

Operationalizing a Nationwide Crisis Event Recovery and Response Access (CERRA) Program

Situational Awareness

Management during crisis events is the responsibility of local leadership, sometimes with support from state and sometimes by federal assets. In either case, communities at the heart of crisis response lack a common, standardized approach enabling coordinated, cross-jurisdictional access. Delays stemming from access issues for response and recovery teams can add to the economic impact of even localized events. A nationwide Crisis Event Recovery and Response Access (CERRA) effort will help towards a solution to this issue.

Project Overview

The CERRA project is addressing these challenges by giving local jurisdictions the ability to: (1) define, coordinate, and communicate security and safety perimeters; (2) define, implement, and coordinate response, recovery, and reentry protocols to securely accelerate the response and recovery activities, and (3) maintain situational awareness of the access environment for dynamic adjustment. The capability for critical infrastructure and key resources, jurisdictions and law enforcement elements to coordinate before, during, and after events is a critical factor in the successful recovery of communities.

The objectives of this CERRA project are to:

- Leverage the previous deliverables from the earlier CERRA research and development work; and
- Work in lock step with the DHS/Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council (ESSCC) CERRA Working Group to coordinate the next steps of the CERRA program; in order to have launch a nationwide, coordinated, interoperable operational CERRA program.



Power utility personnel repair electrical transmission lines outside the town of Rockport, TX in response to Hurricane Harvey, 2017 (Source: FEMA)

Moving Forward

This project is intended to include activities to support the transition of the CERRA effort to an operational use model. Specifically, this project will support:

- Availability of the baseline CERRA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the Technical Standard; and
- Availability of the CERRA Clearing House.

These elements will be operational and support existing and new jurisdictional CERRA programs. In support of the transition to use, the project team will provide programmatic, technical, and some operational support, but the CERRA Working Group organizations (and later the specific members of the National and Clearing House Governance Boards) will provide key support to ensure the successful transition to operations.



To learn more about the CERRA Program, contact Jay Robinson, DHS Program Manager, at jay.robinson@hq.dhs.gov or Ewell Balltrip, CEO, NIHS at eballtrip@thenihs.org 2018-06.1pager