

## **The Role of Homeland Security Electronic Information Bulletins within Emergency Management Organizations: A Case Study**

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### Project Scope

Homeland security information bulletins from governmental, commercial, and non-governmental providers are an important source of threat information within local emergency management organizations. This study explores how the interpretation and use of homeland security information bulletins within one university's emergency management organization influenced preparedness. A one-year field study of the university's emergency management meetings, supplemented by in-depth interviews, survey data, and textual analysis, was used to determine how participants made sense of and communicated about homeland security information bulletins. Assumptions about communication obscure the influence of bureaucratic imperatives in shaping "enactments" of homeland security-related threats. The authors offer recommendations intended to increase the contribution of homeland security information bulletins to preparedness within emergency management organizations.

### Recent Progress

A version of this study recently won an award for "Top Four Paper in Organizational Communication" from the Western States Communication Association (WSCA). The authors anticipate receiving useful disciplinary feedback at the upcoming WSCA annual conference in Seattle, WA.

### Future Plans

The findings from this study serve as the basis for a START-related research project currently underway which investigates the broader relationship between homeland security information sharing and preparedness at the local level.

### Publications

Revision resubmission to the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*.