

HAZCollect

speeding emergency messages to the public

A Critical Communications Link for Emergency Services Professionals
a cooperative initiative of FEMA/NOAA
In support of ESF #2

What is HazCollect?

All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection System, or HAZCollect for short:

- ➔ Is a nationwide capability developed by the National Weather Service (NWS)
- ➔ Is in coordination and cooperation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA
- ➔ Offers emergency services officials full distribution of critical emergency messages through NWS channels
- ➔ Supports Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2-Communication Annex of the National Response Framework.

When an emergency occurs, seconds count to save lives. Communicating the nature of an emergency and the recommended response for all affected citizens can take precious time.

The National Weather Service communicates critical weather information daily. Now, the same system that speeds life-saving weather data to people can be used to inform the public about critical local events when lives are at stake. Specific information from emergency services sources means necessary instructions get out quickly when time counts.

Count on HAZCollect to be the most responsive and direct way to speed critical information for protection of your citizens.

How it Works

When an incident occurs, an official such as the director of an emergency management agency (EMA) uses local operating procedures to decide whether it is necessary to provide those affected with emergency instructions. The EMA director or designee uses their local expertise to issue a message on the impact and recommended action.

The message goes from the local emergency services computer to Disaster Management Interoperability Services (DMIS) servers where it is authenticated and protocol checks are performed. The message then travels to the HAZCollect servers for authorization.

HAZCollect servers format the message with proper communication headers and sends the message through all NWS distribution channels. After it is received at the NWS Weather Forecast Office serving the area, the message is immediately broadcast over NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards with appropriate EAS codes and tone activations for relay through local media outlets. The message is simultaneously sent over EMWIN, NOAA Weather Wire Service, Family of Services and ultimately through private vendor communication channels.

HAZCollect achieves the widest possible distribution of critical non-weather emergency information via NWS systems.



Getting Started

No direct costs are involved in getting started with HAZCollect. An emergency services agency will need:

- A personal computer
- Internet access (dial-up or high speed)
- Software from DMIS (at no cost) or private vendors.

Before installing software, participants must register and establish a Collaborative Operations Group with Disaster Management Open Platform for Emergency Networks (OPEN). A COG is essential for

- Performing authentication and authorization
- Establishing a framework within which to work.

The COG administrator establishes privileges within the COG structure. COGs may be local, regional or statewide and may take on any form necessary for incident management. DMIS provides a wealth of information and training to assist agencies in learning about COGs and their function and operation.

Once the COG is established, a HAZCollect user must:

- Install the appropriate software
- Establish an interface to OPEN or DMIS servers
- Register their COG with HAZCollect
- Establish an interface to HAZCollect servers.

This completes functional readiness for non-weather emergency message delivery. With the groundwork in place, emergency officials can communicate about an incident with greater assurance that the alert will reach the affected population.

Information Resources

Want to know more? Here are online resources for more information about HAZCollect and its benefits:

National Weather Service:

www.weather.gov

HAZCollect

www.weather.gov/os/hazcollect/

Federal Emergency Management Agency

www.fema.gov

Disaster Management Interoperability Services:

www.disasterhelp.gov/disastermanagement/

In an Emergency

an incident occurs



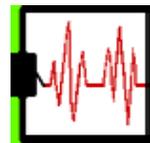
a message is prepared locally and posted



message authenticated and formatted



message speeds through NWS comms channels



message heard over local weather radio, EAS and other media



For Local Information

Get additional HAZCollect information from local National Weather Services office serving your area.

www.weather.gov/stormready

Click on "Local Contacts."



NOAA



FEMA

