



Ohio Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security

EMERGENCY PARTNER CREDENTIALING SYSTEM (EPCS)

Ohio Homeland Security (OHS) has initiated the development of the Emergency Partner Credentialing System (EPCS) for Ohio Public Private Partnership (OP3) members. The mission of EPCS is to allow OP3 members the ability to provide state-issued documentation to their eligible personnel, allowing them access to contribute aid to communities who have been struck by a critical incident. The distinctive document number will allow the credential to be verifiable by law enforcement through the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS).

Two types of credentials will be authorized through EPCS:

1. **Multi-Emergency Credentials** allow an employee access to regular statewide disaster relief initiatives. Expires after 180 days. **(Option not available for COVID-19 event)**
 - The Multi-Emergency Credentials will go through OHS vetting, which entails approval by the Director of Ohio Homeland Security.
2. **Emergency-Specific Credentials** allow personnel access to a specific disastrous or emergency event, and will not carry over into disaster relief for other catastrophic events. Expires after seven days **(Extended to 45-days for COVID-19 event)**.

Emergency-Specific Credentials can also be used by eligible personnel for work related travel in the wake of a winter weather emergency. Use of the Emergency Specific Credential during winter weather emergencies will only be offered to OP3 members whose functions are vital for the continual operation of select critical infrastructure sectors. The eligible OP3 member personnel will also be required to be vital to their organization's operations. **Not all personnel will have an Emergency Specific Credential during a winter weather emergency.**

Critical infrastructure sectors determined to be vital for continual operation:

- Chemical
- Communication
- Energy
- Food & Agriculture
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Water/Wastewater

In addition to being a part of the determined seven critical sectors, each OP3 member organization will be vetted by Ohio Homeland Security before gaining access to credentials during winter weather emergencies.

The 3 step vetting procedure will require:

1. Verification of the potential OP3 Private Partner in the Better Business Bureau
2. Verification of the potential OP3 Private Partner on the Ohio Secretary of State Directory
3. Notification sent to the Director of Ohio Homeland Security for approval/denial

The Emergency Specific Credentials assigned to vital personnel during a winter weather emergency, for work related travel, are still ultimately subject **to the discretion of local authorities and law enforcement.**

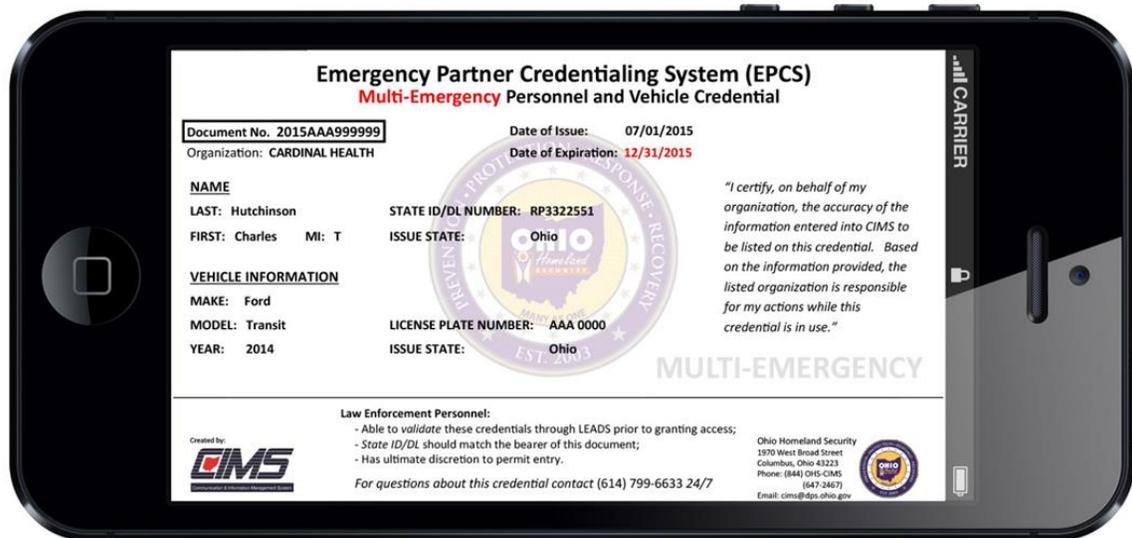
EMERGENCY SPECIFIC CREDENTIAL: (Extended to 45-days for COVID-19 event)

- Allows personnel access to a specific disastrous or emergency event, and will not carry over into disaster relief for other catastrophic events.
- This credential will be specified to an immediate area of a crisis and expires after **seven** days.
- Document number in upper left can be verified through LEADS.



MULTI-EMERGENCY CREDENTIAL: (Option not available for COVID-19 event)

- Allows an employee access to regular statewide disaster relief initiatives.
- This credential can be utilized for multiple areas of a crisis and expires after **180** days. Document number in upper left can be verified through LEADS.



If you have any questions please contact the **Communication & Information Management System (CIMS)** administration at **1-844-OHS-CIMS** or CIMS@dps.ohio.gov.