BEST PRACTICES

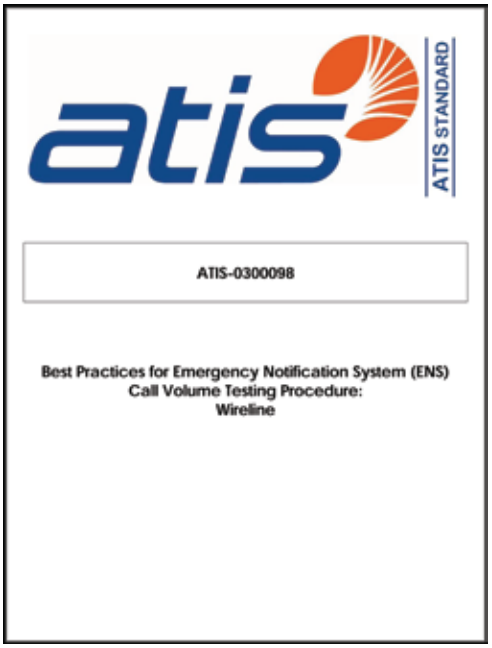
Best Practices for Emergency Notification System (ENS) Call Volume Testing Procedure: Wireline

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), on behalf of its Network Interconnection interoperability Forum's (NIIF) Network Inter-Operability Committee (NIOC), recently posted a new document, Best Practices for Emergency Notification System (ENS) Call Volume Testing Procedure: Wireline, on its Web site at www.atis.org/niif/complimentarydocs.asp.

The ATIS NIIF-NIOC developed the procedure in collaboration with public and private stakeholders (including Public Service Commissions, emergency mass notification users, and emergency mass notification service providers and system vendors). The best practices are modeled on previous successful testing experiences between ENS users and telecommunications service providers. The purpose of these best practices is to foster cooperation between telecommunications service providers and ENS providers/users during testing. The best practices facilitate the efficient delivery of emergency mass notifications over the public switched telephone network.

NIIF NIOC Co-Chair Robin D. Meier says, "The NIIF and ENS partners have begun creating a comprehensive ENS guidelines document, which will include recommendations, guidelines, job aids, testing, other technologies, etc. when utilizing emergency notification systems. The NIIF would welcome participation and assistance from interested parties in the development of this industry standard document."

For more information, contact Meier at rx2378@att.com.



NEW TOOLS

DHS Multiband Radio Project

In July, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate announced the 14 lead organizations for the upcoming pilot phase of testing and evaluation (T&E) for the Multi-Band Radio project. The pilots make up the final phase of a three-part T&E process that includes laboratory testing, short-term demonstrations and pilot projects.

In 2008, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate awarded a contract to demonstrate a multiband radio that enables emergency responders—police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and others—to communicate with partner agencies, regardless of the radio band on which they operate. Currently, radios operate only within a specific frequency band; subsequently, responders are often unable to communicate with other agencies and support units that operate in different radio frequencies. Comparable in size and weight to existing portable radios with similar features, multiband radio would provide users with much improved incident communications capabilities.

The pilot phase provides a unique opportunity for agencies to access the latest technology and implement it in their daily operations. Feedback from local, state and federal participants during the first two phases was incorporated into a production-ready multiband radio to be used for this pilot.

The organizations in the pilot are:

- 2010 Olympic Security Committee (Blaine, Wash., and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada)
- Amtrak (Northeast Corridor)
- Boise Fire Department (Boise, Idaho)
- Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)
- Customs and Border Patrol (Detroit)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (Multiple Locations)
- Hawaii State Civil Defense (Honolulu)