

Robert W. Noth
Chairman of the Board
American National Standards Institute

Opening Remarks
ANSI-HSSP 7th Plenary Meeting
October 2, 2008 – Washington, DC
9:00 a.m.

723 words, approximately 6 minutes

- Thank you, Gordon. Good morning everyone.
- I am happy to add my welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors, members, and staff of the American National Standards Institute.
- In early 2003, ANSI formed the HSSP in response to an urgent national priority. As noted at the time in the National Strategy for Homeland Security and elsewhere, there was a critical need for standards and compliance programs to support homeland security and preparedness efforts.
- ANSI had a proven track record and knew that the standards and conformity assessment community was well-positioned to support the Department of Homeland Security and other groups.
- The HSSP quickly became recognized as the forum where industry and government representatives could come together to address homeland security and emergency preparedness standardization needs.
- From those early days of 2003 to the present, there has been great interest in the work of the Panel and a very positive response to our call for action. We have worked with the 9-11 Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, the International Organization for Standardization, and a host of others in both the public and private sectors.
- I gave the welcoming remarks at the fifth Plenary meeting of this group back in September 2006, the theme of which was Emergency Preparedness. One of the items discussed at that event was developing a tool to help better demonstrate preparedness and continuity of operations in the private sector. I am pleased to see this dialogue being furthered today with the discussions surrounding the Title IX program.
- My company, Deere & Company, participated in the initial ANSI-HSSP work with the 9/11 Commission which is referenced in the Title IX legislation. Our representative was Allen Steinbeck, head of Worldwide Security/Aviation, who spoke very highly of the initiative – a great endorsement coming from a 42-year veteran of law enforcement and security.
- Al is retiring at the end of the year, and given the topic of today's program, I wanted to share some of his accomplishments in recent years related to preparedness and continuity. At Al's urging and with the full support of top management, Deere and Company, has:

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- Developed enterprise security standards to be applied world wide with the goal of becoming NFPA 1600 compliant.
 - Established audit templates to conduct assessments at each unit to identify security gaps using NFPA 1600 and other global standards as a guide.
 - Participated in several joint public/private partnerships to plan for emergency preparedness on both an enterprise and on a local scale in the communities where we are located.
 - Updated our Enterprise Crisis Management Plan
 - Created an Avian Flu / Pandemic Response Plan
 - Positioned Regional Security Managers in global positions to help drive emergency preparedness and crisis management initiatives and provide appropriate training and support to our worldwide operations.
 - Created an Emergency Preparedness Division within John Deere Worldwide Security, staffed with experienced and trained Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity professionals.
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- I know that many of you have implemented similar measures within your own companies. The value of standards is that they are a great way to benchmark your programs against industry best practices and guidance that has been crafted from the experiences and lessons learned of other professionals in the field.
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- The ANSI-HSSP, along with other ANSI standards panels in areas such Nanotechnology, Healthcare Information Technology, Identity Theft Prevention and Identity Management, and Biofuels have proven to be very successful, results-focused models to support critical national priorities, such as preparedness. They ensure that the needs of standards stakeholders are heard, understood, and satisfied.
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- The culture is changing Traditionally, the standards community has responded to emerging priorities as they are identified. We were reactive. Now we have become more proactive.
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- Today, I am encouraged by the strong private-public sector partnership that the ANSI-HSSP continues to coordinate and facilitate. The natural disasters of recent years have demonstrated that a strong partnership between both sectors is essential for effective national preparedness and the continuity of our economy.
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- I look forward to participating in the discussions to examine the Title IX voluntary certification program in further detail and I wish you all a successful meeting.
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- Before handing the podium back to your moderator for the day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following meeting sponsors:

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- Association of Contingency Planners
 - Avalution
 - Continuity Insights Magazine
 - Disaster Recovery Institute International
 - Eagle Rock Alliance
 - Homeland Security Institute
 - National Fire Protection Association
 - Raytheon
 - Underwriters Laboratories
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - Vuance
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- ANSI greatly appreciates their support and I encourage you to visit their tables to learn more about them during the course of the day.

 - And now I would like to turn things back over to Gordon to introduce your keynote speaker.