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BEPPEs honor Northeast Ohio organizations for successful emergency planning

Cleveland, OH (July 2011) – The BEP Institute recognized several Cleveland-area organizations with the second annual Business Emergency Planning Professional Excellence (BEPPE) award. The honor recognizes companies that have successfully mitigated a business disruption or avoided a potential disaster with effective business continuity planning.

Any Northeast Ohio businesses, nonprofits and government agencies that survived major (or potentially major) disruptions, whether natural or human-created in 2010, were eligible to participate.

The 2011 BEPPE winners are:

- **City of Cleveland's** Department of Port Control for preparation, response to and post-incident efforts for a massive power outage at Hopkins International Airport January 2010.
- **Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority** transit police for hosting the North American Police Work Dog Association training exercise in April 2010.
- **Invisible Fence** of Northeast Ohio for its donation of pet oxygen masks to Northeast Ohio fire stations through Project Breathe. Several dogs suffering smoke inhalation were saved after a Cleveland house fire in October 2010 and another two pets were saved earlier this year in Willoughby.

“Planning and preparing to thwart or survive a disruption are essential for success in any shape. This year’s BEPPE honorees have demonstrated that in a range of real-life situations. All businesses should take a cue from these winners and start or update their business continuity plans today,” says Ann M. Gynn, executive director of the BEP Institute.

Jeff Baker, vice president of ServiceMaster, which is sponsoring the 2011 BEPPEs, concurs. “We see the effects of disaster almost every day in our business. We’ve also seen first-hand the benefits when companies already planned for the ‘what-ifs,’” he says.

ServiceMaster’s Susanne Friihauf says this year’s winners are to be heralded for all their hard work. “Too many times avoiding or mitigating a disaster never gets recognized by others. The work is unsung until now. Congratulations to all 2011 BEPPE winners,” she says.

About BEP Institute

The Business Emergency Planning Institute, which is sponsored by the American Red Cross, is a membership-based organization dedicated to helping Northeast Ohio businesses, nonprofits and government agencies learn, network and promote business continuity planning and disaster recovery efforts. For more information, visit www.bepinstitute.com.

The 2011 BEPPE Awards are sponsored by

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