

If you haven't received an invoice, we still consider you an active member. We will be contacting you soon.



INDUSTRY SECTOR MEETING UPDATES

The **Commercial Facilities Meeting** attendees heard an FBI update on the security measures being planned for the upcoming holiday season, and the City of Pittsburgh representative reported on gang activity and retail theft levels.

At the **Energy and Nuclear Meeting**, cyber security and updates on the Marcellus Shale operations were discussed. Another topic was how snow removal impacted the area last year.

These Sector Meetings are insightful and relevant for management of your business. Join in! Call the Coalition for more information. All participants involved in an industry sector meeting can visit **www.prbchs.org** to review past meeting minutes and keep informed of committee activity.

If you have NOT received your login password, call the Coalition office at **412.473.7040**.

WE'RE MOVING

The Coalition office is moving to the Emergency Operations Center at **400 North Lexington Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15208**. This will be a great location for us as we continue our work with the Region 13 staff.

Many thanks to the Allegheny Conference for their years of support and providing office space for our staff. It is greatly appreciated.



DECEMBER MEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS *Continued from page 1*

Bradford Wilke, Cyber Security Advisor from U.S. Department of Homeland Security discussed the importance of businesses evaluating their cyber vulnerability. The Cyber Security Evaluation Tool is a self-grading desktop software tool that guides users through a step-by-step process to assess their control system and information technology network security practices against recognized industry standards. The output is a prioritized list of recommendations for improving the cybersecurity posture of the organization. To request a copy, send an email to: **CSET@dhs.gov**. Please insert "CSET" in the title block of the email and include your name, organization name, complete street address (no P.O. boxes), and phone number in your email request.

Alternatively, the Control Systems Security Program also offers onsite training and guidance to owners in using CSET during onsite assessments. These assessments are conducted at no cost. To request onsite assistance, please email to **CSET@dhs.gov**.

Kevin West, manager Director of External Affairs and **John Centofanti**, Direct, Safety and Environmental, from EQT spoke about Marcellus Shale activity, drilling standards, safety, and economic impact on the State. Several fast facts that they shared:

- In 2010, 903 wells were drilled and 2,065 wells were permitted.
- Technology is enabling natural gas to be drilled at the depth where Marcellus reserves are located, which are estimated at 250–500 TCE of recoverable resources in PA.
- Because of the abundant supply, prices are expected to be stable which will help to attract businesses that rely on natural gas as a fuel source or feedstock.
- Economically, one well provides jobs for 410 people from 150 occupations and the impact for 2010 was 100,000 jobs adding \$8.2 billion to the local economy.
- Safety at the well sites is a priority, and EQT is working directly with first responders to alert them to locations and site logistics.
- Members were shown a series of images showing the well site development and drilling procedures.

COALITION ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS



FHLBank Pittsburgh is a wholesale bank that serves the housing finance and community and economic development needs of its owner-members across Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The Bank provides reliable access to advances (loans), expanding and contracting this supply of low-cost liquidity as member needs warrant. In addition, the Bank offers competitive pricing in the purchase of mortgage loans through its Mortgage Partnership Finance® (MPF®) Program; MPF Xtra®, which sells fixed-rate mortgages to a secondary investor while the member retains loan servicing; correspondent services; affordable housing grants; and small business funding in concert with participating members.

Gannett Fleming is an award-winning international planning, design, and construction management firm



Gannett Fleming

that employs more than 2,100 professionals. Serving clients from more than 60 offices worldwide, it is ISO 9001:2008 certified. It has performed engineering services on thousands of diverse assignments in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 50 countries.



In 1992, **Gateway Health Plan®**, Inc. was established as an alternative to Pennsylvania's Department of Public Welfare's Medical Assistance Program. For more than 15 years, members have benefited from services such as disease

management, health and wellness programs and preventive care that provides service to more than 244,000 members.

Grant Street Group (GSG) is a leader and innovator of financial and revenue collection web-based software and services. Founded in 1997, GSG first revolutionized fixed income securities by hosting the world's first online bond auction for the City of Pittsburgh.



GRANT STREET GROUP

Over the next few years,

Software That Works®

GSG evolved into a financial software firm specializing in hosted internet applications, now used by more than 2,400 clients, which support a variety of financial transactions related to revenue collection and auctions of fixed income securities, tax deeds and real estate.

Mission Critical Partners deliver technical and operational consulting services to mission critical managers to advance life safety



communications through improved policy, systems and processes. The team consists of former public safety managers, project management professionals, technology, forensic and policy specialists who work closely with the public and private sector to develop a sound approach by first seeking to understand the challenge, analyzing the data and information available and developing a durable resolution to the challenge.

Point Park is a comprehensive, master's level university with a strong liberal arts tradition, currently enrolls 3,986 full- and part-time students in 67 undergraduate programs and 11 graduate programs offered through its School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Communication and Conservatory of Performing Arts. Its students represent 45 states and 31 countries.



Specialized Security Response is one of the biggest companies in the industry providing armed and unarmed security officers. They offer a wide variety of services such as Housing Patrol, Strategic Security



Planning, Armed And Unarmed Security Officers, Special Event Security, Executive Protection, Rapid Response Team, School Security, Labor Disputes, Investigations, K-9 Division with Bomb and Drug Dogs, Plain Clothes, and Mobile Patrol.