EMR-ISAC
Emergency Management & Response-Information Sharing & Analysis Center

The InfoGram

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Highlights:

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.**

ODNI Releases Worldwide Threat Assessment

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence published the Worldwide Threat Assessment of the United States Intelligence Community (PDF, 376 Kb) in late February. The report outlines global and regional threats.

Terrorism ranks high again this year. In his opening remarks before Congress (PDF, 2.78 Mb), the Director of National Intelligence said that "when the final accounting is done, 2014 will have been the most lethal year for global terrorism in the 45 years such data has been compiled."

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) remains a serious concern, especially to first responders in this country. ISIL has consistently called for lone wolf-style attacks against the United States and other Western countries, and in 2014 we saw several happen successfully in other parts of the world.

Human security is another topic of interest to first responders, as it covers emerging infectious diseases as a worldwide threat. Citing Ebola as an example, the report details concerns about diseases that can outpace the international community's response.

The report also covers weapons of mass destruction and proliferation, transnational organized crime, economics and natural resources, cyber security, and also gives an overview of regional threats around the world.

(Source: DNI)

Securing Your Online Presence

This week, the names, pictures, and addresses of 100 American service members were released by an Islamic State group as a so-called "hit list." The group instructed sympathizers to target the troops "in their own land." The group boasts they hacked into military servers to get the information, but officials say the names, ranks, and photos were found in newspapers and social media.

This action shows how easy it is to compile personal information from open source media. The military reminded service members and families again to be careful with their online presence. "Lone wolf" attacks like those seen in Canada last fall are a real concern, and there is a possibility of targeting based on information obtained online.

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

As stated before, first responders should also think about their online presence and lone wolf attacks. Many guides are available, including this Smart Card sheet (PDF, 2.2 Mb) which lists do's and don'ts for Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

The U.S. Army Computer Crime's Investigative Unit published a series of guides including "Social Networking Safety Tips" (PDF, 297.4 Kb), "Home Computer Security" (PDF, 215.8 Kb), "OPSEC on the Cyber Home Front" (PDF, 1.1 Mb), "Configuring LinkedIn for a More Secure Professional Networking Experience" (PDF, 2 Mb), and similar guides for Facebook (PDF, 1.67 Mb) and Twitter (PDF, 781.7 Kb).

(Source: Military Times)

Electronic Cigarettes and Explosions: USFA Report

From 2009 to 2014, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) reported 25 incidents of explosion and fire involving electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and while that isn't really a very large number, the growing popularity of e-cigarettes coupled with the dramatic explosions seen make this an issue fire personnel and investigators should be aware of.

E-cigarettes contain a heating element powered by a battery. Many have a USB port for ease in recharging. USFA reports that 80 percent of the reported explosions and fires happened during battery recharging. The events happened suddenly and in many cases the battery and/or other components were ejected from the device under pressure and "flew across the room" as a projectile.

One suggested possibility for this is improper charging. There are different types of USB ports with different voltage and current; using a different USB port than recommended by the manufacturer may be unsafe. The USFA report (PDF, 899 Kb) contains many more details found during this research.

(Source: USFA)

FEMA Releases State Mitigation Plan Review Guide

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the new State Mitigation Plan Review Guide. The updated guide clarifies federal regulations, policy, guidance for state hazard mitigation plans, and ensures FEMA and the states have a consistent plan review process. The guide will go into effect on March 6, 2016 and will apply to all state mitigation plans submitted to FEMA for review and approval.

Some of the updates to the guide include:

- States must include sectors like economic development, land use, housing, infrastructure in the planning process;
- A consultation program will be available to the states;
- States must perform risk assessments based on changing climatic conditions, population growth, and community development;
- Submission and review procedures have been updated.

This coming year works as a transitional period, giving FEMA and the states time to manage the changes before they take effect next March.

(Source: FEMA)

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**.