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NEWS ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Operation Respond, AccuWeather, Inc. and Sprint Nextel to Deploy New Wireless Hazmat Guidance and Severe Weather Warning Technology in Port Isabel, Texas

First Application of its Kind Nationwide to be Deployed by Port Isabel, Texas Police Department

The City of Port Isabel, Texas is taking action to sharply enhance the all-hazards capabilities of law enforcement and public safety agencies during emergency responses to severe weather and hazardous materials incidents.

The City is collaborating with Operation Respond, AccuWeather, Inc.® and Sprint Nextel to acquire OREIS™ Mobile and AccuWeather.com Premium v3.0™, a new all-hazards wireless application suite designed to enhance public safety in incidents involving hazardous materials and severe weather emergencies.

OREIS™ Mobile, the wireless version of the Operation Respond Emergency Information System (OREIS™) and AccuWeather.com Premium v3.0™ comprise an innovative joint application developed for wireless/PDA handheld platforms, to provide law enforcement and emergency management officers instantaneous hazardous materials guidance and severe weather information.

The joint application will be installed and delivered on new, dedicated Sprint Nextel BlackBerries® and will be deployed and used by the Port Isabel Police Department. This unique public safety tool will enable City police officers and emergency managers to download and share vital lifesaving information using dedicated secure wireless devices while in the field, and perform their missions with enhanced safety and effectiveness, while conserving critical radio and communications resources in emergencies.

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The joint application will provide on-scene hazardous materials guidance for use in dealing with incidents involving highway freight transportation, materials storage and distribution centers and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, together with incident-specific weather monitoring, severe weather displays and warnings. Operation Respond will provide training in the use of the new application for the Police Department, and will work with Sprint Nextel and AccuWeather to develop communications drills and exercises highlighting these new capabilities for emergency coordination throughout the Gulf Coast and Rio Grande Valley regions.

Port Isabel Mayor Joe E. Vega noted that this deployment will increase the ability of the Port Isabel Police Department to effectively deal with hazardous and dangerous materials when they are encountered, especially during drug enforcement and other critical public safety operations, Mayor Vega also pointed out that these capabilities are often needed during emergency responses during hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Mayor Vega said, “As frontline First Responders for our City, our police officers must have direct access to lifesaving hazmat information at the scene of any drug or law enforcement incident or in a natural disaster. These new dedicated BlackBerries® will empower our police to take appropriate actions to protect themselves and the public, and will give better warning of approaching severe weather that may affect law enforcement operations or the need to start evacuations.”

Operation Respond President Dr. James W. Boone and Jim Candor, AccuWeather’s Senior Vice President – New Media praised the City’s leadership in implementing this unique data communications and public safety initiative. “We are proud that Port Isabel has asked us to pioneer this new tool for law enforcement and emergency responders. Port Isabel is the first City in North America to implement this joint application for its police force,” Boone said.

AccuWeather’s Jim Candor congratulated the City for its proactive approach to integrating weather information and warnings with public safety operations in the field, and said “AccuWeather is delighted to work with Port Isabel and neighboring cities to better safeguard their citizens in all types of weather emergencies, and to provide an extra edge in safety for the City’s police and emergency responders during those emergencies.” Candor also indicated that AccuWeather will work with the City and Operation Respond to pilot test and evaluate additional ways to access professional meteorological assistance in the event of hurricanes and other severe weather.

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About the OREIS™ Mobile Wireless Software

The OREIS™ Mobile wireless software provides real-time hazmat contents of rail cars and rail-carried intermodal containers that may be involved in an incident to the on-scene officer or supervisor’s wireless device. In addition, OREIS™ Mobile contains quick, accurate response guidance for dealing with specific chemicals under varying conditions, and includes many other resources allowing responders to save time and lives in any incident. OREIS™ Mobile includes placard and UN ID guides, as well as the US Coast Guard’s CHRIS system, the Association of American Railroads’ Chemical List, NIOSH’s Target Organs Guide, WMD Chem/Bio information and other data sources for safe chemical incident response by law enforcement. For further information, visit www.oreis.org.

About Operation Respond

The Operation Respond Institute (ORI) is a not-for-profit corporation established to provide hazardous material and rail passenger rescue information directly from participating railroads and intermodal carriers to First Responders at the incident scene. ORI developed OREIS™, a software program available only to legitimate, authenticated emergency response organizations. OREIS™ enables emergency responders to independently query participating railroad cargo databases to rapidly confirm tank car and bulk container hazmat cargoes, and provides immediate guidance for emergency response in all other situations. No other software provides such immediate, independent, pre-approved access to carrier databases for rail hazmat cargo confirmation – a unique feature of OREIS™ and OREIS™ Mobile. For further information on the Operation Respond program, visit www.oreis.org.

About AccuWeather, Inc.®

AccuWeather, The World's Weather Authority®, presents accurate, localized, branded forecasts and severe weather bulletins to over 110 million Americans each day via the Internet, mobile devices and IPTV, through the airwaves, in print and on digital signage. The 113 meteorologists at AccuWeather deliver a portfolio of customized products and services to media, business, government, and institutions, and inform millions of visitors worldwide through the free AccuWeather.com website. AccuWeather also provides content onto more than 20,000 third party Internet sites, including CNN Interactive and ABC's owned and operated stations, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. Visit www.AccuWeather.com for more information.

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