



Emergency Management and Response Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)

INFOGRAM 36-10

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NOTE: This INFOGRAM will be distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures. For further information, contact the Emergency Management and Response- Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) at (301) 447-1325 or by e-mail at emr-isac@dhs.gov.

Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database

(Source: Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute)

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) was recently introduced to the [Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute](#) (HVRI), which is an interdisciplinary research and training center focused on the development of theory, data, metrics, methods, applications, and spatial analytical models for understanding the newly emergent field of hazard vulnerability science.

In addition to basic research, HVRI facilitates local, state, and federal government efforts to improve emergency preparedness, planning, response, and disaster resilience through its outreach activities. According to its website, HVRI initiatives include providing technical assistance to and translational products for the practitioner community as well as training emergency managers in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications.

When examining the HVRI mission, the EMR-ISAC learned about [SHELDUS](#), a county-level hazard data set for 18 different natural hazard events in the United States such as thunderstorms, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and tornados. For each event this free database includes the beginning date, location (i.e., county and state), property losses, crop losses, injuries, and fatalities that affected each county. The new version of [SHELDUS 8.0](#) contains more than 640,000 records and spans the years from 1960 through 2009.

This database has value for emergency planners and is provided free of charge. It was supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the University of South Carolina.

National Domestic Preparedness Consortium

(Sources: National Domestic Preparedness Consortium)

As a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training partner, the [National Domestic Preparedness Consortium](#) (NDPC) provides high-quality training to Emergency Services Sector (ESS) personnel throughout the United States and its territories under a Homeland Security National Training Cooperative Agreement. According to its website, "it is the principle means through which DHS identifies, develops, tests, and delivers training to state and local emergency responders.

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) learned that the NDPC is a [partnership](#) of several nationally recognized organizations whose membership is based on the urgent need to address the counterterrorism preparedness requirements of the nation's emergency services within the context of all hazards including chemical, biological, radiological, and explosive weapons of mass destruction (WMD) hazards.

It is the mission of the NDPC to enhance the preparedness of federal, state, local, and tribal ESS departments and agencies, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to reduce the nation's vulnerability to incidents involving WMD, terrorism, and all-hazard high-consequence events by developing, delivering, and assessing plans, training, technical assistance, and exercises.

The EMR-ISAC confirmed that the NDPC can be contacted at 3149 Pleasant Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; phone: 225-578-8187; email: info@ndpc.us.

Mass Feeding During Disasters

(Sources: Emergency Management.com, and National and State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

Adequately feeding the survivors was among the many concerns caused by past major hurricanes. “The food was getting to the people, but the process was very ugly, and there was a lot of unnecessary pain and suffering by the emergency managers,” said [Michael Whitehead](#), the state mass care officer for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) noted that with the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Whitehead collaborated with several colleagues and groups (e.g., Salvation Army, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, American Red Cross) to develop guidance for working with the federal government to effectively conduct mass feeding during disasters. This effort yielded a [template](#) (PDF, 931 KB) that guides emergency managers to create a feeding plan.

The EMR-ISAC observed that the template provides suggested guidance and procedures for a jurisdiction to consider in the development of a multi-agency feeding plan and a coordinating group that supports feeding assistance in advance of, during, and after a disaster throughout an impact area. Additionally, the template can serve as an educational tool assisting jurisdictions, non-government agencies, the Private Sector, and other stakeholders providing feeding support to understand the complexities of implementing a coordinated and collaborative feeding operation.

WISER for BlackBerry Devices

(Source: National Library of Medicine)

According to the [Fact Sheet](#) regarding the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (WISER), it is a free application designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. Developed by the [National Library of Medicine](#), WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression guidance.

In the WISER Fact Sheet, the [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) observed that first responders and hazardous materials units can obtain accurate information about dangerous substances, the emergency resources available, the surrounding environmental conditions, and guidance on immediate actions necessary to save lives and protect the environment.

WISER is available for Microsoft Windows and Palm OS mobile devices. At this website, the EMR-ISAC also noted that a web-based WISER now supports web browsers for both PCs and PDA, including the [iPhone](#) and most recently the [BlackBerry](#).

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REPORTING NOTICE

The National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Infrastructure Protection is the central point for notifications regarding infrastructure threats, disruptions, intrusions, and suspicious activities. Emergency Services Sector personnel are requested to report any incidents or attacks involving their infrastructures using at least the first and second points of contact seen below:

- 1) NICC - Voice: 202-282-9201, Fax: 703-487-3570, E-Mail: nicc@dhs.gov
- 2) Your local FBI office - Web: www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm
- 3) EMR-ISAC - Voice: 301-447-1325, E-Mail: emr-isac@dhs.gov, fax: 301-447- 1034,
Web: www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac, Mail: E-108, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727