



**DISASTER MANAGEMENT**  
**INTEROPERABILITY SERVICES**

# **GETTING STARTED WITH DMIS**



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**COMMITMENT**



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# COMMITMENT

"It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something." **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

"Do what you can, with what you have, with where you are." **Theodore Roosevelt**

"The price of greatness is responsibility." **Sir Winston Churchill**



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# COMMITMENT

**DMIS Tools are just that – tools. In order for any response tool to become effective, an organization must have:**

- **Doctrine / policy guiding use of the tool,**
- **Procedures specifying use,**
- **Training to attain proficiency**
- **Training to sustain proficiency**



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# COMMITMENT

## Top Down Leadership

- Obtain buy-in, resource allocation, and commitment from senior leadership
- Involve EOC representatives in developing value-added uses for DMIS Tools during routine (daily if practical) operations.
- Plan the number and structure of DMIS operating groups needed to support incident escalations and “spheres of collaboration.”
- Consider “worst case” scenarios to identify collaboration requirements



# COMMITMENT

## Training

- Consult with DMIS Responder Liaison team members
- Train DMIS trainers. Some organizations are having success using volunteers with appropriate skills to serve as DMIS trainers.
- Introduce DMIS Tools to EOC representatives “gently.” Training to proficiency using a three phase training (creep, stroll, sprint) approach.
- Conduct monthly short incident exercises involving DMIS use.



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# Exercises – Locally Planned

Ease DMIS Tools into  
your CPX and table top  
exercises



DMIS Messenger is a  
great exercise  
controller and MSEL  
injector





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# Ad Hoc Exercises

- **No notice, no pre-work exercises are easy in the DMIS environment**
- **Call a colleague or three, and do improvisational exercise – make it up as you go**
- **React to the other person's extemporaneous "inject"**
- **Have fun!**



# COMMITMENT

Emergency Management takes commitment to provide the protection of the civilian population and property from the destructive forces of natural and man-made disasters through a comprehensive program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. DMIS can be considered a part of that protection by providing collaboration and interoperability.

One does not simply install DMIS Tools, or any other incident response software, on a few computers and instantly realize all the benefits of technology to facilitate incident response collaboration. There is planning, operating procedure, and training work to do first. In other words, it takes commitment.



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**COLLABORATIVE OPERATING  
GROUP  
(COG)  
PLANNING**

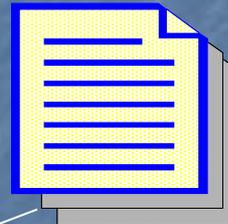


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# What is a COG?

## The DMIS Collaborative Operations Group

Response organizations working on the same information, even if the people are not in the same room.



Collaborative View



Local SOPs define your local COG configuration and policies



## How Do COG's Work

- **Helps Organizations to...**
  - **Coordinate actions**
  - **Communicate quickly**
  - **Share information within and across organizations**
    - **Create a Common operating picture in a common electronic "Work Space"**
  - **Enhance incident reporting**



## **Different Ways to Collaborate**

- **Internal Collaboration**
  - **Create, Update, Edit and Share Information within your organization**
  
- **External Collaboration**
  - **Post information to any external COG(S) of your choosing**
  - **Receive information from other COG(S)**
  - **Use Messenger to communicate outside your COG**
  - **Provide external user's with “Guest Account's”**



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## **COG Administrator Responsibilities** **“Leading the Way”**

- **The local DMIS Administrator implements and maintains the COG**
  - **Installs the DMIS software**
  - **Establish/maintain DMIS Operator accounts**
  - **Advise decision makers**
  - **Facilitate COG operations**
  - **Keep local operators informed of changes and updates**





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## **A Three-Phase Approach**

- **Lesson 1 -Creep**
  - **A “cookbook recipe” for your first COG**
- **Lesson 2 – Stroll**
  - **COG planning considerations**
- **Lesson 3 –Sprint- Large Scale Rollouts**
  - **Planning Considerations for State and Regional DMIS Adoption**



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# COG PLANNING

- Establish “DMIS-ready tools” policy
- Inform responders of capabilities and policy
- Choose “starting place(s)”
- Establish COG structure and SOPs
- Train trainers
- Employ trainers to expand outward from “starting places”
- Exercise, evaluate, adjust, refine SOPs
- Download “COG Cookbook” from DMIS website [www.DMI-Services.org](http://www.DMI-Services.org)



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# **DMIS BENEFITS**



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# How does DMIS Move CAP Messages?



Frederick County MD EOC  
(Blue 292)

1. Author CAP message
2. Select DMIS Interface
3. Select Post common service
4. Select recipient COG names
5. Post the CAP message
6. Receive the CAP message

**If you are using a CAP-compliant and DMIS-enabled system, get a COG name so you can share CAP Messages.**



MEMA  
(WebEOC)

**Open Platform for Emergency Networks**



Anne Arundel County MD EOC  
(DMIS Tools)



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# DOCUMENTATION

**DMIS provides the ability to document your incident as you actively collaborate by:**

- Saving your Messenger sessions including date/time stamps on each transmission
- Saving the reports file including the current journal
- Attaching documents (current incident reports, ICS forms, finance records, daily SITREPS etc.) to the incident
- Eliminates the “Rumor Mill”



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# **TACTICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE**



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# TIE INCIDENTS

## DMIS Tool Set functions within the TIE Includes:

- **Incident Information**
- **Site Information**
- **Agent Information**
- **Casualties**
- **Weather Forecast**
- **On Scene Weather**
- **Population Actions**
- **Property Damage**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Medical**
- **Map**
- **Additional Information**
- **Journal**



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# TIE INCIDENTS

Please join us in a brief demonstration of the Tactical Information Exchange Incident function to show an example of a daily situational awareness.

Please stand by.....