



National InfraGard EMP SIG
(Electromagnetic Pulse Special Interest Group)
Welcome Letter
February 2012

As stated in the original press release, invitation and EMP SIG guidance document, the EMP SIG will not only address issues related directly to EMP and space weather, but also other issues that could cause a prolonged nationwide collapse of critical infrastructure and/or key resources. The InfraGard EMP Listserv and secure EMP website will be the primary means of communication with the SIG membership, for now. Please read on for additional information.

Participation: You are among more than 850 initial respondents to the invitation to join the National InfraGard EMP SIG. Based on the academic and professional information many of you have provided via the original Eventbrite registration, we expect to have the active participation of InfraGard members across the country with expertise in many subject-matter areas related to EMP issues and critical infrastructure protection. We are also making progress in identifying individuals in key areas who will actively participate in the leadership of this EMP SIG, as well as provide assistance to local InfraGard chapters.

Communication: The email address that you provided when you signed up for the EMP SIG has been added to the EMP SIG Listserv. We will be using this Listserv as the primary method of communication with the SIG membership as we await the next generation InfraGard secure website and portal to come on-line. Posts to this Listserv will be made primarily by me as the EMP SIG Chair to share substantive information about EMP issues and this SIG with you. I will endeavor to place key information in the subject line of my posts so you can determine if the information may be of interest to you. If you need to change your email address on this, or any other InfraGard Listserv, please contact the InfraGard HELP desk at 1-877-861-6298 or infragardhelpdesk@infragard.org. They operate 24x7.

Since this Listserv is intended as an interim, and less than perfectly secure means of information-sharing, and because some may be hesitant to share their contact information with others in the group prior to the next-generation secure national InfraGard site becoming available, I am open to your ideas about better ways and means of online collaboration during this interim, such as:

- 1) We can use the current InfraGard EMP SIG LinkedIn site:
http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4081596&trk=myg_ugrp_ovr (as mentioned, less than fully secure)
- 2) We can create a second InfraGard EMP SIG Listserv that can be used by all the members of the SIG to communicate. (*Possibly problematic since we already have over 850 in the EMP SIG, but feasible if an opt-in option is used.*)
- 3) Ask to be matched to others in the group with a particular interest willing to be so identified. (*For example, those interested in power utilities may wish to speak with others in the power industry as might those in health care working with health care infrastructure, or those doing emergency management, etc.*) I may write to some of you who have noted special interests to see if you would like to be in touch with each other.
- 4) Use public-facing blogs or Twitter accounts on a limited basis (*I have a Twitter account "chuckmanto" ..., but, am not able to spend a lot of time there or LinkedIn unless I know that there is a need to do so.*)

Please provide me with your feedback about using any of these resources, or let me know if you have had any positive experience with any other communication tools.

Publications: A few documents have already been placed on both the public and secure National InfraGard websites. The link to the public website page containing these documents is <http://www.infragard.net/sigs/index.php?mn=4>. Additional documents can be found on the secure InfraGard site, where a page has been set up specifically for EMP SIG members. It will include links to information about events, bulletins and resources organized by threat and infrastructure. We also plan to host information you can provide on yourself and your organization so that others in the EMP SIG can discover your comment interests. The secure site will be used as the primary means for sharing SIG documents for the time being, so I encourage you to log on periodically. To access the secure site, contact the InfraGard HELP Desk, at 1-877-861-6298 or infragardhelpdesk@infragard.org. They operate 24x7.

We hope to provide post-conference reports from the EMP SIG meetings of Oct 3-6, 2011 (at National Defense University in Ft McNair, DC; the Maryland Emergency Management Agency at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, MD; and the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center) and the Dupont Summit 2011 tech policy panels at the Carnegie Institution for Science in DC on Dec 2. We will also post key documents while preparing to assemble a more robust library of materials on the anticipated next-generation National InfraGard secure site.

Several at universities have volunteered student labor to compile key resources into annotated bibliographies shareable with the EMP SIG that will include the creation of a standard methodology that all can adopt who wish to contribute entries.

We anticipate that all such collateral that we produce would be available electronically to InfraGard members at no cost but we may release some items to

the public at a price to support related activities of the national InfraGard and its EMP SIG.

Activities: We expect to host meetings that coincide with other conferences so that we may have opportunities to meet briefly in person on a quarterly basis. This is what we were able to do at the NDU and Dupont Summit meetings in DC. We will also try to announce other opportunities as they arise, especially InfraGard meetings on relevant topics. We have tentative plans to host an EMP SIG meeting in Maryland on August 8, 2012, in connection with a planned InfraGard Maryland Energy Security conference at the Johns Hopkins University APL Kossiakoff Center.

Contact Info: Please contact me if you have questions, or need any information about the EMP SIG. I will do my best to respond in a timely manner.

Chuck Manto
EMP SIG Chair
cmanto@stop-EMP.com
(410) 991-1469