

Webinar Questions and Answers

Emergency Authority Specifications

Webinar guests submitted several questions before and during the September 25, 2012 Emergency Authority Specifications session. The following responses are provided by the Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE).

Question: How does the webinar apply to those who are in industry?

Answer: It does not directly apply to industry per say, but it does apply indirectly if a contractor is working on a government installation or facility with classified material oversight and the authority head invokes that emergency authority. The contractor would have to comply with the authority under those circumstances.

Question: What type of functional exercises would you recommend for incorporation into a training plan and how often should this be executed?

Answer: Training plans vary depending on the activities of the agency. At a minimum, it is recommended that training plans be exercised at least annually and more frequently if needed and/or at the discretion of the agency director/commander. For agencies that have classified information, training plans should incorporate emergency evacuation of classified material based on the variety of threats specific to your location.

Question: We have a 4-drawer, single lock GSA-approved safe. If someone has material out in a closed area we cannot leave the safe open because it's not a multi-lock safe. If a fire breaks out, how can the authorized user protect the material and get out of the burning building?

Answer: DoD Manual 5200.01, Volume 3, Enclosure 2 states: "Emergency plans shall be developed to protect, remove, or destroy classified material in case of fire, natural disaster, civil disturbance, terrorist activities, or enemy action, to minimize the risk of compromise, and for the recovery of classified information, if necessary, following such events. The level of detail and the amount of testing and rehearsal of these plans shall be determined by assessing the risk of hostile action, foreign intelligence threats, natural disaster, or terrorist activity that may place the information in jeopardy."

Question: Define Army, Air Force, or Navy staff. Are these staff or field commanders?

Answer: : In reference to invoking Emergency Authority, this decision will come from the Heads of the Department of the Army, Air Force, or the Navy. The actual implementation of the emergency authority may be executed by those staff or field commanders with oversight or responsibility of the classified information.

Question: What are accountability requirements for classified information released or disclosed under emergency conditions?

Answer: DoD Manual 5200.01, Volume 3, Enclosure 2, Section 5 outlines the safeguarding requirements in the case of emergency conditions.

Question: In an emergency situation, what can be done if someone with a completed SF 312 is not available?

Answer: If the person receiving the classified information under emergency authority does not have a completed SF 312, then one should be initiated and completed at the earliest possible time. Until that time, the person should be briefed on their requirements for protecting the information and understand the sanctions involved if responsible for any unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure.