



## **Karen L. Cole, CBCP, CISA, CRISC, SBCI**

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### Short Bio

Karen Cole is the CEO of Assura, Inc. an operational risk management consulting firm specializing in Business Continuity, Crisis Management, Disaster Recovery, Information Security, and Physical Security Planning. She is unique in that she performs independent audits as well as provides consulting services to address risk management issues within Virginia government organizations and private businesses. (Of course not for the same clients!) Ms. Cole is an expert in continuity planning and a frequent speaker at national conferences on disaster preparedness and recovery. She led the effort to implement the first Enterprise Risk Management Program for a state agency in Virginia which has been cited as a best practice program by Continuity Insights. Prior to starting Assura, Ms. Cole was the executive in charge of Disaster Recovery for Capital One.

Ms. Cole lives in Richmond with her husband, 7-year-old twins, and an emotionally needy dog named Coulter.

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February 9, 2012 Topic:

### Auditing Business Continuity Programs: Disasters for the Disaster Recovery Program

Natural Disasters (The earthquake and hurricane in Richmond the same week!) Data breaches. Workplace violence. There is more emphasis than ever on ensuring that an organization's recovery program is sound. However, many auditors struggle with being able to spot common recovery program issues or how to determine reasonable program requirements without breaking the bank. February's IIA meeting will feature Karen Cole, a Certified Business Continuity Planner and CEO of Assura, who will discuss common auditing mistakes for Business Continuity Programs and how to spot a "Lipstick Program." She will provide insight from her days of running a Business Continuity Program as the Senior Manager of Disaster Recovery for Capital One to her time as an auditor.