

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Chad Brooks, Fishman Public Relations, 847-945-1300, ext. 255 or [cbrooks@fishmanpr.com](mailto:cbrooks@fishmanpr.com)

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**OnSite ERT Central Tracks Emergency Responders Nationwide  
New system alerts incident commanders when first responders from multiple  
agencies jump into the action**

**Ann Arbor, MI** (August 20, 2009) – For the first time, a new nationwide database is giving incident commanders who supervise large scale emergencies-- whether it be a Fire, EMS, Police or combined event-- complete confidence in knowing who is assisting in the efforts, regardless of which department each is from.

OnSite ERT, a portable and rapidly deployable system used for tracking and monitoring emergency responders, just released OnSite ERT Central that is changing multi-agency response coordination during emergencies. OnSite ERT Central allows users to automatically track emergency responders from multiple agencies that show up to assist in the combined efforts.

“The addition of first responders and even volunteers from multiple response disciplines and departments during large scale emergencies who aren’t used to working with one another can sometimes lead to confusion and uncertainty for those in charge,” said Dennis Carmichael, founder and president of OnSite ERT. “This new feature will give incident commanders complete confidence in knowing who each and every person is on scene, along with a list of their credentials, regardless of the department or agency they are from.” Carmichael continued, “The NIMS core document says Multiagency coordination occurs across the different disciplines involved in incident management, across jurisdictional lines, or across levels of government. OnSite ERT Central truly is a Multiagency Coordination System as described by NIMS.”

OnSite ERT Central keeps up-to-date records of every emergency responder registered in the OnSite ERT network. Each time someone new is hired, their information, including photos, descriptions and credentials, is automatically saved into OnSite ERT Central. The system then downloads that information to each department’s and agency’s individual systems, giving incident commanders the freedom to have full access to the vital data they need during each emergency situations.

“Our main focus when we developed OnSite ERT Central was to create something that was functional and easy to use during chaotic emergencies,” Carmichael said. “Just like the reaction we have to OnSite ERT from fire chiefs and other local authorities, everyone instantly recognizes why OnSite ERT Central is valuable and how useful it can be.”

In addition to the numerous benefits to incident commanders, OnSite ERT Central also provides valuable snapshots of each incident that can be reviewed after the emergency is over. Over time, that information will be used to help in creating safer fire fighting practices.

“We will be building a library of these incidents that no one but the departments and agencies in our network will have,” Carmichael said. “Our goal, when we have a large enough sample size, is to work with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the United States Fire Administration to develop improved emergency response methods.”

OnSite ERT™, launched in 2005, uses a combination of lightweight ID tags, portable drop readers and incident command software that provides a clear sense of an emergency scene in real time – all from the screen of a laptop. The innovative tracking system is the brainchild of Carmichael, a technology expert, and retired firefighter John Ellis and is currently being used in more than 15 departments, from Texas to New York, with more on the horizon.

The system, which typically costs between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per fire station, provides electronic data demonstrating that rules were followed on scene, which helps limit legal risks in the event of a tragedy. Often, departments use local and national grants to help offset the costs of OnSite ERT. Carmichael said he anticipates an additional yearly charge for those interested in accessing all of the databases capabilities.

### **About OnSite ERT**

Based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, OnSite ERT offers a portable and rapidly-deployable system for tracking and locating personnel and equipment on-scene at emergency events. First installed in early 2006 in Michigan, OnSite ERT has earned a number of awards and accolades, including recognition at the Michigan Homeland Security Consortium's SELECT awards. OnSite ERT is on the DHS Authorized Equipment List and is approved for grant purchase. For more information, go to [www.OnSiteERT.com](http://www.OnSiteERT.com).

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