

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Risk Solutions International Launches Emergency Response Assessment Tools for Government Entities

(September 24, 2005, New York, NY)— Risk Solutions International LLC, the premier independent provider of operational risk consulting solutions, today announced the release of its latest versions of two important and powerful emergency preparedness assessment solutions for local, county and state governments. Given the risk profile of American municipalities and the demand by the public for better disaster preparation, these two programs offer governments a way to get fast, in-depth analysis of their comparative state of readiness from independent experts.

The company completed the development of these solutions coincidental with President Bush's elevation of detailed emergency planning to the status of a national security priority. The assessments will help prepare cities for the expected review of their plans by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as the president ordered in his recent speech.

The "[Coop-ER 65](#)" assessment solution maps to FEMA's Federal Preparedness Circular (FPC) 65. It is a fully automated, web-based solution that utilizes a platform and content recognized by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII). It is a secure, hosted solution requiring no new hardware or networks. FPC 65 provides guidance to government departments and agencies for use in developing viable and executable contingency plans for governments' continuity of operations (COOP).

"COOP planning facilitates the performance of city departments' and agencies' essential functions during any emergency that may disrupt normal operations. COOP planning is simply a "good business practice"—part of the fundamental mission of agencies as responsible and reliable public institutions, said Neil Kaufman, national practice leader for Continuity services at Risk Solutions International. "The changing threat environment and recent emergencies - including localized acts of nature, accidents, technological emergencies, and military or terrorist attack-related incidents - have shifted awareness to the need for COOP capabilities. A good COOP enables agencies to continue delivering essential services and performing critical functions across a broad spectrum of emergencies."

The "[EMAP 2006](#)" (Emergency Management Assessment Program) is an in-depth assessment solution used by Risk Solutions International professionals to evaluate the status and viability of cities' emergency response programs. The assessment draws on their deep expertise in emergency management. It identifies strengths and weaknesses in current plans, flags gaps in preparedness and prioritizes improvements.

Mark Weimerskirch, Risk Solutions International's national practice leader for Emergency Management noted that "the EMAP report assesses cities' current emergency response plan, crisis management standards, hazard identification and vulnerability, emergency response organization, communications, incident command structure, interagency coordination, policies and procedures, evacuation plans, public and media relations and training and exercising programs." He added that "EMAP 2006 provides a management scorecard that is used to by our clients to understand remediation recommendations that address their gaps, based on a cost/benefit system."

"Coastal cities like (city name) hardly needed Hurricane Katrina to be reminded that they face a unique set of problems in managing emergencies," said John Copenhaver, Chief Executive Officer of DRII. "Whether it is incident preparedness, response and recovery or continuity of governmental operations - these incidents tax the people, resources and equipment that the mayor, emergency management agency and first responders have at their disposal. These kinds of new solutions can be very helpful to overworked city managers in preparing to respond to the DHS' new plan reviews"

Risk Solutions International indicated that the two assessment solutions can be implemented quickly and cost-effectively. They are intended to demonstrate how cities measure up to the key standards and the industry best practices of jurisdictions of similar size and complexity. The solutions will help cities calibrate to new federal mandates, better understand their legal/liability exposures and address their citizens' changing expectations.

Risk Solutions International LLC provides a full range of business continuity, emergency response, compliance, incident and crisis management, investigative services, and security and supply chain management services. Risk Solutions International provides its clients with world class solutions and thought leadership for assessing, mitigating and managing the impact of their operational risk. Risk Solutions International practitioners are highly experienced thought leaders who have achieved the highest levels of professional recognition. They maintain active certifications from the leading industry associations and boards and are members of key industry standard setting groups. Additional information on Risk Solutions International LLC, can be found at www.rsi-llc.com.