

ACCESS COORDINATION **REQUEST LETTER**

DEFEND TODAY June 2022

MULTI – SECTOR LETTER

Since 2005, access letters have assisted critical infrastruiture 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

Please visit https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/cisa-access-coordination-request-letter for a downloadable PDF copy of all published Access Letters.

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 <u>888-282-0870</u> for assistance.

For more information, or to request an access letter, contact Central@cisa.dhs.gov.

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