



Announcing the David Griffith Hurricane Information Initiative

Sponsored by SABER, the Single Automated Business Exchange for Reporting

The David Griffith Hurricane Information Initiative improves the ability of companies to provide business disruption information and governments to use that information in their own existing software along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts in time for the coming hurricane season. The initiative introduces SABER, the Single Automated Business Exchange for Reporting, as the means to achieve this information exchange quickly, efficiently, and at no cost.

David Griffith was the manager of FEMA's National Hurricane program, a position that was the culmination of a career dedicated to improving hurricane planning and response. Dave led the first hurricane evacuation planning for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in the 1980s. Later, Dave was vice president for natural hazards at EIS International for more than a decade and was a major contributor to the very first commercial software ever created for emergency management. The David Griffith Hurricane Information Initiative carries on Dave's dedication through this effort to improve private sector business disruption information sharing.

The David Griffith Hurricane Information Initiative is sponsored by SABER, the Single Automated Business Exchange for Reporting. SABER is a non-profit organization created by the private sector to improve their ability to provide information to governments about the status of business operations in emergency response and recovery. SABER has been operational for more than a year now and has functioned during numerous exercises and real emergencies, including Hurricane Arthur and the recent Typhoon Dolphin. Founding participants of SABER include Walmart, Target, Walgreens, Sears, and Macy's.

The David Griffith Hurricane Information Initiative launches in June to coincide with the 2015 hurricane season. The initiative will focus on expanding private sector participation in providing business disruption status through SABER for those national and local companies operating in the Gulf and Atlantic coastal regions. Governments then can receive that authoritative disruption information from SABER for use in their own Business Emergency Operation Centers, situational awareness software applications and mapping Common Operational Pictures.

The initiative is a tribute to David Griffith who FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said was "a well-respected colleague and friend, who was dedicated to his role as National Hurricane Program Manager in FEMA's Response Planning Division. I have personally known David from his days with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Throughout his career, Dave worked diligently to assist the Nation in preparing for and responding to hurricanes, and I am proud to have worked alongside such a dedicated public servant."

Businesses benefit from the Initiative and participation in SABER by having a single location to provide their disruption information rather than having to provide updates to dozens or hundreds of governments which costs valuable staff time that could be spent restoring business operations. Governments benefit by getting accurate and timely business disruption information from a single source in national standard data formats.

There is no cost for either businesses to provide their status or governments at any levels to consume disruption status through SABER. Among the coastal states that can receive SABER data are Florida, a founder of SABER, South Carolina, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

To participate in SABER through the David Griffith Hurricane Information Initiative – either as a private sector provider of business disruption status or a government consuming disruption information – please register at www.SABERspace.org.

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