Spring 2012 Newsletter

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Innovative Technology for Emergency Management

The theme of the Spring 2012 CEHEM Newsletter is Innovative Technology for Emergency Management. In line with this, we reached out to a select group of entrepreneurs in the industry sector to highlight the technology they have developed, or are currently developing, to improve emergency management. Flip to the last three pages of this extended edition newsletter to learn about BeSafe Technologies, BioDefense Corporation, and STRactions and the unique products they bring to the field.
Congratulations to two outstanding BU HEM alumni for their new positions in Emergency Management!

**David Krikorian**

“I was recently offered and accepted an Emergency Management and Homeland Security Instructor position with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. My responsibilities will include teaching level 300 courses to undergraduates, and conducting research for the Federal government, Alaska State government, and private industry. The BU MS-HEM degree program has helped me facilitate a difficult career change from biotech sales to emergency management, and also bridge a gap between my military experiences and the private industry sector. Further, without the MS-HEM degree, I would not have been able to enter into academia as an instructor at such a young age and for that, I am eternally grateful.”

**Laura Harwood**

“I am currently employed at Stanford University in the Office of Emergency Management as a Program Coordinator. My primary role is to execute a campus-wide seismic mitigation project that will reduce the impact of an earthquake on essential campus operations by securing high value equipment. My MS-HEM is invaluable to this position because it provided me not only with the necessary base knowledge of the field of emergency management, but it also allowed me to tailor my papers and research in each course to my particular interests (which were mostly earthquakes). When I found my current position, it immediately stood out as a great way to apply the work I had done in graduate school to the field of emergency management.”

Simran Singh Honored with HEM Student Achievement Award

This spring, BU HEM faculty developed the Healthcare Emergency Management Student Achievement Award, which will be granted annually to a student who exhibits exceptional academic performance in the HEM classroom. Congratulations to Simran Singh, MS-HEM ’12, who is the inaugural recipient of this award. Simran’s enthusiasm and dedication to the field of Healthcare Emergency Management is unrivaled, and we are proud to have had her as a student!

BU HEM Hosts Career Networking Event

On March 20, 2012, the BU Healthcare Emergency Management Program hosted a Career Networking Event for our master’s students. Thank you to all representatives from federal, state, and local government, academic, and industry sectors who took the time to attend this event and discuss potential employment opportunities with our students. This and similar networking events are critical to ensuring MS-HEM graduates have a true understanding of what each sector can offer in terms of employment, enabling their fruitful job search.

BU HEM Exercises, Fall and Spring 2012

**Operation Rolling Chaos**

City of Chelsea, Gulf Oil, and Massachusetts Water Resource Authority, April 27, 2012

The BU HEM program recently conducted a 3 hour tabletop exercise for the City of Chelsea, Gulf Oil and the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority. Operation Rolling Chaos required these agencies to coordinate response to a 7,500 gallon ethanol spill in front of Gulf Oil and the MWRA facilities in the middle of the night.

All agencies were required to enact their Continuity of Operations Plans as well as appropriate notifications to state and federal agencies. The exercise was well attended and included members of the United States Coast Guard 1st District Spill Response team. The exercise reinforced the use of the Department of Transportation’s Emergency Response Guidebooks, which were utilized in a practical evolution.

**Operation Silent Angels**

Boston Medical Center, March 20, 2012

For this drill, the Boston University HEM Program partnered with Boston EMS and Boston Medical Center to conduct Operation Silent Angels. This was an HSEEP drill that evacuated two infant simulators from the Level III Boston Medical Center NICU to awaiting ambulance and special operations vehicles from Boston EMS.

The drill was a success for all involved and solidified emergency preparedness procedures for the Boston Medical Center. The drill was developed by HEM Exercise Design Course Instructors JJ Burke and Greg Bond. The drill also unveiled the HEM Video and Social Media Unit which utilized HD flip cams and the iPad 3 to present an after action video. Great job by all.

**Operation Yawkey**

Boston Medical Center, February 24, 2012

In Operation Yawkey, Boston University Healthcare Emergency Management (BU HEM) Program assisted Boston Medical Center (BMC) in testing the continuity of operations and logistics coordination of BMC with several neighborhood health clinics, including East Boston, South Boston, Roslindale and Dorchester. BU HEM students were assigned as scribes at each table and provided key notes to be used in the after action report. BU HEM also instituted a Documentation Officer for exercises to handle the notes for the BMC Exercise Controller.

Congratulations Spring Graduates!

This spring, BU Healthcare Emergency Management was proud to see 21 students complete their MS-HEM degrees. Congratulations to these excellent students, and good luck in all your future endeavors!

BeSafe Technologies has worked to transform the way people plan, communicate and collaborate when faced with an emergency. We have developed a proactive emergency response system called BeSafe®, a tool that helps first responders during an emergency who have limited prior experience or knowledge of a site. It is in over 1,600 sites.

Endorsed by police, fire, EMT, SWAT and other emergency response personnel, we currently support customers in K-12, Higher Ed, Hospitals, Corporate, Housing, and Governmental institutions. BeSafe is redefining how states, regions and communities are prepared for and protected against emergencies.

What is the name and overview of the innovative technology that you offer?

BeSafe® provides real time data and information about a facility to police, fire, public health and emergency response personnel. Vital information including floor plans, photos, demographic information and unique building features is distributed electronically and instantly to all emergency response teams. Its web application, the BeSafe Safety Portal, offers many enhancements, among them:

- Secure Document Management and Publication
- Essential Information Management
- Content Management
- User and Group Management
- Event Planning
- Announcements, Alerts, and Invitations
- Discussion Forums
- BeSafe Information for First Responders
- Custom Functionality

How can this technology play a key role in emergency planning/response?

We make certain that all of the critical site information, including contact information, digital floor plans, video, building information and much more are available 24/7 to all key staff as well as police, fire and other first responders. All of the information is kept up to date to ensure accuracy in the event of any emergency at a campus or facility, and key staff and first responders can access the information with just one mouse click.

BeSafe offers benefits to clients such as building administrators and security personnel, police, firefighters, EMTs, corporate leaders and municipal/state governments.

Describe any key features of your technology that you wish to highlight.

BeSafe is a recognized loss prevention program, and we continue to work with Property and Casualty providers to minimize risks through use of the BeSafe System. Our maps are widely used as evacuation maps in school settings, and have been helpful in facility space planning, as well as in assisting our clients in implementing and tracking fire and life safety inspection procedures to meet OSHA regulations and NFPA standards.

Learn more about BeSafe at www.besafe.net

BioDefense Corporation is a Boston based company that has developed a compact system which uses a combination of technologies to effectively kill 100% of bio-pathogens contained in both mail and medical Waste. Through an eight-year development process, BioDefense refined and perfected its now patented system for the destruction of biological pathogens, which is now incorporated into the Company’s MailDefender™ unit and certified by the Department of Homeland Security DTED Program.

What is the name and overview of your innovative technology?

MailDefender™ – Portable washing machine size system that processes 200 envelopes in 90 minutes to neutralize any hazardous bio-pathogens (Anthrax) sent via the mail. Systems are currently operational in the field.

MedicalDefender™ – Portable washing machine size system that processes and neutralizes approximately 30 pounds of red bag hazardous medical waste at the point of generation. (In development).

How can this technology play a key role in emergency planning/response/etc.?

The MailDefender™ can be used now as a neutralization system of hazardous bio-pathogens sent via the mail by possible terrorists or criminals with the intent to cause harm.

The MedicalDefender™ can also be used to decontaminate documents that have been exposed to harmful or hazardous bio-pathogens.

Describe any key features of your technology that you wish to highlight.

The BioDefense Technologies are simple to operate with minimum training. They are configured for 110 volt, 25 amp household power and can be placed on wheels or located in the rear of a vehicle for portability.

Learn more about BioDefense Corp at www.biod.com
STRaotions’ intent is to turn strategy into action, systematically, to improve disaster planning, response and reconstruction by providing a unifying framework to facilitate multi-tier, cross-sector coordination, communication and cooperation, across the time continuum, for the most significant threats, at various magnitudes, impacting various populations.

STRaotions is working to use process combined with technology to enhance emergency planning and response pertaining to the following widespread and recurring problem areas that plague government and businesses in emergency life cycle management world-wide.

To accomplish these ends, STRaotions is forming relationships with organizations such as Boston University’s Emergency Planning Department, the Community of Practice, Project HOPE, and planning practitioners to complete development of the Event Life Cycle Management System© (ELCYMS©) and an automated system designed to manage policy and compliance in multi-tiered organizations.

ELCYMS synchronizes planning and response by linking scenario planning, requirement forecasting, exercising and updating plans, and managing actions, into one systematic process. Rather than viewing event management as isolated phases, ELCYMS pulls data from a single database that feeds the output for every stage of the entire event lifecycle.

When an event occurs, the manager adjusts the planning scenario to match the actual situation by modifying the magnitude of the event and the population impacted. Then the system updates the plan accordingly, and distributes it via an app to the technology devices that are carried by all primary responders. Their smart phones and electronic tablets contain the just updated plans and provide a means of bi-directional, direct communication among and between the responders and the command post allowing immediate transfer of photos, situation reports, assignments, or questions.

This system is unique because the plan is based on a computerized model that calculates critical resource requirements over time for various disasters at different magnitudes, identifies required actions, and continuously provides all users with the most updated plan accessible on portable communication devices. And when communication systems fail, the last plan loaded remains at everyone’s fingertips, until communication can be restored.

The still-to-be-named system to manage policy and compliance is also an automated system that provides users at all levels access to a library of pertinent data and requirements. It stores planning scenarios and pre-coordinated response actions on a Cloud-like network, always protected and available to those who need access to them during planning, preparation, mitigation, exercising, and updating, and, of course, during the various stages of response.

Events happen, and when they do nothing is more important to managers than helping the responders provide assistance to the victims. Our intent is to help the managers ensure that they have all the assets they need, when and where they need them. By putting the planners and managers in charge of the situation and in touch with those who are in the field responding and those who are providing additional resources, we seek to reduce the impact of event outcomes by reducing the chaos commonly associated with emergency response efforts and by shortening the duration of the response period.

For more detailed information, visit http://stractions.com