



## What is HazCollect...

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

- Is a nationwide capability developed by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS)
- 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.

NWS communicates critical weather information. 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.

Emergency officials can count on HAZCollect to be the most responsive and direct way to speed critical information to those who need it.

## 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 to issue emergency instructions through HAZCollect.

The EMA director or designee uses their local expertise to issue a message on the impact and on the recommended action.

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

HAZCollect servers format the message with proper communication headers and sends it 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 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 from private vendors.

Before installing software, users must register and establish a Collaborative Operations Group (COG) with Disaster Management Open Platform for Emergency Networks (OPEN). A COG is essential for performing authentication and authorization and for 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, their function and operation. Once the COG is established, a HAZCollect user must:

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

Once done, the COG is functionally ready to issue non-weather emergency messages. With the groundwork in place, emergency officials can communicate about an incident with greater assurance the alert will reach the affected population.

## 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



# NOAA



# FEMA

## Information Resources

Want to know more? Below are links for more information about **HAZCollect** and its benefits:

*HAZCollect*

[www.weather.gov/os/hazcollect/](http://www.weather.gov/os/hazcollect/)

**National Weather Service:**

[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

**Disaster Management Interoperability**

**Services:**

[www.disasterhelp.gov/disastermanagement/](http://www.disasterhelp.gov/disastermanagement/)

## For Local Information

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

[www.weather.gov/stormready](http://www.weather.gov/stormready)

Click on "local contacts."

# HAZCollect

## To Speed Your Emergency Message



**A Critical Communications Link for Emergency Services Professionals**

a cooperative initiative of



# NOAA



# FEMA



**when critical information can't wait!**

Rev. FOTE

in support of ESF #2