

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

FirstResponder.gov

Offering a centralized, easy-to-navigate portal

Computers have made it much easier to share information. However, it is sometimes difficult to sift through vast resources to figure out what is really important that we need to know. Many federal agencies provide grants, tools, technologies, and other support to the nation's first responders. With so many online resources available, members of the emergency response community need a centralized, easy-to-navigate portal that can quickly provide guidance and direct users to the appropriate agency, website, or link to find the information they need.

To address this major issue, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) developed a “go-to resource” where federal, state, local, and tribal first responders can easily access and leverage federal Web services and information on resources, products, standards, testing and evaluation, and best practices. Located at www.FirstResponder.gov, this site includes articles, blog posts, practitioner tools, and the latest news from DHS.

Aligning resources and sharing information

FirstResponder.gov features extensive links that allow for quick and easy access to critical information. Resources are categorized by discipline: medical, explosives, fire, hazardous materials, law enforcement, and search and rescue.

FederalResponder.gov provides original editorial content, including the First Responder blog, which high-

lights federal programs, initiatives, webinars, and updates on ongoing research and findings. The “Tell Us Your Story” section encourages site users to share ideas for future articles, links, or blog posts directly to DHS. Another feature of the site, “Technology Profiles,” displays DHS-funded technologies according to state. Technologies appear on a clickable U.S. map that can be customized by type, customer, and other data.

FirstResponder.gov is home to the First Responder Bulletin, which provides information about DHS-funded technologies of interest to first responders. The site provides information on and links to key DHS programs—such as Virtual USA, an information-sharing initiative focused on cross-jurisdictional collaboration among the homeland security and emergency management community—as well as the First Responder Technologies program, which provides information, resources, and technology solutions that address mission-oriented capability gaps identified by the first response community.

FirstResponder.gov links to first responder communities of practice (FRCoP)

FRCoP is a secure network and collaboration platform for the nation's first responders and others working in the homeland security field. FRCoP conversations are happening now among dozens of groups, focusing on topics, including improving disaster readiness, response, and recovery.

