

XVII. Emergency Info Community Link

The following links provide information, interactive communication, and statistics to be utilized by anyone involved and/or interested in emergency preparedness. Further tools will be featured in the near future. Current resource information:

A. The Common Alerting Protocol

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is an open, flexible, non-proprietary data format used for collecting and distributing emergency alerts and public warnings over information networks and public alerting systems.

B. Bridge Community Link

A web-based forum for members of the emergency preparedness ‘community’ to post their comments, suggestions, insights, project information, anything they wish to share with their colleagues.

C. Emergency Preparedness and Communication Statistics

Figures, surveys, and statistics concerning emergency preparedness will be posted as they become available. Current statistics are from a 2005 survey commissioned by the National Organization on Disability’s Emergency Preparedness Initiative.

D. Upcoming Emergency Preparedness Events

Information about upcoming events involving Emergency Preparedness for individuals with disabilities will be posted as it becomes available.

A. The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is an open, non-proprietary XML-based data format for collecting and distributing emergency alerts and public warnings over information networks and public alerting systems. CAP allows a consistent warning message to be disseminated over many different alert systems at the same time, in order to increase warning effectiveness while simplifying the warning activation task for the appropriate officials. The CAP data structure is compatible with existing alert formats including the Emergency Alert System. The Common Alerting Protocol possesses added capabilities including:

- Flexible geographic targeting using latitude/longitude “boxes” and other geospatial representations in three dimensions;
- Multilingual and multi-audience messaging;
- Phased and delayed effective times and expirations;
- Enhanced message update and cancellation features;
- Template support for framing complete and effective warning messages;
- Digital encryption and signature capability; and,
- Facility for digital images, audio and video.

In November 2000 the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) issued a report on “Effective Disaster Warnings,” which stated that “a standard method should be developed to collect and relay instantaneously and automatically all types of hazard warnings and reports locally, regionally and nationally for input into a wide variety of dissemination systems.” In 2001 an international, independent group of over 120 emergency managers began specifying and prototyping the Common Alerting Protocol data structure based on the recommendations of the NSTC report. In 2002 that effort was adopted by the Partnership for Public Warning, a national public-private partnership of agencies, vendors and academic experts. In 2003 the Partnership for Public Warning sponsored CAP into the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information

Standards (OASIS) process for refinement and testing. In April 2004, CAP 1.0 was adopted as an OASIS standard. OASIS is a not-for-profit, international consortium dedicated to the development, convergence and adoption of e-business standards. OASIS produces worldwide standards for security, web services, conformance, business transactions, supply chain, public sector, and interoperability within and between marketplaces. In October 2005 the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee adopted an updated CAP specification, the latest version, CAP 1.1. Among the list of public and private organizations that support or have implemented the Common Alerting Protocol are:

- AtHoc, Inc
<http://www.athoc.com/>
- Blue292
<http://www.blue292.com>
- California Office of Emergency Services
www.oes.ca.gov/
- Capital Wireless Integrated Network (CapWIN)
<http://www.capwin.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control
http://www.cdc.gov/phn/architecture/implementation_guides/index.html
- Comlabs, Inc.
<http://www.comlabs.com/>
- Department of Homeland Security
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- Disaster Management Interoperability Services
<http://www.dmi-services.org/>
- E Team
<http://www.eteam.com/>
- GeoDecisions, Inc.
<http://www.geodecisions.com/>
- Hormann America, Inc.
<http://www.hormannamerica.com/>
- IEM, Inc.
<http://www.ieminc.com/default.htm>
- Los Angeles Fire Department
<http://www.lafd.org/>
- mobileFoundations
<http://www.mobilefoundations.com/>
- MyStateUSA
<http://www.mystateusa.com/>
- National Weather Service
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- NDS, Ltd.
<http://www.nds.com/>

- New Technology Management Incorporated
<http://www.ntmi.com/>
- Oregon RAINS
<http://www.rainsnet.org/>
- Roaming Messenger
<http://www.roamingmessenger.com/>
- Ship Analytics
<http://www.shipanalytics.com/>
- SpectraRep Inc.
<http://www.spectrarep.com/>
- United States Geological Survey
<http://www.usgs.gov/>
- Virginia Department of Transportation
<http://www.virginiadot.org/>
- Wallace Wireless
<http://wallacewireless.com/index.html>
- Warning Systems, Inc.
<http://www.warningsystems.com/>

Click Here to Access the CAP 1.1 Specifications

<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/14759/emergency-CAPv1.1.pdf>

Click Here to Access a 2003 Whitepaper describing the CAP/EAS relationship

http://www.incident.com/cap/docs/aps/Advanced_EAS_Concept.pdf

Click Here to Access the OASIS Website

http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=office

B. BRIDGE COMMUNITY LINK: INPUT AND COMMUNICATION

This page has been reserved for *your* input. We invite all comments and ideas on how we might improve this new website. Bridge Multimedia is interested in developing a forum by which ideas, contacts, and news can be exchanged by anyone involved with, or concerned about, emergency preparedness, particularly as it relates to those with individual requirements. We also ask that you keep us up to date on any accessible emergency alert news within your local area.

As we all know, national movements often begin at a ‘grass roots’ level. There are no *small* successes in furthering the cause of accessible emergency notification. Each tiny step is a major coup, and deserves recognition. Bridge Multimedia seeks information on all local initiatives, community groups, individual efforts, and state programs regarding emergency preparedness, in order that we might properly promote them. Commercial organizations, non-profit associations, even lone volunteers...if you are involved in any facet of emergency notification, please send us your information so that we might assist in disseminating it. Bridge believes it is important that people in the emergency preparedness community are kept aware of the efforts and achievements of their contemporaries.

Within the next few months Bridge will be reviewing all of the input that we receive. We will post all appropriate information and strive to keep that data as up to date as possible. If you are interested in having your information included in our listings please e-mail us with:

- The name of your organization/business/program
- Background Information
- Short history
- Any relevant statistics
- Contact Information

- Address or website

Revisit this address in the months ahead to view the results of your feedback. With your help, we will make available an exciting new resource for the perpetuation of emergency preparedness information and communication.

C. EAS STATISTICS

A 2005 Harris Poll, commissioned by the National Organization on Disability, reveals that although emergency preparedness in the workplace is on the decline, personal preparedness for people with disabilities is on the rise. Findings include:

- **40%** of people with disabilities report some level of anxiety over recently occurring natural disasters.
- **47%** of people with disabilities have made plans to safely evacuate their homes, up from 39% in 2003.
- **54%** of people with disabilities know whom to contact about emergency plans in their community, up from 44% in 2003.
- **57%** of people with disabilities indicate that they have a workplace plan, down from 68% in 2003.
- **59%** of people with disabilities rank non-profit organizations as doing an excellent or pretty good job in preparing them for disasters and other emergencies.

- **59%** of people with disabilities believe that local government is doing a fair or poor job at preparing them for disasters.
- **61%** of people with disabilities felt corporations were doing a fair or poor job of preparing the disabled population for disaster response.
- **63%** of people with disabilities believe that the federal government is doing a fair or poor job at preparing them for disasters.

To Download The Complete Survey, Please Click Here

<http://www.nod.org/Resources/PDFs/episurvey05.pdf>

D. Upcoming Emergency Preparedness Events

July 8th - 11th, 2007

Toronto, Canada

17th World Conference on Disaster Management

The Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness in partnership with the International Association of Emergency Managers and Disaster Recovery Institute is proud to present more than 1,700 disaster management professionals from around the world. The seminar will take place at the Toronto Metro Convention center.

For more information please visit <http://www.wcdm.org/>

September 4th – 6th, 2007

Springfield, IL

Illinois Emergency Management Conference

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency will hold their 2007 conference on Emergency Preparedness at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield.

For more information please visit
<http://www.iema.illinois.gov/iema/training/Conference/default.asp>

September 8th – 9th, 2007

Windsor Locks, CT

National Preparedness Month CERT Weekend

All Connecticut CERTs, along with Chief Elected Officials and Board of Education Members are invited to the National Preparedness Month CERT Weekend, which will allow attendees to refresh and practice emergency preparedness skills.

For more information please visit
http://www.ct.gov/demhs/ical/eventDetail_page.asp?date_ID=CDAC6C8CE83CDC9CB

September 27th – October 2nd, 2007

Oklahoma City, OK

The National Emergency Management Association's Annual Conference

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) will hold their annual 2007 conference on Emergency Preparedness at the Cox Convention Center and The Renaissance Oklahoma City. This conference provides attendees with a chance to discuss the many challenges that face us today, share solutions, grow professional and network with peers. Registration and agenda will be available on NEMA's website.

For more information please visit <http://www.nemaweb.org/?1717>

October 10th, 2007

Washington, DC

The 2nd Annual FEMA Safety and Health Fair

The Federal Emergency Management Association will sponsor their second annual Safety and Health Fair in Washington on the 500's block of C Street, from 11 AM – 3 PM.

For more information please contact 7Company at (703) 327-3737

October 28th – 31st, 2007

Atlantic Beach, NC

North Carolina Emergency Management Association's Fall Conference

The North Carolina Emergency Management Association will hold their Fall 2007 conference on Emergency Preparedness at the Sheraton Atlantic Beach Hotel.

For more information please visit <http://166.82.244.202/ncema/conferences.htm>

November 11th-15th, 2007

Reno, NV

IAEM 55th Annual Conference and EMEX 2007

The International Association of Emergency Manager's (IAEM) 2007 Annual Conference, titled "Partners in Emergency Management: Working Together", provides a forum for current trends and topics, information about the latest tools

and technology in emergency management and homeland security, and advances IAEM committee work.

For more information please visit <http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>

November 21st - 23rd 2007

Vancouver, Canada

2007 Emergency Preparedness Conference

The Pacific Northwest Preparedness Society announced that their 2007 Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver. The conference is attended by nearly 400 delegates from across the province that work or volunteer in emergency health and social services, search and rescue, firefighting and emergency preparedness planning.

For more information please visit <http://www.jibc.ca/epconference/>