



Homeland
Security

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DATA MESSAGING STANDARDS APPROVED BY OASIS

EDXL Standards Support Interoperable Communications and Improve Emergency Management

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today that the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) has just approved two new Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) messaging standards that will aid interoperable communications, National Incident Management System-supported information exchange, and cross-agency and cross-jurisdiction emergency response. These standards were developed by OASIS with support from the DHS Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division (CID) in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Management (DM) E-Government Program.

These two data messaging standards will join the existing Common Alerting Protocol and EDXL Distribution Element standards to enhance emergency response capabilities during incident response. The EDXL-Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE) standard will enable responders to exchange information about a hospital's capacity and bed availability with medical and health organizations and others. The EDXL-Resource Messaging (RM) standard will enable responders to exchange resource data for operations, including emergency response personnel and equipment. This information sharing standard will improve emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

"Both EDXL-HAVE and EDXL-RM represent significant achievements in messaging standards development," said FEMA DM Program Manager Sarah Hyder. "Implementation of these standards not only enhances emergency management, but improves the speed and quality of response activities." Once in the hands of emergency responders and managers, data messaging standards such as HAVE and RM will tremendously improve the exchange of information in real time.

"It is vital that practitioners across all levels of government continue to partner with industry in the development and use of messaging standards that improve data communications during emergency response operations," said CID Director Dr. David Boyd. "We are committed to working with standards development organizations, including OASIS, to integrate EDXL data messaging standards into the resources that emergency responders rely upon to keep the Nation safe."

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Through a practitioner-driven approach, the Science and Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division (CID) creates and deploys information resources—standards, frameworks, tools, and technologies—to enable seamless and secure interactions among homeland security stakeholders. With its Federal partners, CID is working to strengthen capabilities to communicate, share, visualize, analyze, and protect information.