

Delivering Mission Success

The HSIN ADVOCATE

Planning and Preparedness

Partners use HSIN to streamline interagency planning and preparedness, which results in more effective response and recovery operations. As highlighted in this month's HSIN Advocate, partners are using HSIN to improve the nation's cybersecurity posture, support public safety during special events, and accelerate operations when severe weather arises. With HSIN, all planning resources are in one place and personnel know where to access the information when an event, exercise or incident occurs. In daily operations, partners use HSIN to support their tactical and strategic planning activities. For any type of public safety mission, HSIN allows multiagency and private-sector partners to seamlessly collaborate and apply available resources in the most efficient manner possible.

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Cyber Shield 19 Brings Together Defense, Industry and Academia to Bolster Cybersecurity

As the nation's largest unclassified cyber defense training exercise, Cyber Shield provides participants with valuable experience in cyber protection best practices and knowledge about industry network infrastructure. Military and other public sector personnel teamed with private sector participants for the two-week event held April 5–19 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Cyber Shield is conducted by the Army National Guard (ARNG), U.S. Army Reserve and participants from state and local fusion centers. The event includes simulated cyberattack and response scenarios among U.S. Department of Defense, National Guard units, fusion centers and industry partners. The exercise begins with one week of classroom instruction followed by a second week of scenario-based, cyber role-playing activities.



Over 850 participants used HSIN for the exercise, including State National Guards from about 40 states, multiple fusion centers and metropolitan law enforcement agencies, and more than 20 organizations representing industry and academia. The ARNG has used HSIN since 2014 to manage the administration and common operating picture for the event.

"HSIN's support for Cyber Shield helps the nation develop an agile force that can more quickly respond to cybersecurity challenges," said North Carolina Army National Guard Lt. Col. Robbie Felicio, Deputy Commander of Cyber Shield 19. "The skills and knowledge gained during Cyber Shield, plus the experience of working with industry and academia, facilitates public-private sector collaboration and increases cybersecurity nationwide."

State-based National Guard units uniquely serve their local communities and states as well as the nation, placing them in an advantageous position to interact with state and locally based fusion centers. National Guard soldiers also provide a valuable and distinct contribution because they have private-sector jobs while maintaining their military training on a part-time basis.

HSIN's support for Cyber Shield plays an integral role in fostering engagement among partners to prepare for disruptive or destructive cyberattacks. By the end of the exercise, participants are trained and evaluated in areas such as forensic analysis techniques and cyber defense capabilities. Organizations that participate also learn new ways to integrate intelligence from a variety of sources and how to more effectively share information throughout incident response activities.

Exercise Prepares Partners for 2019 World Scout Jamboree

From July 22 to August 2, the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia will be home to 50,000 scouts arriving from 150 countries, and HSIN will be the sole information sharing platform supporting communications among federal, state, local and private sector partners. In April, HSIN Mission Advocates conducted training and exercises for over 150 personnel from the West Virginia National Guard, U.S. Army, and numerous state and local partners.



Attendees participated in a Command Post Exercise that included hands-on training and one-on-one support. Members of the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and West Virginia Intelligence Fusion Center facilitated activities, which took place in Glen Jean, West Virginia. During the event in July, HSIN will be used for interagency coordination, situational awareness, risk mitigation, emergency management and other public safety operations.

HSIN Honors Military and Law Enforcement Personnel Who Gave Their Lives in Service

Memorial Day (May 27) and National Police Week (May 12–18) were special times when we recognized those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the military or in law enforcement. HSIN extends its gratitude to all those who gave their lives in the call of duty. We also remember the families and loved ones of those who perished in service.



HSIN is thankful for all members of the military and law enforcement—past and present—who strive every day to carry out their missions. We honor your service, which is essential to ensuring the security of our country and maintaining public safety across federal, state, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions.

Expanding the Operational Impact of HSIN

For Organizations:

[Using HSIN for Severe Weather Emergency Management](#)

Preparing for severe weather requires the collaboration of multiple organizations. With HSIN, interagency and cross-jurisdictional partners can share a common operating picture, maintain real-time situational awareness and allocate public safety resources in the most effective manner. HSIN also allows partners outside of the affected area to streamline their efforts related to assisting communities in their response and recovery activities.

For Community Managers:

[Increasing Resilience and Preparedness](#)

Emergency management begins well before a disaster strikes as it requires effective planning. With HSIN, partners can create collaboration spaces for emergency managers to develop preparedness plans, support mitigation activities and collaborate on after-action reports. Partners can also use HSIN to conduct emergency management training and exercises, which increases users' familiarity with HSIN resources and capabilities.

“HSIN provided an invaluable resource that aided frontline responders by prioritizing cases involving residents who were facing imminent threat to life, deconflicting multiple reports from relatives and friends, and reducing duplication of effort.”

Carl Hatfield

Port Security Specialist, U.S. Coast Guard District 8

HSIN in Action

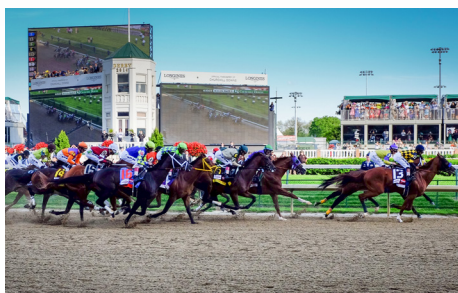
To learn more about the innovative ways HSIN supports planning, preparedness and response, check out these additional resources:

- [Using HSIN to Support Preparedness](#)
- [HSIN is the “Go-To” Resource for Preparedness and Response](#)
- [Using HSIN for Situational Awareness During Hurricane Matthew](#)



HSIN Across the Country

HSIN assists in planning and monitoring for many high-visibility events and operations nationally, including sovereign Native American tribal lands and U.S. territories. Below are just a few of the events HSIN recently supported.



Kentucky Derby Events (May 3–4)

The Louisville Metro Police Department and other public safety partners used HSIN for real-time information sharing during numerous events including the Kentucky Oaks horse race on May 3 and the Kentucky Derby on May 4.



Georgia Tech University and Atlanta Public High Schools Commencement Ceremonies (May 3–4; May 20–24)

The Georgia Tech Police Department used HSIN to support public safety information sharing for the Georgia Tech Commencement Ceremonies May 3–4 and Atlanta Public School High School graduations on the Georgia Tech Campus May 20–24.



Indianapolis 500 (May 23–26)

Speedway and Indianapolis Police Departments, the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Indiana State Police, DHS and other partners used HSIN to support public safety, logistics management and situational awareness for the Indianapolis 500 and related events, which drew over 300,000 spectators to the iconic auto race.

Watch Now: HSIN Enables Seamless Information Sharing Across U.S. States and Territories

In this video, **James Cruz**, DHS Intelligence Officer from the Mariana Regional Fusion Center in Guam, explains how HSIN helps partners share information in real time across time zones and locations during emergencies such as hurricanes, typhoons and major planned events.

You can watch this and other videos on [DHS.gov](https://www.dhs.gov), [HSIN Central](#) or [YouTube](#).



HSIN Community Corner

The HSIN User Group Wants Your Thoughts!

As a user-driven program, HSIN encourages user participation in the design of and upgrades to HSIN through the HSIN User Group (HUG). As a HSIN user, you have valuable firsthand knowledge of how HSIN enables information sharing for your mission that could help shape the future of HSIN. In the coming months we want to hear from you!

If you've ever thought of ways HSIN could improve to better support your mission, the HUG is the place to have your voice heard. Recommendations from each HUG group will be provided to HSIN's Senior Leadership Team and Executive Steering Committee.

Upcoming HUG sessions offer you the opportunity to provide input on HSIN enhancements and upgrades, which will help ensure we continue to meet the information sharing needs of all users. Details regarding our upcoming session are:

Topic: Universal Navigation

Thursday, June 13
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

If you would like to participate, please contact HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.



Hurricane Response Room Template for HSIN Connect

HSIN improves and accelerates response and recovery efforts related to hurricanes and other severe weather such as tornadoes and floods. A valuable tool to support all of these missions is the Hurricane Response Room Template (HRRT).

Severe weather occurs in all parts of the nation and can strike at any time, and with the Atlantic hurricane season beginning on June 1, now is the time to become familiar with the HRRT. This HSIN Connect template streamlines operations and allows quick setup of three standard layouts that have a proven track record when used during hurricanes and all types of severe weather:

- SitRoom (Situational Awareness Room) Layout
- Briefing Room Layout
- National Weather Feed Layout

When the HSIN Connect session host chooses one of the three layouts, the new display appears on all attendees' screens. Additionally, the host can use a "Prepare Mode" (under the Meeting menu) to edit layouts without immediately changing the attendee view. The default SitRoom Layout displays pods for commonly used types of information such as:



- Local Weather Feed
- Camera Feed
- Shared Webcam Feed
- Reference Documents
- Displaced Citizens
- Points of Contact
- Attendee List

With the HRRT, partners have the ability to quickly and more effectively share information during operations. To learn how to implement the Hurricane Response Room Template, download the [HRRT Quick Reference Guide](#) on HSIN Learn or contact HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

HSIN Best Practices CoE

Please join us for the June HSIN Best Practices Community of Excellence (CoE) session:

Preparing Your Community for the HSIN Technical Refresh

Tuesday, June 18 | 1:00 p.m. EST

No registration is required; you may access the meeting room by clicking the HSIN Connect link below at the scheduled time.

Connect Room: <https://share.dhs.gov/hsinbpcoe>
Phone Number: 855-852-7677; 8403609#



Updated Fire Station Data Supports Multiple Public Safety Sectors

HSIN provides access to data and mapping information from the DHS Geospatial Management Office (GMO), including Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD). A recent HIFLD update involves the launching of a new dataset of fire stations across the U.S., which will be built over time from several sources. The initial version of this data layer contains data from eight states, and is now accessible in the public domain via the HIFLD Open platform.

This data, referred to as “Fire Stations (2019 Partial Data Set),” benefits not only emergency management organizations, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and fire departments, but also any organization supporting the preparedness, response and recovery of disaster situations. The original HIFLD Fire Stations data layer will remain in place until a nationwide set is completed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). You may obtain access to this new layer via the following URL: <https://hifld-geoplatform.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/fire-stations-2019-partial-data-set>.

The IAFC is serving as the data steward for this Fire Stations dataset. The IAFC has more than 12,000 members at the Chief level involved in firefighting, EMS, terrorism response, hazardous materials, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public safety policy initiatives.

The IAFC’s goals are to expand the dataset to cover all 50 states, and to keep it perpetually up to date. The IAFC will build the dataset over time, with periodic releases of new data. Construction of the dataset is a multi-year effort primarily due to the highly decentralized nature of fire services. The vast majority of U.S. fire departments are either agencies of local municipalities or non-profit corporations run by volunteers. While many states maintain lists of active local fire departments, few track the individual fire stations that those departments operate.



As a result, data completeness varies across regions.

To construct the Fire Stations dataset, the IAFC acts as both data collector and data aggregator. When available, the IAFC seeks permission to use high-quality state and local information to populate portions of the dataset. When such data is not available, the IAFC attempts to collect primary data through its network of fire service leaders.

At a minimum, the IAFC seeks to document the name of each fire station and its physical location. When mapping coordinates are not available from the local level, the IAFC generates the coordinates based on the physical address of the building. As data collection and aggregation improves and the dataset develops over time, the IAFC will seek to add more attributes to the data model.

The HIFLD Fire Stations data helps first responders and other public safety officials act rapidly to save lives, maintain security and protect critical infrastructure. To contribute data, make suggestions or ask questions about the initiative, please contact the IAFC at HIFLD@iafc.org or 800-273-0911. For general HIFLD Data inquiries please email HIFLD@hq.dhs.gov or call 202-853-5361.

Training Tip: Preparing to Use HSIN Connect Before Emergencies Arise

To maximize the value of HSIN Connect during emergency preparedness and incident response, it’s important to become familiar with its capabilities before the need arises.

If you aren’t fully familiar with all of the capabilities available with HSIN Connect—such as how to share files or how to set up and organize a virtual meeting room—you can download two quick reference guides (QRGs) for more information: **[HSIN Connect for Hosts and Presenters](#)** and **[HSIN Connect for Participants](#)**.

Users can also access HSIN Connect rooms via mobile iOS and Android devices. To be fully prepared, you can download the Adobe Connect application on your mobile device and know you have one more valuable HSIN resource at your fingertips whenever the need arises. To learn more, download the **[HSIN Connect Mobile Access for All Users QRG](#)** from HSIN Learn.

