presented by Frederick Leterlan

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Y2K contingency planning includes options for calling fire, police help in emergency

BY PATRICK THIBODEAU

of local police, fire and medical investigate the Y2K readiness rescue squads. prompted some companies to gency systems will HERE'S NO guaranwork in year 2000 tee that 911 emerand that has

quarter, Gau said his company agencies will complete their program manager at Dunlop gency plans. year 2000 work in the fourth though he's been told that local done just that. And even Tire Corp. in Buffalo, N.Y., has will also be ready with contin-Elmer Gau, the year 2000

Establishing direct radio

plants to "physically go and get pany headquarters and its and designating teams at comlinks with emergency services sidered, he said. police and fire" are being con-

take the same steps. A Sears, spokeswoman Jan Drummond. one major location, it might be were an organization that had readiness isn't feasible. "If we services about their year 2000 Roebuck and Co. official said have over 3,000 locations," said contacting local emergency different. But we're not — we Not all companies plan to

gency services. the year 2000 status of emerhave little information about Federal officials said they



he 411 on 911 Compliance:

- There are 300,000 emergency 911 calls made daily in the U.S.
- ■Emergency response involves more than dialing 911. Computer-aided systems help in dispatching and routing calls.
- According to the U.S. General Accounting Office, the year is largely unknown. 2000 compliance of the systems that handle emergency calls

sioner at the Federal Commuemergency response." and perhaps even a failure of are likely to experience delays tems are repaired, "Americans Congress that unless those sysnications Commission, warned Michael Powell, a commis-

said. end systems fail. Most at risk could get lost, or there may be get through, federal officials the telephone grid — calls will at Montgomery County in sources, said Steve Davis, a reare rural areas with limited recomputer-aided dispatch, radelays in responding to them if somebody that owns a manu-2000 planning. "If I were Maryland who headed its year cently retired senior executive dio networks and other back-I would be worried," he said. facturing plant in a small town. Y2K problems won't affect But emergency calls

a two-way street. Emergency year 2000 risks. materials, to determine their those that deal with hazardous local companies, especially services have been contacting Emergency preparedness is

Few Sales Forecasts Factor In Panic Buying

Y2K tosses wrench nto gauging temand

3V STACY COLLETT

pany, depending on the type of gion where it's sold. The best product in demand and the reto is offer guidelines. The nost common advice s simply hat namy industry groups can

companies are bothering to Group inc. in Stamford, Conn. factor Y2K's effects into their 'orecasting,' said Lou Marcocno, in malvst it cartner For procery manufacturers

to the GMA. turers are beginning to survey and dairy products, according water, baby food, canned goods be stockpiled include bottled their customers. Items likely to

2000 forecasting in September. ord, Conn., will begin its year national Brands inc. in Stam-Water bottler Danone Inter-

cordingly, he said. to gauge their supply needs, then ramp up its bottling ac-

hat and come back down," said ber that customers go through go through an anxiety bell potential cash hording. "We all periencing its own angst over urve. We're hoping by Decem-The banking industry is ex-