



National Special Events Data Call Background Information Department of Homeland Security

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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Special Events Program (SEP) manages the National Special Events Data Call (NSEDC). The NSEDC is an annual process that relies on the voluntary participation of the 56 states and territories to collect information on events occurring in their jurisdictions. The NSEDC covers the period from December 1 of the current year through November 30 of the following year. The primary data collection period opens in early August and remains open for six weeks before closing in mid-September. The NSEDC is conducted using the National Special Events Database, and Homeland Security Advisors (HSA) or their proxies are the ultimate authority for their state's participation in the NSEDC.

- The 2027 NSEDC will include events that occur between December 1, 2026, and November 30, 2027.
- The 2027 NSEDC will open on August 3, 2026, and close on September 11, 2026.

Using the data collected through the NSEDC, the Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) Methodology, a risk-based analysis is applied to all events submitted to the NSEDC. The five Special Events Working Group (SEWG) Co-Chairs review the event information and results of the analysis and adjudicate final SEAR levels for all special events. SEAR levels are used by the majority of the U.S. Government to inform policy decisions on support to special events. SEAR levels are shared with the state where the event is occurring (but not across state lines), to inform state support decisions, the SEWG, and other federal partners. There is no federal funding attached to SEAR, however, the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) risk methodology, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), includes a special event metric using SEAR data as part of its Soft Target Index.

There are five SEAR levels:

- SEAR 1: A significant event with national and/or international importance that may require extensive federal interagency support.
- SEAR 2: A significant event with national and/or international importance that may require some level of federal interagency support.
- SEAR 3: An event of national and/or international importance that requires only limited federal support.
- SEAR 4: An event with limited national importance that is managed at the state and local level.
- SEAR 5: An event that may be nationally recognized but generally has local or state importance.

Events may be submitted outside of the NSEDC. These events are referred to as short-notice events and include events that were unplanned at the time of the NSEDC. Short-notice events are submitted via the National Special Events Database and undergo the same analytical process and SEWG Co-Chair adjudication as those submitted during the NSEDC.

For questions regarding the NSEDC, please contact DHSSpecialEvents@hq.dhs.gov. For access to the National Special Events Database, please contact HSIN.SEWGCOI@hq.dhs.gov.