

Continuity IQ

from  DSPN

April 2007

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. In this issue, we feature information about earthquakes. 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 Earthquakes

Did you know....

1. The month of April is observed as earthquake awareness month in California, Oregon and Washington, and as tsunami awareness month in Hawaii. In 1989 President Bush (41) declared the first week of April as Earthquake Awareness Week. If you are looking for ways to create awareness for your business continuity program, why not piggyback the news items that will appear this month?
2. The most recent severe earthquake occurred on April 2, 2007. The magnitude 8.1 earthquake struck near the Solomon Islands and triggered a tsunami which killed at least 28 people and left 5400 homeless.
3. On March 24, 2007, a magnitude 6.7 temblor shook central Japan, the U.S. Geological Service said. It killed one person and injured at least 162.
4. About 1,000 earthquakes with intensities of 5.0 or greater are recorded each year, according to the Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia. Because most of these occur under the ocean or in under-populated areas, they pass unnoticed by all but seismologists.
5. California's great earthquake of 1906 was estimated at magnitude 7.8.
6. California's 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake was 7.1 in magnitude. It struck as the world series was being played in San Francisco, killing 63 people and causing \$6 Billion in damages.
7. Although California's Northridge earthquake of 1994 was only 6.7 in magnitude, it killed 60 people and damaged more than 40,000 buildings in the Los Angeles area.
8. Alaska's Prince William Sound earthquake of 1964 was the strongest earthquake ever recorded in the U.S. with a magnitude of 9.2.
9. According to ConsumerAffairs.com Inc., some insurance companies have stopped writing earthquake coverage in Illinois and Missouri due to fears that the New Madrid fault is likely to become active. Strong earthquakes in the New Madrid seismic zone are "certain" to occur in the future, according to the

United States Geological Survey.

10. The highest magnitude earthquake ever recorded was 9.5 in Chile in 1960. It created a tsunami that killed 61 people in Hawaii.

Brain Teasers

True or False:

1. The Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 reduced chances of a severe earthquake in the region in the near future.
2. A 6.0 magnitude earthquake is three times as powerful as a 2.0 magnitude earthquake
3. Experts do not recommend building evacuations during an earthquake.
4. Earthquake information for each U.S. state is available on the Internet.
5. The Ring of Fire is a term for the area surrounding the Pacific Plate where it meets other plate boundaries.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. *False.* According to the U.S Geological Survey, there is a 62 percent probability of a least one magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake striking the San Francisco Bay region before 2030.
2. *False* The energy released by an earthquakes increases exponentially along the Richter scale. At 4.0, an earthquake releases the equivalent of 6 tons of TNT; at 5.0 an earthquake releases the equivalent of 199 tons of TNT. An 8.0 magnitude quake is equivalent to the explosion of 6,270,000 tons of TNT!
3. *True.* During an earthquake, people should be concerned about falling objects. This risk of being hit by a falling object during an earthquake is greater while outdoors, and especially while exiting a building. Organizations who have earthquake risks should practice shelter-in-place drills in preparation for an earthquake.
4. *True.* [Earthquake information by state](#) is maintained by USGS.
5. *True.* It spans the entire west coasts of South America, Mexico, and the United States, moves across the Aleutian Islands of Alaska and down the eastern islands of Asia including Japan, and continues southward toward eastern Australia and New Zealand.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. Have you scheduled at least one shelter-in-place drill for 2007?
2. If a severe earthquake strikes your region during working hours, do you have food and water available for those who cannot leave?
3. Do you have a procedure to regularly replace perishable items in your earthquake supplies?
4. If you are leasing your work space, have you discussed damage assessment responsibilities with your landlord?
5. Do your teams regularly inspect work areas to spot unsecured heavy items

that might fall should an earthquake occur?

New From DSPN

Check these out on our website:

1. DSPN's [2007 schedule of public workshops](#) is now available on our website.
2. Developing an exercise for your program? DSPN can help you [design and facilitate it](#).
3. Want to participate in a [mock disaster simulating an earthquake](#)? DSPN is hosting two earthquake simulations in California during June 2007.

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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