



Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System (SNETS) Evacuating Community Participation Overview

What is the Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System (SNETS)?

SNETS is a complete evacuee tracking system which allows your jurisdiction to match each evacuee with a unique wristband prior to evacuation. Evacuee enrollments are stored in a database at the University of Texas Center for Space Research in Austin, Texas that has been provided by the State of Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management. Evacuee wristbands are scanned either by RFID or barcode scans at key points in the evacuee's journey so that your jurisdiction can know at any time where evacuees were last "seen" and repatriation can be accomplished more easily.

How can your jurisdiction participate in SNETS?

Any evacuating or sheltering jurisdiction may participate in the SNETS system simply by expressing your desire to do so to your DPS Regional Liaison Officer (RLO).

What does your jurisdiction need in order to participant?

At a minimum, your jurisdiction will need the following components in order to participate in the SNETS program:

- Laptop with USB attachable barcode reader
- Internet access
- Access to the SNETS software site
- State of Texas RFID wristbands and pet/medical asset tags
- Bus tags for any locally provided buses (State-provided buses will come with buses already tagged)
- Standard PC- or LAN-attached printer for printing vehicle manifests
- Miscellaneous items as described below

Optional components which your jurisdiction may use are:

- USB attachable magnetic stripe readers (MSR): MSRs speed the entry of enrollment data into the SNETS system by swiping a driver license or state id. Note: The MSR required must comply with SNETS program. Please contact Radiant RFID to discuss specifications.
- Motorola handheld scanners: These devices are good for functions done at the bus door such as staging your local bus assets into SNETS or scanning evacuees onto buses so that bus manifesting can be accomplished

Homeland Security grants, if they are available to you, can be utilized to purchase any SNETS components or software access.



What resources will the State of Texas provide for you?

Software: The State of Texas typically activates SNETS once a federal disaster declaration has been given. For hurricanes, this is typically in the H-72 to H-60 hour time frame. At that time, the system is open for unlimited software license use by all jurisdictions.

Hardware: The State of Texas has SNETS components (scanners, laptops, etc.) centrally stored in the state. A request may be processed by any jurisdiction to gain access to additional equipment above and beyond what the jurisdiction is providing locally. The intent will be to process these requests on a priority basis and send or pre-deploy the State equipment to the areas where evacuation is the heaviest to supplement participating jurisdictions in their evacuation efforts.

Wristbands and Pet/Medical Asset Tags: In order to promote a common wristband among all jurisdictions, the State of Texas will provide access to wristbands for all participating jurisdictions to be used for special needs evacuation. Additionally, jurisdictions may purchase bands to have directly under their control.

Please note: It is especially important to wristband all evacuees who have medical needs, the elderly and the infirm. Nursing homes which request state or local emergency assistance for evacuation should have all evacuees wristbanded upon their departure. Likewise, hospitals also need to use the state wristband when evacuating. Attempts should be made to wristband evacuees who leave on state-provided ambulances directly from their homes -- preferably routing these evacuees through a local embarkation hub prior to departure from the jurisdiction so that they can be banded. Finally, ALL air evacuees should be enrolled and banded prior to leaving the jurisdiction.

Personnel: The Texas Military Forces has a team of SNETS-trained soldiers which can be requested to supplement local evacuation efforts. The TMF strongly urges that your community prepare to begin enrollment independently and, if your community is overwhelmed by the evacuation response, TMF will attempt to surge in more equipment and personnel to assist in your local plan for enrollment and bus loading.

Regional Training event:

The State will be providing SNETS regional training events in the April/May timeframe. **Due to limited class size, jurisdictions are requested to send train-the-trainer level users who can then share the information with other users in their home jurisdiction.** Additional training sessions can be purchased from the vendor, Radiant RFID, separately if desired.



Early Start Issues:

Evacuating communities are well aware of the need to begin medical special needs evacuation early – identifying evacuees well in advance. Because SNETS will not be activated by the State until a disaster is pending, communities are encouraged to consider purchasing software access which will allow them to work independently of the state prior to a state/federal declaration. Communities which choose to do this will be able to utilize the software access throughout the year for training, exercises and local embarking events. Communities which do not do this will still have complete access to SNETS when the State activates the system but not before. In these cases, pre-banding records should be kept on paper so that it can be entered when the system becomes generally available.

Miscellaneous items:

Other items that will be necessary to your embarkation hub:

- Tables/chairs/cots for MSN evacuees
- Stanchions or other ways to route people within the hub
- Electricity
- Internet (Wi-fi or wired depending on your laptop)
- Copies of the evacuation form for evacuees to fill it prior to enrollment (English and Spanish)
- Pens/pencils
- Zip ties for attaching pet/med tags

And Finally...

SNETS is a dynamic system which is being enhanced on an on-going basis.

Please bookmark www.radiantrfid.com and check on the **Evacuation**

Resources page which will be updated on a regular basis with documentation, updates, changes to processes, etc. This website will be an additional resource to you at the time of disaster to disseminate information as well.

More Questions???

Contact Radiant RFID at 512-351-4915 or sales@radiantrfid.com