



## New Emergency Services Technology Consortium Holds Founding Meeting

With the declaration from Chairman Michael Dossett, “this is an organization whose time has come...”, the Consortium on Emergency Services Technology (CEST) held its founding meeting on March 10, 2021 to discuss its plans to enhance public- private partnerships and improving technology solutions for emergency services across the nation. The primary focus of CEST is the development of technology tools to help the nation better prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against disasters of all kinds. The establishment of the CEST was spearheaded by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) with support from the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) and the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) as a means to address the risks created by increased frequency, intensity and impact of disasters that continue to impact the nation and our communities.

The CEST goals as outlined in its founding document include:

- Develop partnerships, processes and technologies to enhance preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to build resilience:
- Enable Public-Private collaboration, coordination and information sharing for all phases of the emergency management lifecycle:
- Deploy shared resources and technologies to serve as a “force multiplier” for the impacted communities.

The CEST was established explicitly as a partnership between emergency management agencies and the private sector in order to further the whole of community approach needed to effectively manage the ever-increasing frequency and intensity of hazards and disasters striking the nation. Oversight for engagements will be provided by Public and Private Sector Committees supported through membership fees, sponsorships and subscriptions.

The CEST previously established the Lifeline Task Force (LTF) to develop a shared information sharing and collaboration capability to improve coordination between government, the private sector and volunteer organizations to support all phases of the emergency management lifecycle. The LTF will be working with Idaho in the upcoming Cascadia Rising 2022 National Level Exercise, with the objective of providing food, water, and shelter during a catastrophic Earthquake.

In addition to the three State Consortia, the Founding Members of the CEST include emergency management and government leaders from: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah and Washington. Uber, a founding private sector member, is spearheading the establishment of the Private Sector Committee, including Esri and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

The foundational meeting was also the occasion for the announcement the merger of the CEST and the National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC), an organization of over 650 member agencies and organizations founded to facilitate government to government technology sharing.

For more information on the CEST and its activities please send an email to [cest@cusec.org](mailto:cest@cusec.org).

