

Resolution 2017-03

In Support of the Crisis Event Response, Recovery and Access (CERRA) Program



Whereas, the Emergency Services Sector is composed of the emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement, fire service and other emergency responders that are essential to response and recovery after emergency events of all kinds;

Whereas, the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council (the “ESSCC”) is the convening body recognized by the Department of Homeland Security as the voice for the Emergency Services Sector;

Whereas the National Association of State EMS Officials serves on the ESSCC’s Executive Committee and serves as one of 14 major national associations representing the Emergency Services Sector;

Whereas the DHS-recognized ESSCC Crisis Event Response Recovery and Aid (“CERRA”) Program has been deployed in two States, Louisiana and Mississippi, and is in process of being deployed to other States;

Whereas in keeping with the view within the Emergency Services Sector that the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection should have more operational roles and functions, the CERRA Program is now under strong joint leadership of the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection and the ESSCC; and

Whereas the purpose of the CERRA Program is to aid emergency response, management and recovery personnel by providing tools that enable the right people to access emergency zones at the right time, a critical problem for the entire Emergency Services Sector.

Now therefore be it resolved that the National Association of State EMS Officials supports the joint efforts of the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection and the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council in expanding the adoption and utilization of the CERRA Program to become a nationwide program.

Signed this 9th day of March, 2017.

R. Keith Wages
2016-2019 President

Alisa Williams
2016-2019 Secretary

Intended Distribution:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
National Protection and Programs Directorate and Office of Infrastructure Protection
National Institute of Homeland Security

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December 2, 2016

The Honorable Suzanne E. Spaulding
Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Complex
Washington DC 20528

Dear Under Secretary Spaulding:

On behalf of the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), I would like to express our support for the Emergency Services Sector Coordination Council's (ESSCC) Crisis Event Response, Recovery and Access (CERRA) Program. NASEMSO is a member of the ESSCC and is proud to work with other ESSCC members to address this important issue for the nation's emergency services.

One of the major challenges during a large-scale disaster or emergency is managing access to the incident scene. The appropriate fire, EMS, law enforcement agencies as well as other federal, state and local government agencies including the private sector resources must be able to access the incident scene to provide assistance effectively. Since 2011, the ESSCC has taken the lead in developing the CERRA system to allow the appropriate staff and resources on scene in an efficient manner. The CERRA system has been successfully deployed in Louisiana and Mississippi and is in the process of being deployed in six additional states.

In 2015, the Emergency Services Sector-Specific Plan identified the need for developing a strategy to educate both public and private emergency responders about the use of the CERRA system. As part of its 2016 National Infrastructure Protection Plan Security and Resilience Challenge, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Infrastructure Protection (OIP), in partnership with the National Institute of Homeland Security, funded the CERRA system to address this urgent priority.

The NASEMSO urges OIP to continue to support efforts to expand the adoption of the CERRA Program. This program will help speed aid and resources to communities in need of relief during major disasters. We look forward to working with you to meet the priorities of our nation's first responders.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Wages
NASEMSO President