Innovations in Resource Management & Mutual Aid Technologies

July 22, 2021

Q&A

Question: Will the Application Programming Interface (API) work to connect the Resource Typing Library Tool (RTLT) with WebEOC?
Answer: There is a public API for the Resource Typing Library Tool. It is build on open standards and can be consumed by any system that is interoperable. To request the RTLT API Documentation & Guide email NRH@preptoolkit.fema.dhs.gov.

Question: Assuming the resource inventory system includes information about services like shelter, food assistance, etc. –and given that such resources are provided by a fragmented landscape of multiple jurisdictions and sectors, and change all the time – how are you considering the challenge of sourcing reliable service directory information from multiple sources (such as 2-1-1s, National Shelter System (NSS), etc.)?
Answer: Resource Inventory System (RIS) allows you to inventory equipment, facilities, supplies, personnel, and teams/task forces. You can inventory resources consistently with the National Incident Management System's (NIMS) resource typing definitions which detail capacity and capability of each resource/personnel. Resource owners are responsible for inventorying the resources they own and manage. Each organization maintains the inventory for their resources within the system.

Question: Are you aware of activity to integrate Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into FEMA's ICS Operations Section, Air Operations Branch? The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) UAS Standardization Collaborative (UASSC) Roadmap Gap analysis says NIMS and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group have taken an action item to address this gap.
Answer: The NIMS Implementation Branch (NIB) at the National Integration Center (NIC) is working on updating the current UAS resource type and National Qualification System (NQS) positions. This could certainly be a point for discussion. You can send this question (and any other questions/comments) to the NIMS Inbox (FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov) to find out more information about the UAS updates.

Question: My question is about a challenge in which there is not a single "you" that could manage directory information about all services, presumably interoperability could enable directory data from multiple sources?

Answer: Can you please clarify what you are referring to with regards to "Directory Data"? I'm not sure this is the same thing as resource inventories. Each public safety agency creates and maintains an inventory of their resources and personnel. An agency may have multiple staff that update and maintain their inventory. RIS allows an organization to assign multiple staff (as users) to have access to and roles in managing their agency's resources.

Question: Are the panelists aware of or familiar with Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Information Sharing Framework, and can you comment on it?

Answer: Is this the one you are referencing? https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ci-threat-information-sharing-framework-508.pdf If so, yes - the target audience for this one is the Critical Infrastructure community.

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