

**ANSI-HSSP Reception Honoring the 9-11 Commission  
April 29, 2004**

**Ms. Mary Saunders  
Co-Chair, ANSI Homeland Security Standards Panel**

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5:45 – 5:50 pm

- Good evening.
- For those of you who don't know me, my name is Mary Saunders and I serve as chief of the Standards Services Division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. It is my honor to serve along with Dan Bart of the Telecommunications Industry Association as a co-chair of the ANSI Homeland Security Standards Panel.
- Many of you were with us earlier today during the meeting of the ANSI-HSSP, and some of you are joining us tonight for this special reception honoring the 9-11 Commission. To all of you, I extend our welcome and thanks for your participation.
- It is now my pleasure to introduce the gentleman who will be leading the program this evening: president and CEO of the American National Standards Institute, Dr. Mark Hurwitz.
- Mark, . . .

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**Dr. Mark W. Hurwitz  
ANSI President and CEO**

**PART I**

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5:50 – 5:58 pm

- Thank you, Mary. Good evening everyone.
- On behalf of the Board of Directors, members, and staff of the American National Standards Institute, I would like to add my welcome and thanks for your participation at this evening's reception honoring the *National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*, more commonly known as "*The 9-11 Commission*".
- I extend a special thanks to our guest of honor, The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, Vice Chairman of the 9-11 Commission.

(pause)

- As you may know, in early 2003, the American National Standards Institute formed the Homeland Security Standards Panel to align the cutting-edge work of standardization experts with urgent national priorities.
- The HSSP quickly became recognized as the forum where industry and government representatives work together for the sole purpose of addressing homeland security and emergency preparedness standardization needs.
- It comes as no surprise to see standing among us tonight a diverse representation of industry, government, professional societies, trade associations, standards developers, and consortia groups.
- From those early days of 2003 to the present, there has been tremendous interest in the work of the Panel and a very positive response to our call for action.
- Through the collaboration of its varied members and constituents, the Panel was able to identify numerous standards or standards under development – originating in a wide assortment of standards-setting bodies – to meet many of the nation's critical needs.
- Our efforts have been successful.
- In late February, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security adopted nine American National Standards relating to equipment for first responders and for nuclear and radiation detection systems. Standards development work in key areas, especially biometric data and devices, is also advancing at a rapid pace.
- But the Panel's mission is far-reaching and we will support any sector that requests assistance to accelerate development and adoption of consensus standards.
- In November 2003, ANSI learned that the 9-11 Commission's fifth public hearing would address the topic of "Public/Private Sector Partnership in Emergency Preparedness."
- We know that voluntary standards can assist in protection of assets and disaster recovery, as well as emergency preparedness, and are critical to national economic and security interests. This is why

ANSI offered to undertake responsibility for developing a recommendation on the topic of private sector emergency preparedness and business continuity for consideration by the Commission.

*(pause – turn to address Mr. Hamilton)*

- I am grateful to Commission Chairman Thomas Kean and Vice Chair Lee Hamilton for their acceptance of our invitation.

*(pause)*

- In consultation with the 9-11 Commission and the Working Group on Private Sector Preparedness, the ANSI-HSSP organized a series of three public workshops earlier this year to consider the topic. Our goal was to identify a high-level, voluntary standard that will help businesses assess probable threats and potential consequences. Ideally, the document would also provide an effective way to manage the many resources needed to address issues of disaster and emergency preparedness and business viability following a time of crisis.
- Invitations to participate in the workshop were widely distributed and public comments were encouraged. Expertise came from a wide cross-section of organizations – from firms that had been headquartered in the World Trade Center to the New York City Police Department; from government agencies at the federal and state levels, associations and industries and more.
- We are extremely grateful to each of the 60+ individuals and 40+ organizations that participated.
- Early on, the workshop participants identified an American National Standard on *Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs* that had been developed by the National Fire Protection Association as a starting point from which to move forward.
- A gap analysis was conducted to determine if anything was missing from the NFPA standard or if any text needed to be revised. Following a comprehensive review process, the NFPA standard – NFPA 1600 – was identified as the standard that ANSI would recommend to the Commission.

*(pause)*

- At this time, it is my honor to introduce Mr. Arthur E. Cote, Executive Vice President and Chief Engineer at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Mr. Cote's responsibilities include oversight of NFPA's codes and standards operations and I will turn to him for a few remarks.
- Art, . . . .

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**Mr. Arthur E. Cote  
NFPA Executive Vice President and Chief Engineer**

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5:58 – 6:05 pm

- NFPA is very pleased that ANSI is recommending to the 9-11 Commission that NFPA 1600, *Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs* be recognized as the national preparedness standard.
- The committee working on the standard first began its work in 1991, and the first edition came about four years later.
- At that time, in 1995, none of us ever thought that commercial aircraft would serve as missiles in an attack on our nation's skyscrapers, or that a man with a bomb in his shoe would board a plane headed for the U.S. or that a new federal department would be formed to focus its attention on terrorism. Little did we know.
- The uses for this standard became far more relevant, sadly, after 9-11.
- For more than century, NFPA codes and standards have passed through a time-honored system that allows input from all and provides for revisions on regular bases. That's a very good thing, as history has shown us that with each new tragedy comes a unique opportunity to improve, or revise, what we know has worked well.
- History has proven this time and time again with major fires. After the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911 killed 145, NFPA established a committee to prepare standards that covered the construction of stairways and fire escapes, fire drills and exits for properties like factories. All of these items contributed to the destruction that day. The committee's recommendations eventually evolved into the current *Life Safety Code*®, adopted in three-quarters of all states today.
- More recently, the nightclub tragedies in Chicago and Rhode Island drove changes to NFPA's key codes, both the Life Safety and Building Code, by lowering requirements for fire sprinklers in certain facilities, by placing restrictions on seating patterns, and adding requirements for on-site crowd managers, as well as regular egress inspections.

- We know that strong codes and strong enforcement save lives. We are certain that NFPA 1600 will serve our nation well.

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**Dr. Mark W. Hurwitz  
ANSI President and CEO**

**PART II**

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6:05 – 6:07 pm

- Thank you, Art.

*(Transition remarks)*

- And now, it is my great pleasure to officially honor and to present, on behalf of the American National Standards Institute and its Homeland Security Standards Panel, our recommendation to the 9-11 Commission.
- Receiving our recommendation on behalf of the Commission will be its Vice Chairman, The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton, may I invite you to come forward:

*(Wait for Hamilton to come forward and stand next to you at podium)*

- Vice Chairman Hamilton, it is our honor to commend you, Chairman Kean, your Commissioners and staff, on the work you have undertaken on behalf of the nation to prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Your collective efforts enable us to guard against future attacks, or as necessary, prepare for and be immediately responsive to such attacks.
- To this end:

ANSI proposes that the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States include in its recommendations to Congress and the President of the United States, the position that the high-level, voluntary American National Standard on *Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs* (NFPA 1600) be accepted as the common framework for national preparedness (hereinafter known as the *National Preparedness Standard*). This document was developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) using due process and consensus-based procedures approved by ANSI.

The *National Preparedness Standard* establishes a common set of criteria and terminology for disaster management, emergency management, and business continuity

programs for a variety of hazards. Recognizing that any truly viable standard is open to continuous improvement, the parties also developed several recommendations for further enhancements to the standard. These comments have already been submitted to the NFPA disaster management technical committee.

Mr. Vice Chairman, ANSI also recommends that a national implementation strategy is necessary to support the use of this standard. As such, we recommend that the Commission request the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and other federal agencies as appropriate, to undertake this initiative. In addition, ANSI will continue to collaborate with the Working Group on Private Sector Preparedness (PSP-WG) to develop incentives for private-sector implementation of this voluntary standard and to market, promote and educate the public about its existence. The Institute also stands ready to take additional steps that may be deemed appropriate in furtherance of this initiative.

It is my pleasure to submit this recommendation to you and the Commission.

<< Mark Hurwitz to hand copy of recommendation to Mr. Hamilton – pause for photo opportunity >>

<< REMARKS FROM THE HONORABLE LEE H. HAMILTON >>

**ANSI-HSSP Reception Honoring the 9-11 Commission  
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**The Honorable Lee H. Hamilton  
ANSI President and CEO**

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6:07 – 6:15 pm

TO BE PROVIDED



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**Dr. Mark W. Hurwitz  
ANSI President and CEO**

**PART III**

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6:15 pm

*Thanks to Hamilton – summary remarks from his speech.*

- In closing, I would also like to extend my thanks to the ANSI-HSSP co-chairs, Dan Bart and Mary Saunders, as well as our two special advisors, *Bob Hermann and Dave McCurdy, president of the Electronic Industries Alliance.*
- Effective homeland security and emergency preparedness solutions rely heavily upon standards for products, personnel, services and systems, and on the mechanisms for assessing conformity with such standards.
- ANSI is pleased that its Homeland Security Standards Panel (ANSI-HSSP) is serving as a vital resource for the nation and that we are the forum to bring the private and public sectors together for the identification, development and enhancement of Homeland Security and emergency preparedness standards.
- Thanks to each of you for your ongoing support.
- Good night.