



Highlights:

[U.S. Fire Administration's Facebook Page Live](#)

[Dangers of Responding to Chemical Suicides](#)

[Real Time Evacuation Planning Model \(RtePM\)](#)

[Class Vacancies and a New Online NFA Course](#)

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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.

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U.S. Fire Administration's Facebook Page Live

The [official U.S. Fire Administration \(USFA\) Facebook page](#) went live July 15, bringing information on USFA's fire research, safety information, and training to people across the country and around the world.

USFA uses the Facebook page to post fire safety information for the public, announce publications and research, repost information from other safety and emergency management groups, and release information on National Fire Academy courses and training.

The site will also be used to post information on recent events at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), such as the Pennsylvania State Weekend program this past weekend, the classes they took, and the memorial service conducted to honor Pennsylvania's fallen firefighters.

Everyone is encouraged to "like" the USFA's new Facebook page in order to keep up to date on fire-related topics applicable to their job or interests.

(Source: [USFA](#))

Dangers of Responding to Chemical Suicides

An increasingly used method of suicide in the United States involves people mixing chemicals to produce poisonous hydrogen sulfide gas in concentrations high enough to be lethal. These incidents [originated in Japan](#) and most often occur in enclosed areas like cars, making a very dangerous hazard for untrained emergency responders investigating the scene.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released a [1-page training](#) (PDF, 502 Kb) this week listing the signs of such incidents. Be alert for a strong sulfur smell and look for duct tape on internal air vents or yellow/green residue on seats or windows before opening a vehicle. Some victims will place signs on the windows alerting responders to the poison inside the enclosed vehicle.

A FireRescue1.com feature details the [effects of hydrogen sulfide and hydrogen cyanide](#), both very toxic if inhaled. The article discusses decontamination and handling procedures at length as well as symptoms to look for in responders after a possible exposure.

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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.

The [Colorado State Fire Chief's Association](#) has a long list of resources on chemical suicides and includes a [pre-recorded training module](#) produced by the Sarasota (FL) County Fire Department Special Operations division and several other trainings and informationals.

(Source: [CDC](#))

Real Time Evacuation Planning Model (RtePM)

Evacuation planning is time consuming and financially taxing for many jurisdictions. Multiple plans must be considered in the event a bridge is covered by floodwaters or a road is overrun by a wildfire. Being able to do these types of plans accurately and quickly is crucial.

The Real Time Evacuation Planning Model (RtePM, or "[Route-PM](#)") is a free application enabling emergency managers and planners to determine evacuation times and routes based on multiple scenarios. Using the GIS mapping data to highlight geographical areas, users can view:

- Population both day and night;
- Major and minor arteries, highways, and smaller roads;
- The speed limits of those roads versus the actual average speed;
- The likely evacuation times based on changes to the above criteria.

According to a [presentation at the 2010 Esri Homeland Security GIS Summit](#) (PDF, 1.26 Mb), the program has the ability to model phased evacuation and takes into account the many dynamics surrounding highways, number of lanes, nodes where people enter and exit the network, and behavioral trends.

(Source: [RtePM](#))

Class Vacancies and a New Online NFA Course

The National Fire Academy is recruiting students to help pilot-test two new courses:

- [Code Administration Fundamentals](#) is an online instructor-mediated course with a discussion board and self-study. Examining the underlying principles involved in the building and fire code administrative provisions, students can analyze the legal authorities, responsibilities, and permissions needed to enforce the codes in their jurisdictions.
- The [New Fire Chief II: Administrative Issues](#) 2-day course will be pilot tested on September 14 -15. The course goal is to provide students the managerial, administrative, and leadership skills and awareness necessary for recently appointed or elected Chiefs to meet their new obligations.

The [Hot Topics Research for EMS](#) course has immediate openings for the August 11-16 offering. Students will bring a topic important to their agency/community to base the research on and will construct a program proposal, begin the research process, and present a project status briefing.

Students interested in any of these courses must complete [the General Admission Application](#) (FEMA Form 119-25-1) available on the NFA website.

(Source: [USFA](#))