



## GEDP Strategic Disaster Planning Seminar

by Jim Guidry  
Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Galveston Economic Development Partnership President Jeff Sjostrom announced to participants on Tuesday at a Strategic Disaster Planning Seminar that the GEDP is working with Guidry News Service to develop an Internet page for reliable information during hurricane evacuations and other emergencies.

"One of the things that we have talked about is to have an interactive web site where you can go in and have message boards," Sjostrom said, using a web site developed in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina as an example. "We have been partnering and working with Jim and Lynda Guidry to create a web site that basically is in place so that after a storm hits we know where to direct folks to get real information as it relates to business issues."

Sjostrom said that the web site will provide communications between employers and employees who are dispersed over a wide area during evacuation.

"We've heard lots of stories of folks not just going to Houston or just going to Huntsville, but going to Ohio, going to California, going all over the country," Sjostrom said. "Getting a place where folks can come to and understand that there is reliable information and a way to make contact back to the folks that are working on the local level."

The seminar was conducted by the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center at the University of Houston. Sjostrom introduced Eric Ewing of TMAC, who moderated the program.

Dr. Holly Hutchins of the University of Houston spoke on "Leveraging Training and Development Resources for Disaster Preparedness".

Paul Hastings of Impact Weather spoke on "Activating a Hurricane Disaster Plan".

Susana Quirch of the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center spoke on "Effective Business Continuity".

The Strategic Disaster Planning Seminar was held at Mario's Italian Restaurant on Seawall Boulevard in Galveston.