

## Summary of Fall Educational Conference

The Disaster Recovery Planning conference was a great success due to the wonderful speakers C&SO HIMSS was able to secure. Due to the detail that each speaker presented the following is a high level summary of what was covered.

**Bill Johnson** of Healthlink inc. presented 'Disaster Avoidance and Recovery Planning' where he addressed disaster organization planning, disaster avoidance planning, disaster recovery planning and disaster test planning. One of the important facts the audience walked away with is the need for a disaster coordinator. Responsibilities include, but not limited to

- Develop and oversee a Disaster Recovery Awareness Program
- Review and revise the Off-site Storage Program
- Develop and oversee a Test and Preparedness Program
- Develop and oversee an annual Disaster Risk Assessment Program

A second point that was covered in detail was the various teams and corresponding responsibilities. The disaster recovery planning team includes the

- Recovery Management Team
- Damage Assessment and Recovery Team
- Data Center Recovery Team
- Administrative Support Team
- Network Recovery Team
- Systems Recovery Team
- Applications Recovery Team

**Bob Ross** from The Cuyahoga County Hospital System spoke on 'Telecommunications Disaster Recovery Planning'. He spoke of external initiatives that included ISDN/PRI and analog trunks, toll free and local alternate routing, and split carriers for CO redundancy. Regarding internal initiatives, he spoke of Power Failure Telephones (PFT), operator on-line files and handbooks, PBX maintenance agreement, and cellular back up phones. Additionally, he advocated to establish redundant path strategies and to include CLECs as part of the plan.

**John Link**, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, spoke of their success in overcoming Tropical Storm Allison that dumped 38 feet of water on the city of Houston, Texas in June 2001. Lessons learned included, but not limited to the following

- Decentralize storage of emergency supplies
- Ensure flashlights work and have enough
- Retain paper copies of call lists at the office and home
- Establish a ready supply of hand held radios and cell phones
- Maintain good relationships with vendors

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- Maintain a complete inventory of PCs, printers, phones, etc...
- Competent and loyal staff are key – must manage their crisis mode behavior
- Ability to secure spares quickly– PCs, printers, hubs, extension cords, cables
- You might sleep better if you actually know your disaster plan would actually work

**Sharon Stanley**, Ohio Dept of Health who reviewed preparations that the Dept of Health is moving through to assist hospitals prepare for and respond to a disaster. A program entitled “Disaster Preparedness and Response” establishes a network for assistance in natural and manmade disasters that occur in the state of Ohio. Staff members provide statewide emergency response and coordination for floods, tornadoes, fires, and nuclear power plant, hazardous materials and bioterrorism incidents. The decision tree for a biological threat response was also addressed. Additional information can be found at [www.odh.state.oh.us](http://www.odh.state.oh.us)

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