MULTI – SECTOR LETTER

Since 2005, access letters have assisted critical infrastructure owners and operators gain entry to disaster areas. Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic access letters were normally requested by communications and energy sector partners to repair and restore services following severe weather. However, the public safety measures used to slow the spread of COVID-19 created different barriers to access affecting sectors not normally impacted by severe weather. To better meet the needs of the entire critical infrastructure community, CISA will replace the practice of sector specific access letters with a multi-sector letter to cover the widest range of industry needs and speed the issuance of the letter.

WHAT IT IS

A request for state and local authorities to coordinate access and support for infrastructure owners, operators, and their sub-contractors to repair and restore critical infrastructure.

WHAT IT IS NOT

Authorization from the Federal Government to enter a disaster area.

DISTRIBUTION

- Incident specific letters will be forwarded to your Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) or, for members, your sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) for distribution - if not already included, contact your SRMA and/or ISAC and request to be included on distribution lists to receive the letter.

- If not associated with an SRMA and/or ISAC, on CISA.gov under “how do I” select “Request an Access Letter.” This action will take the requestor to a downloadable .PDF copy of the Access Letter.

BEST PRACTICES FOR THE BEST RESULT

- Learn state and local emergency response plans and policies and how re-entry is conducted.

- Meet with state and local leaders and CISA Region personnel to identify and coordinate your requirements – support, security, priority, etc. – before the incident.

- Ensure the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), emergency managers, and law enforcement officials know how to contact personnel assigned to coordinate your company’s response to the incident.

- When in doubt, call CISA Central 888-282-0870 for assistance.

For more information, contact us at Central@cisa.dhs.gov.