Summit Take-aways

Keynote 1:
-This is not an overnight transformation. We need our stakeholders engaged, local government, communities, energy partners because regulation will need to change. Partnerships are key!

Local Business Panel:
- Build your business continuity plans for redundancy and not just your Black Swan scenarios.
- People need time and presence even more than money at the onset of a disaster. We need to have the sustained monetary support afterwards.
- There must be resiliency in technology; you have to have technology working to be any value.
- These are community events and there’s a concept of community resiliency. It’s important to look at this from a community perspective.
- Have updated contact information for every employee.
- When disaster strikes, there are long-term effects that managers and executives need to be aware of, and respond to with empathy, flexibility, and patience.
- Plan ahead and put people first.
- Amegy Bank video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ggf8T2viX8&feature=youtu.be
Cybersecurity and Protection of IT Assets:

- Train your staff, and work with your IT to implement internet and social media policies. These basic building blocks will make your employees aware.

- Create a culture where employees are not afraid to come forward when they click on a phishing email.

- Resilience toolkits (such as the Global Resilience Toolkit) provide businesses with a starting point to the inventory you have, and take you through questionnaires to examine how you would react in real-time scenarios. This is about making sure you know the threat is real.

- Your business continuity planning should involve all business leadership. Take away cell phones and internet, think through what you all would do without these assets and how your business would function. Understanding which operations are critical to your business maximizes resources during a disaster.

- In general, you should be defaulting to use cloud storage or not keeping critical information on one source like your laptop.

- Technology threats that spike are exaggerations of problems that occur on a day to day basis - biggest threats are endpoint intrusions, so clean up your apps and don't just take off your home screen. Be very attentive of who you offer an entry point.

Grid Resilience Panel:

- Resiliency is a full level of consistent power even with climate changes surrounding you.

- Everything from wireless delivery of electric power to redundant back-up systems could end the problem of storm blackouts.

- Resilience is key to prevention, as well as quick recovery – which includes personnel, as well as physical and cyber infrastructure.

Case Studies:

- Matthew Marchetti created CrowdSource Rescue, a way to help organize rescues for his flooded Houston neighborhood on the 1st day of Hurricane Harvey. Has since rescued nearly 37,000 people in Harvey, Irma, Maria, & CA wildfires.

- Richard Ruebe is the Chief Operating Officer of LiftFund, which was founded in 1994 and oversees lending, credit, and collections. LiftFund provides business capital! Some loans with 0% interest.

- Moses West with AWG Contracting/Paladin Water is working in Puerto Rico to mitigate the prolonged effect of a drought. His company has created pure drinking water from the atmosphere!

- David Champion is the Principal Consultant with AT&T's FirstNet - the only dedicated network to prioritize broadband connectivity to First Responders, which allows for them to coordinate during a crisis.
City’s Role in Resiliency:

- Extreme weather is the new normal.

- We are all vulnerable to disaster, and our challenge every single day is to get people to feel safe.

- We must be reflective, study our vulnerabilities, and continuously improve if we hope to survive catastrophic shocks or chronic stressors that threaten our city’s future.

- Just as San Antonio develops its own Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, local businesses should follow that example and identify ways to reduce the impact of disaster on employees, technical systems and other infrastructure.

- EPIcenter and the City of San Antonio are announcing “Resiliency Week” Oct 8-12. After the Summit, and with the process the City is undergoing with the San Antonio Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, we are inviting local businesses to focus on and prepare their own resiliency plans. More info soon!

Puerto Rico:

- The team was 1 of 7 regions on the island and quickly had to build relationships to help with deployment and get power back to the people of Puerto Rico.

- Some areas of Puerto Rico are so remote and rugged that power lines will have to be restored using helicopters to haul equipment and workers!

- For more information on CPS Energy’s efforts in Puerto Rico, click here.