Statewide First Responder Building Mapping Information System

Building mapping provides electronic plans of a building. Each map is a blueprint describing every room located in the building, along with its dimensions. Building map information can include:

- Floor plans;
- Fire protection information;
- Evacuation plans;
- Utility information;
- Known hazards; and
- Other information important to emergency personnel responding to a disaster or emergency.

The maps are designed to give an emergency responder as much information about the physical structure of the building as possible. The maps are saved in a centralized database that can be made available to emergency response agencies equipped with portable computers.

This Act directs state association of sheriffs and police chiefs to create and operate a statewide first responder building mapping information system (mapping system). All state and local government owned buildings will be mapped by the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs or another source, contingent on funding. Once the buildings are mapped, the mapping information data will be forwarded to the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs. All participating owners of non-government buildings may voluntarily forward their mapping and emergency data to the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs. Building mapping information will be made available to all state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies, along with the state military department and fire departments. The state association of sheriffs and police chiefs will develop mapping software standards that must be met in order to participate in the mapping system.

In consultation with the state emergency management office, the state information board services, the state fire chief's association, and the state patrol, the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs will head a committee to establish statewide first responder building mapping software. The committee will develop the type of information included in the mapping system and set standards that must be utilized by all entities participating. The committee will determine the order in which buildings are mapped and develop guidelines on how the information will be transmitted to the first responders. Lastly, the committee will recommend training guidelines to the state criminal justice training commission and the state fire marshal.

No state agency or local government is required to map a building unless the entire cost of mapping the building is provided by the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs or from other sources. The state association of sheriffs and police chiefs will pursue federal funds and develop grants to create the mapping system.

Units of local government and their employees are immune from civil liability for damages arising out of the creation or use of building mapping information, unless they acted with gross negligence or bad faith. All tactical and intelligence information provided to the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs for the statewide first responder building mapping information system is exempt from public disclosure.

Submitted as:
Washington
Chapter 102, Laws of 2003
Status: Enacted into law in 2003.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

Section 1. [Short Title.] This Act may be cited as "An Act to Create a Statewide First Responder Building Mapping Information System."

Section 2. [Legislative Findings.] The [legislature] recognizes the extreme dangers present when the safety of our citizens requires first responders such as police and fire fighters to evacuate and secure a building. In an effort to prepare for responding to unintended disasters, criminal acts, and acts of terrorism, the [legislature] intends to create a statewide first responder building mapping information system that will provide all first responders with the information they need to be successful when disaster strikes. The first responder building mapping system in this Act is to be developed for a limited and specific purpose and is in no way to be construed as imposing standards or system requirements on any other mapping systems developed and used for any other local government purposes.

Section 3. [First Responder Building Mapping Information System.]

(1) When funded, the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs] shall create and operate a statewide first responder building mapping information system.

(2) All state agencies and local governments must utilize building mapping software that complies with the building mapping software standards established under section 3 of this Act for any building mapped for this purpose after the statewide first responder building mapping information system is operational. If, prior to creation of the statewide building mapping information system, a local government has utilized building mapping software standards established under section 3 of this Act, the local government may continue to use its own building mapping system unless the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs] provides funding to bring the local government's system in compliance with the standards established under section 3 of this Act.

(3) All state and local government-owned buildings that are occupied by state or local government employees must be mapped when funding is provided by the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs], or from other sources. Nothing in this Act requires any state agency or local government to map a building unless the entire cost of mapping the building is provided by the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs], or from other sources.

(4) Once the statewide first responder building mapping information system is operational, all state and local government buildings that are mapped must forward their building mapping information data to the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs]. All participating privately, federally, and tribally owned buildings may voluntarily forward their mapping and emergency information data to the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs]. The [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs] may refuse any building mapping information that does not comply with the specifications described in section 3 of this Act.

(5) Consistent with the guidelines developed under section 3 of this Act, the [state association of sheriffs and police chiefs] shall electronically make the building mapping information available to all state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies, the military department of this state, and fire departments.
Consistent with the guidelines developed under section 3 of this Act, the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall develop building mapping software standards that must be used to participate in the statewide first responder building mapping information system.

The state association of sheriffs and police chiefs shall pursue federal funds to:

(a) Create the statewide first responder building mapping information system; and

(b) Develop grants for the mapping of all state and local government buildings in the order determined under section 3 of this Act.

All tactical and intelligence information provided to the state association of sheriffs and police chiefs under this Act is exempt from public disclosure as provided in [insert citation].

Section 4. [Committee to Establish Guidelines for a Statewide First Responder Building Mapping Information System.]

(1) The state association of sheriffs and police chiefs in consultation with the state emergency management office, the state association of county officials, the state association of cities, the information services board, the state fire chiefs' association, and the state patrol shall convene a committee to establish guidelines related to the statewide first responder building mapping information system. The committee shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Develop the type of information to be included in the statewide first responder building mapping information system. The information shall include, but is not limited to floor plans, fire protection information, evacuation plans, utility information, known hazards, and text and digital images showing emergency personnel contact information;

(b) Develop building mapping software standards that must be utilized by all entities participating in the statewide first responder building mapping information system;

(c) Determine the order in which buildings shall be mapped when funding is received;

(d) Develop guidelines on how the information shall be made available. These guidelines shall include detailed procedures and security systems to ensure that the information is only made available to the government entity that either owns the building or is responding to an incident at the building;

(e) Recommend training guidelines regarding using the statewide first responder building mapping information system to the criminal justice training commission and the state patrol fire protection bureau.

(2) Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the information services board under [insert citation].

Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of state agencies and local governments to control and maintain access to information within their independent systems.

Section 5. [Immunity for Units of Local Government and Their Employees for Using the Statewide First Responder Building Mapping Information System.] Units of local government and their employees, as provided in [insert citation], are immune from civil liability for damages arising out of the creation and use of the statewide first responder building mapping information system, unless it is shown that an employee acted with gross negligence or bad faith.

Section 6. [Severability.] [Insert severability clause.]

Section 7. [Repealer.] [Insert repealer clause.]

Section 8. [Effective Date.] [Insert effective date.]