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# The InfoGram

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## Emergency Communications Tower Security

Vandals in California cut supporting wires to a communications tower, [causing the tower to collapse](#). In addition to 9-1-1 and other emergency transmissions, loss of the tower disrupted radio, TV, cellular, ham radio, microwave links, and 2-way radio service to an area of nearly 4 million people. The [area is remote](#); authorities say the perpetrator(s) “went through a lot of effort to topple the tower.”

CAL FIRE also reported [vandalism to one of its fire lookout towers](#) in Nevada County, which has large areas of savanna, grasslands, and forest. Someone cut the fence and did extensive damage to the structure, including destroying electrical wiring and other supplies used to support the work of lookout volunteers. The tower will be out of commission for some time.

[Securing remote locations](#) like these is difficult. Video surveillance can only do so much if emergency responders are 20 minutes or more away. Deterrence and frequent but irregularly-scheduled on-site checks will lessen the chances of remote sites becoming a target.

[Proper housing of vital equipment](#) will minimize damage due to weather while also providing extra protection from vandals. Lessons learned from remote areas known for their hunting seasons show how agencies protect equipment against stray bullets using some unusual ideas such as metal shipping containers and (unused) concrete septic tanks set above ground.

(Source: [Urgent Communications](#))

## National Preparedness Month Roundup

September is National Preparedness Month. Here is a list of resources for first responders, families, and businesses to help prepare themselves for disasters:

The [American Red Cross](#) has a variety of apps for disaster preparedness, shelter location, and first aid. They also have detailed information on how to prepare for and deal with [different types of disasters](#).

[Ready.gov](#), available in 14 languages, has sections on different types of disasters (e.g., wildfires, blackouts, hurricanes) and how to stay prepared for each. There is also a large section specifically for kids and advice for parents on how to help kids deal with disasters. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) has similar resources but adds information on keeping a [healthy state of mind](#).

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

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [National Preparedness Community](#) hosts a free online community listing events, training, and discussion boards for anyone to get involved. In addition, they have posted the new [National Preparedness Month 2013 Toolkit](#).

[Disability.gov](#) and the [Small Business Administration](#) both offer disaster assistance and planning help for their particular communities.

(Various Sources)

## Public Attitude and Beliefs on Terrorism

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism ([START](#)) released the results of their [study of the public's attitudes on the likelihood of another terrorist event in the U.S.](#) (PDF, 691.7 Kb). This is the first part of a two-part study; the second part was to be done sometime in 2013. Note the first part of this study was done approximately 6 months before the Boston Marathon Bombings.

Only 5 percent of the 1,576 people asked said they thought the possibility of a terrorist event in the United States in the next year was extremely or very likely. For comparison, 1.5 percent said the same about being the victim of a crime, 3.5 percent about being hospitalized, and 3 percent about job loss.

Respondents were also asked if they knew about the “See Something, Say Something” campaign, with 56 percent saying they knew nothing about it. In relation, they also ask how likely the respondent would be to file a suspicious activity report (SAR) to the authorities if witnessing behavior such as overhearing someone talk about planting explosives or supporting terrorist activities in different ways.

The study sets a baseline against which future studies can be compared to determine changes in public opinion and the efficacy of SAR campaigns.

(Source: [START](#))

## CDP Twitter Site Highlights Student Training

The new [Twitter site](#) for the [Center for Domestic Preparedness](#) (CDP) offers another venue where first responders can learn about fully funded training, get up-to-date news on training and read students' tweets about their CDP training experiences. The CDP's Twitter site includes announcements and information about upcoming [courses](#) and class availability; links to photos and videos of CDP hands-on training; and a forum for potential students to ask questions.

“A lot of our students tell us they first heard about the CDP by word of mouth. Now that we're on Twitter, we're taking that word-of-mouth communication to the next level,” said the CDP acting superintendent. We offer training that most departments cannot offer at home. And, just like our courses, our tweets will be a great collaborative effort that I hope will result in a lot of cross talk and networking within the emergency responder communities.”

A popular aspect of the CDP's courses is the hands-on training for a multi-disciplined audience. The CDP is the only civilian facility that trains with toxic chemical and live biological agents. The center also has the only hospital facility in the United States for training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

(Source: [CDP](#))

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