

Press Release



BUSINESS NETWORK OF EMERGENCY RESOURCES, (BNet)

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Corporate Emergency Access System Announced in Boston by Mayor Menino

February 27, 2004 - Mayor Thomas M. Menino, looking to ensure business continuity during times of emergency or a special event, today unveiled the Corporate Emergency Assessment System (CEAS), which will grant pre-selected business personnel carrying proper identification access to restricted areas in the city.

“Security is our top priority,” said Mayor Menino. “Our safety personnel and business community have worked together for six months to create an effective system. The Corporate Emergency Access System – or CEAS – is designed to reduce the impact of economic injury to a city in the case of a major emergency or special event.”

Joining Mayor Menino at the Eagle Room event were city safety personnel including Police Commissioner Kathleen O’Toole, Fire Commissioner Paul Christian and Bob Calobrisi and Steve Morash of Boston Emergency Management Agency. Also participating were Mark Haimowitz, president of the Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNet) and Edward Deveau, president of New England Disaster Recovery Information Exchange (NEDRIX).

The CEAS will connect efforts of private business disaster planning and emergency protocol outlined by the city. During a disaster, upon direction of the mayor, previously identified business personnel will be able to be escorted, accompanied by city safety personnel, into restricted areas. Boston Emergency Management Agency will oversee the city’s efforts. CEAS partners will initiate the program with a business information session on March 12 at State Street Corporation, 225 Franklin St., 33rd Floor Board Room, from 10-12.

The City of Boston will operate CEAS with the assistance of the Business Network of Emergency Resources (BNet; www.bnetinc.org), a non-profit organization that develops emergency plans for businesses throughout the United States. CEAS is presently fully operational in Buffalo, New York. Many of BNet's Board of Directors are business continuity managers from top corporations. The software that operates CEAS was developed and is maintained by Northern Publishing, Inc., of Oswego, NY, a partnership firm whose component companies include a firm that develops software for Fortune 500 companies.

“We are thrilled with the implementation of the CEAS program in Boston. Special thanks goes to Steve Morash of BEMA for his dedication to the program. This will now provide businesses, universities and companies of every size with the type of emergency access they desperately need in times of a emergency event”, said BNet President, Mark Haimowitz. “Boston will join the City of Buffalo who was the first city to implement the program, with, and New York City and New Jersey are soon to follow

“NEDRIX is privileged and honored to be an integral part of the CEAS program and to be working with the City of Boston to provide the leadership necessary to ensure that the city is truly prepared to effectively respond at all levels to whatever comes our way,” said Deveau.

Each business will tap a CEAS administrator, who will be trained by city personnel. That administrator will identify critical personnel, who will be issued the emergency access identification cards.

Business Network of Emergency Resources, Inc. (BNet) is a non-profit group that represents the private sector and business communities in the US to foster partnerships with the public sector in developing emergency and crisis management programs. Our mission is to ensure the economic viability of the country in times of local or regional disasters. BNet is the administrator of the **Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS)** that allows companies to enter secured zones after an emergency situation with authorized CEAS cards.