



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greater Tampa Bay Association of Contingency Planners Contacts:

Mike Morganti, MBCP
Director of Education and Seminars
727.372-7852
mjmorganti@tampabay.rr.com

Wendi Stevens, ACP
President
727.290.1000 ext. 4132
wendi.stevens@FADV.com

Leading Experts on Key Business Continuity Laws, Standards and Title IX of the PL 110-53 “Private Sector Preparedness Act” to Deliver a Presentation in Clearwater, Florida

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Aug. 26, 2008 - The Greater Tampa Bay Chapter of Association of Contingency Planners (GTBACP), a non-profit association of business professionals who are responsible for, or participant in, contingency planning, disaster recovery, crisis management and/or business resumption planning, today announced that they will host a presentation on Oct. 1, 2008, entitled “Examining the Regulatory Landscape,” to address the growing number of local and national compliance requirements that have substantially added to the burden of building and testing preparedness plans. The presentation will be co-presented by nationally recognized experts Alan Berman, CBCP, MBCI, executive director for Disaster Recovery Institute and co-chair for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation committee, and Donald Schmidt, ARM, chair of National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) Technical Committee on Emergency Management and Business Continuity.

In 2007, a voluntary certification process for preparedness was adopted as part of the homeland security legislation (Public Law 110-53). According to Mr. Berman, “We can expect to see additional regulations and guidance from governments as well as industry sectors. Business continuity professionals and business owners need to be aware of the impact of these various rules upon their organization.”

This timely presentation will cover Title IX of PL 110-53 “Private Sector Preparedness Act,” as well as BS25999 and relevant current and proposed standards. Mr. Berman and Mr. Schmidt will discuss how small and medium-sized businesses can prepare to meet the challenge of compliance and will conclude with an interactive question and answer session.

The presentation will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008, at the Feather Sound Country Club, just off I-275 in Clearwater, FL. The cost is \$20 and includes a continental breakfast. Seating is limited to 100. Register at <http://greatertampabay.acp-international.com/>.

-more-

GTBACP to Host Preparedness Planning Regulatory Presentation

Page 2

About Alan Berman

Alan Berman is a CBCP, MBCI, NFPA committee member, former member of the NY City Partnership for Security and Risk Management, member of the Committee of Experts for ANSI-ANAB, Executive Director for the Disaster Recovery Institute and co-chair for the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation committee to create the new standard for the US Private Sector Preparedness Act (PL 110-53). Over a career that has spanned 25 years; he has served as a President and CIO for a major financial institution, National Practice Leader for Operational Resiliency for PricewaterhouseCoopers and Global Business Continuity practice leader for Marsh.

Mr. Berman has been a keynote speaker for the American Red Cross, IBM, RIMS, Institutional Investors Forum, Securities Industry Association and the Pharmaceutical Treasures Conference, among others. His articles have appeared in *Disaster Recovery Journal*, *Continuity Insights*, *Contingency Planning & Management*, *WSTA Ticker*, *Information Security and Securities Operation Forum* and dozens of other publications in the U.S. and abroad. He is often quoted in publications ranging from healthcare to financial services.

He currently serves as Executive Director of the Disaster Recovery Institute International.

About Donald Schmidt

Donald L. Schmidt, ARM, is chair of the NFPA's Technical Committee on Emergency Management and Business Continuity, which is responsible for NFPA 1600, *Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs*. He is also a principal member of NFPA's Technical Committee on Pre-Incident Planning, which is responsible for NFPA 1620 and a member of ASTM Working Group 8908, which is writing a standard guide for school emergency preparedness. Don is a member of NFPA's professional development faculty for whom he teaches a two-day course on NFPA 1600. He is also a member of the ANAB-ASQ Committee of Experts advising ANAB on the requirements for certification bodies who will accredit private sector preparedness programs. He is the CEO of Preparedness, LLC, a Massachusetts based consulting firm that helps clients assess hazard and operational risks; develop and implement strategies and programs to prevent hazards and mitigate the impacts of hazards; and design, implement, and evaluate emergency management and business continuity programs.

Mr. Schmidt is the editor of *Implementing NFPA 1600 National Preparedness Standard*, co-author of *Business at Risk: How to Assess, Mitigate, and Respond to Terrorist Threats* and *Tools & Techniques of Risk Management and Insurance*. He is a contributing author to the *McGraw Hill Homeland Security Handbook* and the *Fire Protection Handbook, 20th Edition*. He has authored and been interviewed for dozens of articles for national publications and delivered speeches to numerous groups throughout North America.

About The Greater Tampa Bay Association of Contingency Planners

The Greater Tampa Bay Chapter of Association of Contingency Planners (GTBACP) is a non-profit, mutual benefit association of business professionals who are responsible for, or participant in, contingency planning, disaster recovery, crisis management and/or business resumption planning. Greater Tampa Bay Chapter is an authorized operating entity of the Association of Contingency Planners (ACP).

The mission of the GTBACP is to provide leadership and education in contingency planning, business continuity, and disaster recovery. The GTBACP is dedicated to building a coalition of contingency planners that will promote awareness in the community of the benefits and need for contingency planning and work with industry and government to assist in overall promotion and direction of contingency planning (disaster recovery) in the Tampa Bay area. More information about GTBACP can be found at <http://greatertampabay.acp-international.com/>

###