

Delivering Mission Success

The HSIN ADVOCATE

Preparedness and Response

September is National Preparedness Month and HSIN communities continue to set new standards and best practices in this important area of homeland security. HSIN provides the essential resources needed to prepare for and quickly respond to a disaster at a moment's notice. Emergency management and other public safety officials rely on HSIN to prepare risk mitigation strategies, use secure collaboration spaces, and facilitate interagency and public-private sector coordination. Whether it involves preparing for and responding to hurricanes, fighting massive wildfires, coordinating for special events or responding to any type of incident, partners know they can turn to HSIN for mission success.

In this Issue:

ChicagoFIRST is a Private Sector Leader in Preparedness and Response

"Best of HSIN" Annual Awards

HSIN Earns 2018 Government Innovation Award from GCN

HSIN Across the Country

FedScoop 50 Award Nomination for HSIN's Damon Bragg

HSIN Helps California Partners Fight Wildfires

HSIN Supports National Special Events Data Call

HSIN Connect is Essential for Preparedness and Response

ChicagoFIRST is a Private Sector Leader in Preparedness and Response

With 30 critical infrastructure and other key resource firms in the Chicago area and 27 strategic partners from the public and private sectors, ChicagoFIRST is a noteworthy leader in preparedness and response. The organization, established in 2003 by a consortium of Chicago-based financial institutions, has used HSIN since July 2017 for secure information sharing and collaboration. DHS, the U.S. Treasury Department and U.S. Congress have all identified ChicagoFIRST as a model for public-private partnerships.

ChicagoFIRST staff work with partner organizations to provide situational awareness, facilitate working groups and exercises, and lead roundtable discussions for members to share best practices. The staff addresses risk management issues that affect member firms, and the group is involved in activities such as testing emergency response plans for cybersecurity, physical security and business continuity.

Working with partners and HSIN Mission Advocates, ChicagoFIRST deployed an Emergency Response Dashboard on HSIN that provides ongoing status for sectors such as energy, transportation and facilities, and threat indicators in areas such as power outages and severe weather. The group also uses HSIN to share information with Chicago's Emergency Operations Center for public safety operations during large events such as the Chicago Marathon and Fourth of July fireworks at Navy Pier.

More than 80 HSIN users share Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information that is relevant to emergency preparedness, risk mitigation and response and recovery efforts, such as key operational locations



and backup sites. By helping to set new standards and best practices in this important area of homeland security, ChicagoFIRST and HSIN are enabling public and private sectors to better prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from any incident that may arise.

To learn more about how HSIN can support preparedness and response in your area, contact the HSIN Outreach team at HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

Best of HSIN Annual Awards

Now is the Time to Nominate!

Are you aware of an example where HSIN has made a significant contribution to mission success, including in your own organization? We want to hear from you! Nominations are open for the Best of HSIN Annual Awards.

The process is simple. After you [download the nomination form](#), describe the impact HSIN had on the mission or operation you are nominating. Be sure to include specific examples of how HSIN fulfilled the mission and mention any potential ways other organizations can adapt HSIN similarly to meet their needs. You can also include attachments such as screenshots or user experience studies when you email the form to the [HSIN Outreach team](#). It's that easy! For each nomination, you can select one or more of the following categories:

- **Daily Operations/Mission Integration** – Demonstrate the integrated use of HSIN as part of standard, daily operations to support successful mission outcomes.
- **Event Support** – Demonstrate the successful use of HSIN as part of large-scale event management operations, such as planning, event management, incident tracking or operational information sharing.
- **Incident Support** – Demonstrate operational use of HSIN for incident response operations.
- **Interagency Collaboration** – Demonstrate community growth and collaboration among federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, international and/or private sector homeland security partners.
- **Greatest Impact to the Information Sharing Environment** – Demonstrate exemplary performance using HSIN tools to leverage information sharing to contribute to the safety and security of the American people.

By submitting a nomination, you are helping other HSIN communities learn about best practices that improve decision-making, promote partnerships and collaboration, and further the homeland security mission. Thanks for your participation!

HSIN Earns 2018 Government Innovation Award from GCN



HSIN's move to the secure cloud has received a **Government Innovation Award** from GCN, which honors the use of technology to transform government agencies and support critical missions. The award recognizes HSIN's contribution to improving government operations and support for partners across federal, state, local, tribal and territorial agencies, and demonstrates a far-reaching impact across all levels of government.

Expanding the Operational Impact of HSIN

For Organizations:

[Fact Sheet: HSIN and Emergency Services](#)

HSIN supports emergency services personnel including search and rescue, fire prevention and response, medical services, law enforcement and other public safety officials. Partners across federal, state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector organizations know they can depend on HSIN to share information and make decisions that save lives. By providing a secure, trusted network for planning, preparedness and real-time collaboration during response, HSIN allows interagency personnel to work as a unified team.

For Community Managers:

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

When public safety officials prepare for severe weather events, they turn to HSIN as a trusted resource to support information sharing, risk mitigation and rapid response. HSIN allows emergency management personnel to securely collaborate in real time with other partners throughout their areas of responsibility. Also, when a severe weather event occurs, HSIN makes it possible to provide access to new users quickly, allowing all partners to coordinate efforts throughout the emergency management cycle.

“HSIN provided an invaluable resource that aided frontline responders by prioritizing cases involving residents who were facing imminent threat to life, de-conflicting 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 advances preparedness and response for partners, check out these additional resources:

- [Setting Best Practices for Hurricane Preparedness and Response](#)
- [HSIN is the “Go-To” Resource for Preparedness and Response](#)
- [FEMA Partners with the Private Sector to Support Preparedness](#)



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 where HSIN was recently used.



115th Anniversary Harley Davidson Festival (Aug. 29–Sept. 2)

The Southeastern Wisconsin Threat Analysis Center used HSIN to support the Milwaukee Police Department and regional law enforcement public safety partners' operations during the festival, which included numerous events held across multiple venues.



Made in America Festival (Sept. 1–2)

The Delaware Valley Intelligence Center (DVIC) used HSIN and the DVIC situational awareness room (SitRoom) to support safety and security during the Made in America Festival, which drew more than 100,000 fans to see over 60 musical acts perform on five stages.



Brickyard 400 NASCAR Race (Sept. 7–9)

The Speedway Police Department used HSIN to support multiagency public safety collaboration during the 25th anniversary running of the Brickyard 400 NASCAR race, which was held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

FedScoop 50 Award Nomination for HSIN's Damon Bragg



Please join us in congratulating HSIN Service Operations Manager Damon Bragg, who was recently nominated for a FedScoop 50 award in the Federal Leadership category. Under Damon's direction, HSIN became the first DHS Headquarters program to completely implement the secure cloud environment and the foundation for Continuous Delivery at a Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) High level. With this important achievement, HSIN users

are benefiting from virtually zero unplanned downtime and faster turnaround for new features and functionality upgrades.

With this successful move to the cloud, HSIN has created a model for other organizations to emulate, and has started to assist other DHS teams with their cloud implementations. It's an honor to have Damon considered for this award alongside so many great DHS programs and others across the federal space. Please take a moment to vote for Damon in the **Federal Leadership category** before voting ends on Oct. 5!

HSIN Best Practices CoE

Please join us for the October HSIN Best Practices Community of Excellence (CoE) session.



Best Practices for Incident Response on HSIN - Active Shooter Santa Fe, Texas

Wednesday, Oct. 10
1 p.m. EST

Please register by emailing HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov. You will receive a HSIN Connect session calendar invitation with the website and telephone bridge information after you register.

HSIN Helps California Partners Fight Wildfires



When large wildfires strike, public safety resources are stretched thin to battle the blazes. This year, wildfires across California and other western states have burned over four million acres of federal, state, tribal and private lands. To help responders contain and extinguish the fires, HSIN provided information sharing capabilities to California's primary fusion center, the California State Assessment Center, which coordinated with regional fusion centers in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego to help fight the fires.

HSIN supported public safety partners by providing access to Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) mapping layers available through the DHS Geospatial Information Infrastructure (GII) portal. The information was used to identify and make forecasts about the infrastructure sites that were potentially in the path of the wildfires. The greater situational awareness HSIN provided helped prioritize fires that presented the biggest threats to infrastructure such as schools. The collaborative effort allowed incident managers to increase situational awareness to most efficiently protect lives and public safety.

Watch Now: HSIN Connect

In this video you'll see how public safety partners use HSIN Connect—the real-time information sharing and collaboration tool—to quickly and securely communicate with each other and share information needed to address developing situations. Featuring **Bryan Costigan**, Former Director, Montana Analysis and Technical Information Center.



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

HSIN Supports National Special Events Data Call



Special events require a significant level of advance planning, and the National Special Events Data Call plays a key role in helping DHS evaluate security requirements and coordinate with public safety officials at federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels. In preparation for events in 2019, HSIN worked with the DHS Office of Operations Coordination Special Events Program to deploy a streamlined solution to collect special event information from across the nation with greater efficiency.

The special events database provides a centralized platform for managing the data submitted by law enforcement and other public safety officials. The database helps to streamline data collection and provide a more efficient evaluation process. As a result, officials at all levels of state and local government are better able to prepare for the events and coordinate federal support for high-risk events when needed.

Training Tip: HSIN Connect is Essential for Preparedness and Response

To maximize the value of HSIN Connect during emergencies, it's important to become familiar with its capabilities before the need arises by downloading two Quick Reference Guides (QRGs): **HSIN Connect for Hosts and Presenters** and **HSIN Connect for Participants**.

To learn how to access HSIN Connect Rooms via mobile iOS and Android devices, download the **HSIN Connect Mobile Access for All Users QRG**.

