

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security



FEMA

PREPAREDNESS

Smart Practices Spotlight

March 19, 2003

Statewide Emergency Network Links Local Jurisdictions With State Officials *Massachusetts Office of Public Safety*

Summary: *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has developed a network of local responder points-of-contact to enhance its ability to prepare for and respond to possible terrorist threats. The SATURN creates clear communication channels between local responders and state and federal officials.*

The Massachusetts Statewide Anti-terrorism Unified Response Network (SATURN) is a collaborative effort by state officials and local responders in Massachusetts to deliver a unified response to terrorist threats. Created by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, the focus of the SATURN program is simple: to increase cooperation and communication in the fight against terrorism by creating a clear communication network among all levels of government – local, state and federal.

Under the SATURN program, all towns and cities in the commonwealth provide at least one first responder from key agencies to serve on three functional teams representing the fire service, EMA and law enforcement.

By serving as a local contact and providing feedback about what's happening on the ground through the system to state officials, each member of the team becomes a key resource for local terrorism-related information, giving state officials three established points-of-contact in every local jurisdiction.

“By creating a team like SATURN, composed of men and women on the street, we can have our eyes and ears on the ground,” said one SATURN team member. “Our team members are the first line of defense against terrorism.”

The SATURN network facilitates communication from the ground up and local responders are now familiar with established channels of communication to reach state-level officials. Team leaders are currently working on the next step of the project – a secure private computer network that will allow members of the SATURN team to engage in online collaboration.

Thinking Locally:

How can you increase communication in your jurisdiction?

How can your state develop a team like SATURN to facilitate communication?

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