



Statement of Purpose

The purpose of SABER is to provide a single location for private sector organizations to deposit their operations disruption and restoration information to be shared with authorized government agencies and other approved organizations.

The benefit to the private sector is that their outage or closure information can be provided to a single sharing site rather than 50 states and many other entities requesting status information. The benefit to the public sector is that all private sector disruption and restoration information is consolidated in a single source rather than available from hundreds of organizations. The efficiency and effectiveness of this new, national approach will save time and money while avoiding gaps, overlaps, and inconsistencies in critical information.

SABER is directed by an Organizing Group that consists of representatives from Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target, Macy's, Boyd Gaming, and the BEOC Alliance from the private sector and the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the New Jersey Institute of Technology from the public sector.

SABER invites all public and private sector organizations to become members to share and receive operations disruption and restoration information during emergencies. SABER supports the information sharing goals of the several Business Emergency Operations Centers operating in states across the country, and provides information directly to federal, state, local, and tribal organizations when they are authorized members of SABER.

To achieve this innovative public-private information sharing, SABER employs the UICDS middleware, developed by the Department of Homeland Security. UICDS recently "graduated" from the DHS Directorate of Science and Technology and is now a fully operational, standards-based solution to sharing all types of information.

As used by the SABER, UICDS never reaches into private sector data; rather, private sector organizations send their disruption data – on their schedule and in their existing format – to UICDS. UICDS converts the disparate data formats used by companies into the National Information Exchange Model incident format to assure subsequent sharing to the public sector based on specific agreements. A company always controls where its data is going. Initially, a company can do as little as upload an Excel® spreadsheet to a secure website, but UICDS can make the process even easier by automatically receiving disruption data from existing software.

Commercial incident management software used by public and private sector organizations already can send and receive disruption information. WebEOC™, ETeam™, and SpotOnResponse™ and others all work seamlessly to exchange information through UICDS. Popular map viewers Google Earth®, Google Maps®, ArcGIS Online®, and ESRI Flex Viewer® already connect with UICDS to add private sector disruption information to your existing Common Operational Picture.

SABER receives technology support from the BEOC Alliance, a 501.c.3 organization, through the New Jersey Institute of Technology. For further information on how to reduce your effort and improve the distribution of your closure, outage, and restoration reports at no cost to participants, please contact James W. Morentz, Ph.D. at morentzj@jwmorentz.com.