

# Continuity IQ

from  DSPN

January 2006 Happy New Year!

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

Dear Paul,

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at DSPN.

## Fast Facts

### Did you know....

1. According to Roberta Witty, a research vice president with Gartner, "Most companies are looking at the kind of events that would impact [only] themselves. They have a fire in the building, or there's a power outage at their data center."
2. Prior to Katrina, the great Midwest flood of 1993 was the costliest flood in U.S. history, with estimated damages of \$20 billion; however, only around 50 lives were lost.
3. According to NOAA, the deadliest tornado on record occurred on March 18, 1925, killing 689 people across Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana.
4. On October 8, 1871, the same night as the Great Chicago Fire, an even deadlier conflagration was sweeping through the lumber town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, 260 miles north of Chicago. The five-mile-wide wall of flames, borne on tornado-force winds of 100 miles per hour, tore across more than 2,400 square miles of land, obliterating Peshtigo in less than one hour and killing more than 2,000 people.
5. According to the U.S Geological Survey, the largest eruption in the world during the 20th century occurred June 6-9, 1912, at Novarupta on the Alaska Peninsula. An estimated 9 cubic miles of magma was explosively erupted during 60 hours beginning on June 6 - more than 30 times the volume erupted by Mount St. Helens in 1980. More than a foot of volcanic ash from this enormous eruption collapsed roofs in the village of Kodiak, 100 miles away, and choked rivers and streams, devastating Alaska's fishing industry. Several villages along Alaska's southeast coast were abandoned forever.
6. Tsunamis are often lethal thousands of miles from where they begin. According to Newsweek, the earthquake that struck near Chile in 1960, killed 61 people in Hawaii.
7. According to US Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, Federal authorities are preparing to face a possible avian flu pandemic in the United States by contemplating a worst- case scenario, under which more than 92

- million people will become ill in the space of four months.
8. Until the events of 9/11 paralyzed the whole nation, most people in the U.S. did not believe a terrorist event could also be regional in scope.
  9. Most corporate plans can manage a power outage that lasts a few days, but what about one like we saw with Hurricane Katrina that lasted for weeks?
  10. The key to having effective communications during a regional disaster is redundancy. After every disaster, we hear about one means of communication that worked better than the others. For 9/11, it was Blackberrys, for Katrina, it was not Blackberrys, but SMS text messaging. The point is that you can't rely on one or two methods to be fail-safe. Today, you need five, six, or more alternatives.

## Brain Teasers

### True or False:

1. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) is a standard that applies to all publicly-financed companies.
2. ISO 17799 and BS 7799.2 are standards for information security.
3. The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLB) is a standard that applies to financial institutions.
4. FEMA recommends NIMS as a standard for public sector command and control during disaster response.
5. The Federal government has not yet recommended a business continuity standard for use in the private sector.

## Check your answers here...

### Answers to the above questions:

1. True.
2. True.
3. True.
4. True. NIMS is an acronym for National Incident Management System. It was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better to respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism.
5. False. In 2004, the 9/11 Commission recommended NFPA 1600 to Congress as the disaster preparedness standard for the private sector. The National Response Plan also endorses NFPA 1600 as the standard for the private sector.

## Readiness Check

### Hard-to-remember details:

1. Can you maintain your critical functions during a regional power outage that lasts for weeks instead of days?
2. Is your work recovery site located far enough away to escape the effects of a regional disaster that strikes your primary location?
3. Have you pre-arranged enough employee housing for the workers you will need to staff your alternate work facility?

4. Do you have sufficient suppliers in close proximity to your work recovery site?
5. Do you have plans to collaborate with neighboring entities in case of a regional event?

## New From DSPN

Check these out on our website:

1. [The 2006 DSPN Workshop schedule](#) is now available here.
2. Our new Workshop #201 is entitled "[How to Benchmark and Sustain Your Program](#)". It is scheduled for Newport Beach on Feb 7 and for Bellevue on Feb 22.

## 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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