

# Development of a National Crisis Event Response, Recovery, and Access (CERRA) Standard

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## CHALLENGE: Delayed Access Slows Post-Crisis Recovery and Harms Communities

Access to disaster emergency zones has been identified as a critical concern in incident response after action reports for the past 25 years. During a crisis, critical personnel from different localities often travel to support response and recovery efforts in a given location. However, delays in accessing the emergency zone due to the various state and local entry standards and processes have tremendous economic and societal costs to communities, individuals, businesses, and the nation as a whole.

A new, national Crisis Event Response, Recovery, and Access (CERRA) Standard will enable government, commercial, and nongovernment organizations to effectively coordinate with emergency management and law enforcement, and to react, respond, and reconstitute our communities quickly and efficiently after disastrous events.

## APPROACH: A National Approach to Crisis Event Response, Recovery, and Access

Leveraging an existing first generation standard, the new CERRA Standard will provide a comprehensive national approach to open, integrated access management and control. This innovative CERRA Standard will enable law enforcement, emergency managers, first responders, and public and private sector emergency personnel to utilize, in real-time, a single toolset to coordinate secure access to an emergency zone across multiple locations. Designed for both single site and broad-based events, the CERRA Standard enables cost-effective, efficient activities for all parties involved in response and recovery efforts.

- For emergency managers, it provides local control over access decisions, enabling clear communication of local policies to supporting law enforcement and security personnel.
- For law enforcement, it standardizes terminology and visual cues so that checkpoint personnel from any jurisdiction can be quickly deployed to support crisis events.

## NEXT STEPS: Development and Implementation

The CERRA Standard project is the evolution of existing efforts across the United States led and coordinated by the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council, one of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) partnership groups. The CERRA project began on October 1, 2016, with an initial kick-off meeting and is currently in the outreach phase of project development. Once completed, the new CERRA Standard will be transitioned to existing operational programs across seven states in the Northeast and Southeast United States. Transition to the CERRA Standard in operational programs is expected in the second quarter of 2017.



Police checkpoint at a crisis event (Adobe Creative Cloud Stock Photos)

## CONCLUSION: A Long Overdue Priority

The lack of a coordinated approach has too often hindered our communities' ability to quickly recover from an event. Both the economic and social repercussions from delays in responding to an emergency demand a solution. Success for this effort will be measured by the adoption of the CERRA Standard by organizations across the response and recovery spectrum, as well as faster, more effective response, recovery, and access across all sectors.

Overall, a coordinated approach will dramatically speed up checkpoint operations and decision-making, and can be readily applied to access incidents of any type and of any scale.

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Security and Resilience Challenge is managed by the Office of Infrastructure Protection, within the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the National Institute for Hometown Security (NIHS). To learn more about this project, contact Jay Robinson, Program Manager, DHS, at [Jay.Robinson@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:Jay.Robinson@hq.dhs.gov) or Ewell Balltrip, CEO, NIHS, at [eballtrip@thenihs.org](mailto:eballtrip@thenihs.org).



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