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**Attend CPM 2003, the 7th Annual Business Continuity Conference****February 12, 2003***Press Release***Attend CPM 2003, the 7th Annual Business Continuity Conference****Register by February 28 and save \$100!**

The demand for well-designed and easily implemented continuity plans is higher than ever in this volatile environment. Pressured by economic and political realities, you are challenged to do more with less. The CPM 2003 conference program will assist you in meeting these challenges by providing the education needed to deliver improved plans.

Attend CPM 2003 to learn about new business continuity products and services and to supplement your business continuity education through a variety of comprehensive sessions presented at the conference. Almost 80 sessions are offered, designed for all levels of experience in business continuity. These sessions cover every continuity discipline imaginable, including data storage and recovery, crisis preparation, corporate roadblocks, government expectations, and more! This forum facilitates a valuable exchange of information among BC professionals.

Also, reserve your seat during CPM 2003 for the ever-popular Disaster Simulation Exercise, which is limited to 250 participants. Have you ever wondered how well you would perform during a real disaster? Of course you have! This simulation will sharpen and test your response to a disastrous situation.

View the entire CPM 2003 agenda at [ContingencyPlanningExpo.com](http://ContingencyPlanningExpo.com).

CPM 2003 is being held March 25-27 at the beautiful all-suite Venetian Resort Hotel in Las Vegas. Register now at [www.cdsreg.org/register/cpm032003/start1.asp](http://www.cdsreg.org/register/cpm032003/start1.asp), and don't delay in reserving your suite at our contracted discounted rate by calling 1-888-2-VENICE. The discounted rate is only available until February 20.

See you in Vegas!

**\$600 Million Approved for Local First Responders****March 11, 2003***Washington Report*

Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced last week that approximately

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\$600 million in funding has been approved for local emergency response teams in the United States. The money, he said, is intended to help states and localities get better prepared for potential terrorist incidents.

"This investment will create new capabilities to protect us against terrorism and it will integrate traditional security functions in a new and better way. Together with the help of our brave men and women in uniform, we will continue the hard work to defend and protect our nation from harm," said Ridge.

According to a report on National Public Radio, Ridge said grant applicants that present a plan for improving regional emergency response would be favored over those that focus on local programs. This furthers the federal government's push since the September 11 terrorist attacks to achieve better cohesion and cooperation between local, state, regional, and federal emergency response initiatives.

Secretary Ridge introduced the funding initiative to U.S. state and territorial governors last week with a letter outlining the program's guidelines and instruction for filing grant applications. The approved funding puts to rest some speculation among local emergency response teams that the Bush administration would pull back on its initial pledge to provide financial assistance to local first responders. However, there still figures to be some disappointment among the local first responder community, as the administration originally promised up to \$3.5 billion in funding. Yet still, the additional funds are a marked improvement over the \$12 million allocated to states for emergency response in 1998.

Application forms for grant awards are on the web at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm). States have until April 22, 2003 to complete and submit their applications. Once the application is submitted, a review will be completed and the states will be notified of the status within seven days, according to the Department of Homeland Security. If approved, funds will be available within three weeks thereafter.

Assistance to state and local jurisdictions in the form of risk and needs assessments, equipment grants, training, exercise support, and technical assistance will be the given top priority under the grant program, which will be administered by the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP).

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The mission of Contingency Planning and Management is to be the central resource for technology, products, services, information, and management strategies that support business continuity to safeguard the physical, informational, and communication assets of a business; ensure the safety of employees and the public; and protect the financial well-being of the company.