



Highlights:

[Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards](#)

[Coping with Traumatic Events: NIH Resources](#)

[Hay Fires and Spontaneous Combustion](#)

[Updates on MERS and the H3N2v Flu Strain](#)

Disclaimer of Endorsement:

The EMR-ISAC does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.



The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the **Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)**.

For information regarding the EMR-ISAC visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

The InfoGram

Volume 13 – Issue 27

July 3, 2013

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released a [2-page information sheet for first responders](#) (PDF, 371 Kb) on the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), the guideline helping DHS regulate security at [chemical facilities considered to be high-risk](#). Examples of such facilities are mining operations; chemical storage, distribution, or manufacturing facilities; or even healthcare centers.

Chemical facilities should engage emergency responders in the development of the Site Security Plans, enabling responders to know what threats, vulnerabilities, and risks they may face and prepare well before a potential incident. Likewise, emergency responder agencies may bring up issues and concerns the facility staff hadn't considered.

The [CFATS](#) program has a number of tools available:

- The Help Desk provides support for facility owners and operates an anonymous tip line for reporting security issues;
- The Knowledge Center stores articles, documents, and an FAQ section;
- Subject matter experts and security inspectors are available for calls and outreach meetings.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Coping with Traumatic Events: NIH Resources

Several deadly natural disasters, accidents, and incidents of violence occurred in United States in the past year, all shocking and saddening. Partially because of this, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has updated their [Web page on coping with traumatic events](#).

People respond to crisis, strong images, and traumatic stress differently. Depending on a person's life events or background, images on the news may bring back pain or trauma from their past. Information on anxiety disorders, depression, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is included on the NIH site, along with details for finding more resources on dealing with these issues.

Children are especially susceptible to stress and traumatic images from violence or disasters. Emergency responders may unwittingly bring home stories or personal

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

stress that can affect their children. Children may see images of hurricane destruction on TV and worry their home is next. NIH provides guides to parents, community members, and rescue workers for talking with children and adolescents about these topics.

(Source: [NIH](#))

Hay Fires and Spontaneous Combustion

Every year, improperly dried and stored hay ruins harvested crops, kills livestock, and destroys barns or storage facilities. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released the Coffee Break Training “[Spontaneous Heating of Agricultural Products](#)” (PDF, 506.3 Kb) to inform firefighters about the causes of these fires.

Freshly cut hay, straw, and other crops continue to respire, providing an optimal environment for bacteria or mold. If the hay is baled while it is too moist, bacteria and mold will continue to grow and produce heat. Once the bale reaches 185 degrees it may produce hot spots; if it reaches 212 degrees, it will likely ignite.

Several hidden hazards exist with hay fires, and firefighters in heavily agricultural areas should be prepared for them:

- Pesticides on the hay may present toxic smoke;
- Gasoline or other flammable chemicals may be stored nearby and explode;
- Unseen burned-out cavities may exist within hay bales, causing instability of each bale and of the stack itself.

According to the National Ag Safety Database, stored hay should have a [moisture level of 25% or less](#), depending on the size of the bale. They also recommend any firefighter checking the temperature of stored hay should be in full turnout gear, SCBA, and be using a lifeline. Oklahoma State University has a 5-minute [video about hay fires](#) that discusses conditions leading to hay fires in more detail.

(Source: [USFA](#))

Updates on MERS and the H3N2v Flu Strain

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring the progression of the Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), the SARS-like disease first seen in 2012. The CDC updates their [MERS Web site](#) regularly with new information; the latest is a [guide for travelers](#) visiting Saudi Arabia.

No cases of MERS have been seen in the United States so far, but as more than [11,000 Americans visit Mecca each year](#) and are expected between July and October, medical workers should review the [CDC's MERS guidance](#) for health care workers and laboratory staff in the event some travelers return home infected.

Last year, 309 people tested positive for [swine flu strain H3N2v](#) in the United States. The first cases for this year were reported in Indiana last week. Most of the cases last year and all the cases so far this year were related to visits to fairs with swine exhibits. The CDC recommends people with a high risk of contracting the flu stay away from such exhibits at fairs.

(Source: [CDC](#))

Fair Use Notice:

This InfoGram may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

The EMR-ISAC believes this constitutes “fair use” of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond “fair use,” you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local [FBI office](#) and also the [State or Major Urban Area Fusion Center](#).

For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the **National Infrastructure Coordinating Center** by phone at **202-282-9201**, or by email at nicc@dhs.gov.