

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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PEMA SELECTS RISK SOLUTIONS INTERNATIONAL TO CREATE EMERGENCY PLAN FOR PROVIDENCE GOVERNMENT

(July 6, 2005, Providence, RI and New York, NY) – Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) announced that it contracted with Risk Solutions International, a premier operational risk solutions company, to create emergency contingency plans for City Hall government agencies.

The contract is the result of a competitive bidding process initiated last fall by PEMA Director Leo Messier, Mayor David N. Cicilline and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (“RIEMA”). Their goal was to select a nationally prominent consulting firm that specializes in developing plans to ensure the continuity of Providence governmental operations during times of crisis. The outcome of the program will be a carefully designed Continuity of Operations (“COOP”) plan, which establishes processes and procedures and carefully defines roles for City Hall agencies and personnel when confronted with a natural or made-made emergency or an act of terrorism.

“Beginning with the dedication of the new PEMA Emergency Operations Center last Fall, we are moving swiftly to develop contingency plans that will enable our government operations to withstand the effects of local and regional emergencies or terrorism,” said Leo Messier, Director, PEMA. “This COOP plan will help us relocate and restart critical governmental functions quickly and better serve and protect our city staff and citizens.”

“This is another important step we are taking to protect the safety of our residents in this post 9-11 world that we live in,” said Mayor Cicilline. “Risk Solutions will work closely with the City to development a comprehensive contingency plan to ensure that essential city government agencies continue to meet the needs of our residents in the event of an emergency.”

Risk Solutions International – based in New York City with a regional office in Boston – is a top consulting firm with deep expertise is assessing threats and the operational and organizational impact and cost associated with the “downtime” resulting from crises and disasters. The company was selected to provide these services to Providence because of the years of experience its consultants have in governmental and business continuity, emergency and crisis planning and disaster recovery. Risk Solutions International will coordinate its work under this contract through its Business Continuity Planning practice, utilizing consultants from both its New York and Boston offices.

“We have the specialized expertise, qualifications and training to understand and manage the specific risks that municipal governments face,” noted Neil Kaufman, Business Continuity Planning practice leader at Risk Solutions International. “Our professionals have over 100+ years of hands-on experience working with companies, governmental agencies, school districts, emergency management agencies and first responders. They are professionally certified and are trained in the latest national standards required by the Department of Homeland Security and other regulatory bodies that address our country’s preparedness. We are excited to be working with Leo Messier and his team at PEMA on this program, and we look forward to contributing to the resiliency of Providence’s governmental operations in these uncertain times.”

Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) focuses on the four stages of emergency management – Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery – for the City of Providence, RI. This focus allows PEMA to guide the residents of Providence through an emergency with the least possible damage and to aid in recovery. PEMA actively monitors and assesses the impact of forecasts, national events and threat levels. PEMA also works closely with many Federal Agencies to have the proper equipment, training, technical assistance and exercises to respond to a natural disaster or terrorist attack. For more information see www.providenceri.com/PEMAA.

Risk Solutions International provides a full range of business continuity, emergency response, compliance, incident and crisis management, investigative services, and security and supply chain management services. The company 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 widely 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. For additional information on Risk Solutions International LLC see www.rsi-llc.com or call (877) 774-1900.