DisasterAWARE®

QUICK START USER GUIDE FOR OPERATIONS CENTERS

2020
Version 6.5

Make better decisions, faster.
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**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

**Browsers**
- Google Chrome 51+
- Mozilla Firefox 47+
- Internet Explorer 11+
- Safari 9+

**Internet Speed**
Broadband internet connection with a minimum of 4Mbps, or 4G mobile data connection.

**Monitor Size**
1024 x 768 resolution (1920 x 1200 recommended)

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**REQUEST ACCESS AND LOG IN**

**REQUEST ACCESS**
Visit the URL provided and click the “Request Access” link and complete the form. You will receive confirmation within 24 business hours.

**LOG IN**
Once access is approved, visit the URL provided and login with the username and temporary password provided in the confirmation email.

**CONFIGURE & OPTIMIZE**
Ensure all *.pdc.org domains are whitelisted as approved in your firewall’s security rules. Be sure to turn on browser cookies and allow pop-ups.

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**NEED HELP?**

For help with DisasterAWARE, click the help icon on the left toolbar to access user guides, tutorials, and searchable help center.

**NEED DISASTER RESPONSE SUPPORT?**
response@pdc.org
MAP NAVIGATION BASICS

You can monitor multiple hazards in DisasterAWARE. A hazard is displayed in the system when an occurrence or incident poses substantial threat to people, property, or assets as determined by disaster management authorities.

Click the hazard icon on the left tool palette to display the hazard list and search hazards.

Note: On smaller devices you must first click the menu icon at the bottom right of screen.

You can also pan, zoom, and scroll the map to find hazards. Make sure your browser is zoomed to 100%.

Left Toolbar

Hazard List

72 Active Hazards

Search

Tropical Cyclone
Tropical Depression - Erin
Reported: 2 days ago
Updated: 6 minutes ago
35.6°N 72.3°W

Tropical Cyclone
Hurricane - Darlen
Reported: 6 days ago
Updated: 9 minutes ago
95.3°N 68.9°W

Volcanic Eruption
Volcano - Shiveluch, Russia
Reported: 4 days ago
Updated: 16 minutes ago
56.05°N 160.36°E

Tropical Cyclone
Tropical Storm - Peul
Reported: 3 days ago
Updated: 21 minutes ago
17.3°N 133.8°E

Volcanic Eruption
Volcano - Dukono, Indonesia
Reported: 7 months ago
Updated: 16 minutes ago
1.68°N 127.88°E

Volcanic Eruption
Volcano - Popocatépetl, Mexico
Beneath: 3 months ago

Zooming, panning, and scrolling.

Be sure to clear your browser zoom settings. If your browser is zoomed beyond 100%, the map view will optimize, reducing some features and functions. Press “Ctrl + 0” keys (or “Cmd + 0” on a Mac) to reset your browser zoom.

Zooming: To zoom in on the map, click the the “+” and “−” options or use the scroller on your mouse. DO NOT use “Ctrl +” or “Ctrl −” key commands as these will zoom your browser, which always needs to be set to 100%. While on a mobile device, pinch open or pinch closed to zoom in our out.

Home position: Use the home button to return to your default map and zoom position.

Undo or redo to return to previous zoom positions.

Panning tool: When selected you can press the mouse while dragging to pan the map.

Zoom selector: Click and draw a map area to zoom into.

Searching for locations on the map.

To search for a location by name or to enter coordinates for a location, click the map tool on the left toolbar.
03 PERSONALIZE YOUR WORKSPACE

TIME ZONES

Click the user icon on the left toolbar to personalize your workspace settings.

Work across multiple time zones? You can view the time of day in multiple locations by clicking the Time Zones option under the preferences tab.

Click and drag to change the clock order.

Click arrow to edit time zones displayed at top of map.

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<tr>
<td>WASH DC - United States / Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONOLULU - United States / Honolulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOKYO - Japan / Tokyo</td>
</tr>
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PRO TIP

When editing time zones, you can name the time zone after a specific asset you’re monitoring (e.g. Headquarters).

NOTE: When you click a hazard icon on the map, the time zone in which the hazard is located will then be highlighted in blue—switching from the default UTC.

LANGUAGE SETTINGS

Select from nine different language options. More languages will be added soon.
Click the user icon on the left toolbar. Then click “SmartAlert Notifications” under the preferences tab to setup alerts.

**SELECT TEXT AND/OR EMAIL ALERTS**

**SMS:** Be sure to select the “SEND A TEST MESSAGE” option to confirm successful sign up.

**EMAIL:** This can be separate from your registration email, such as a personal or group account.

**PRO TIP** Have a watch office or want to alert your entire operations center? Enter your group email account in the form.

**CHOOSE ALERT AREAS**

You may define one or more alert areas with the following tools. You will be alerted when your selected hazard types and severities threaten these areas.

- CIRCLE TOOL
- RECTANGLE TOOL
- POLYGON TOOL
- CURRENT EXTENT
- AREA SEARCH

**SELECT HAZARD RULES**

You may choose the types of hazards and severities for which you’d like to receive alerts:

- WARNING
- WATCH
- ADVISORY
- INFO
Click the user icon on the left toolbar. Then click “SmartAlert Notifications” under the preferences tab to set up alerts.

1. To add assets, select Assets from the list above.

2. Next choose the Providers tab.

3. Finally, click the Source option.

You can add the URL of map services containing your assets and provide authentication to authorize access. You must click the Edit icon and the “+” icon to add the service and authentication credentials.
You can access information about multiple hazards in DisasterAWARE. We continue to add new hazard types as reliable information becomes available.

- Avalanche
- Biomedical
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Extreme Temperature
- Flood
- High Surf
- High Wind
- Landslide
- Man-made
- Marine
- Storm
- Tornado
- Tropical Cyclone
- Tsunami
- Volcano
- Fire
- Winter Storm

SYMBOLOGY MEANING

- Event
- Exercise
- Response
- Other
- Warning
- Watch
- Advisory
- Information
ASSESS HAZARDS QUICKLY

PRODUCTS
- Specialized PDC Analytical Products
- Situation Reports
- Area Briefs
- Needs Assessments
- Advisories

INFO
Hazard info based on latest advisory issued by an authoritative agency. Click the More Information link to see a summary report of preliminary impacts.

LAYERS
Helpful hazard-specific layers can be turned on to assess hazard severity and potential impacts.

AREA BRIEF
Provides latest:
- Situational Awareness
- Regional Overview
- Risk and Vulnerability
- Health Advisories
- Historical Hazards

FIND HISTORICAL HAZARD INFORMATION
To search for archived hazards, click the settings icon in the top right corner of the hazards list. Enter the name or type of hazard and any other criteria, and choose the “EXPIRE” option. Click “Done” at the top of the panel.

NOTE: Historical hazard information is useful for realistic exercise scenarios and in After Action Reviews (AARs).
ACCESS KEY DATA

Access over 4,000 datasets via the layers panel

Click a folder to view its contents.
Check the layer you want to view on the map.
Click the zoom icon to zoom/re-center and view the data.
Click the info icon to access data source, description, transparency features, etc.

Main Folder
View data on hazards, including observations and forecasts, risk and vulnerability and partner activities.

Regional Data
Explore regional data, to include critical infrastructure, demographics, risk and vulnerability, and more.

Disaster Response Layers
Access available data on major response events, such as damage assessments, resources, operational status, etc.

The search option allows you to quickly see which layers are turned on and to search for layers by keyword (e.g. Philippines Schools).
You can unselect all layers by clicking the symbol at the bottom of the layers panel.
You can quickly assign your favorite data layers or modify the visible layers in your panel by clicking the edit icon:

Add a layer to your “favorite” folder which will appear in the favorites folder of your layers panel.

Show or hide folders or specific layers from your list.

The legend automatically changes based on your active layers.

To import your own KML files, shape files, or map service, click the layer icon on the left toolbar. Then click the Edit icon and select the “Add Layer” button.

Click the File icon to import a KML or shapefile. Shapefiles must be zipped prior to import. **Do not change the default name of the zipped file.**

With version 6.6, you will be able to save data layers you've imported, bookmark and share them.

With version 6.6, you will be able to import authenticated map services from ArcGIS.com. Click the URL icon to add map services. If you need to include authentication, click the Authorization link below the URL. You must then click the Edit icon and the “+” icon to add the service and authentication credentials.
CREATE AND SHARE MAP PRODUCTS

ADD YOUR OWN CONTENT TO THE MAP

Not a mapping expert? Not a problem. Use the drawing tool to easily add drawings, labels, and images to the map.

Manage your drawings using the Figures tab.

Double-click a drawing from the list of figures to show options such as the measurements label, the trash button, and other options.

Select the dots at the bottom of the drawing panel to export your drawings to KML format.

PRO TIP

- The drawing tool is perfect for adding assessed damage, locations of resources, planned activities, etc.
- You can create a legend for your drawings in PowerPoint, and import it with the image tool.
07 CREATE AND SHARE MAP PRODUCTS

BOOKMARK AND SHARE MAP CONTENT

1. Click the bookmark icon in the left toolbar to save and share your current map—including your drawings.

Example: Ports layer and Circle drawings quickly communicate status.

**PRO TIP**

- Bookmarks serve as an excellent, interactive alternative to briefing Powerpoint slides
- You can automatically set your workspace default view to show the map area, zoom, and layers you want to view every time you login by adding a bookmark to your “Default View” under the User panel on the left toolbar.

Choose one of three options:

- Extents and Layers
- Extents Only
- Layers Only

**Share with other DisasterAWARE users for situational awareness.**
LEVERAGE ADVANCED FEATURES

LIVE CAMERAS

Click the camera icon on the left toolbar to view live camera feeds.

1. Zoom to your location of interest on the map to see available cameras with on-the-ground footage of current conditions.

2. Select the “Active Cameras” tab to view your enabled cameras.

3. Choose a camera from below to feature it at the top.

MEDIA UPDATES

Click the media icon to view media updates on hazards from around the world.

Select the settings icon to filter by keyword, type of hazard, or media type (text, image, video)

Use the radius scan tool to filter stories by a selected radius

- Enabled for viewing in Active Cameras tab.
- Available / online
- Not available / offline