



## Highlights:

Shifting the Emergency Services Safety Culture

NIOSH Talks Violence in Healthcare

NIFC Releases 2015 Video Series for PIOs

“EMS Focus” Webinar: Ground Ambulance Crashes

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

# The InfoGram

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## Shifting the Emergency Services Safety Culture

Organizational culture is repeatedly held up as a “major contributor to the fatal trend in firefighter health and safety” in this country. Reducing firefighter injuries and fatalities can be done with changes to leadership, accountability, and personal responsibility which do not diminish the positive traits of the fire service and ultimately support the main goals of life safety and protecting property.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) this week released a new report “[National Safety Culture Change Initiative](#)” (PDF, 896 Kb) looking at the cultural aspects contributing to occupational illnesses, injuries, and fatalities of the fire and emergency services. This report specifically supports several of the “16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives” developed by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The report looks at organizational and individual behaviors that positively or negatively affect health and safety and focuses on ways to change unsafe practices. Many safety programs focus on technology while less stress is put on cultural changes. Understanding what drives unsafe behaviors is key to figuring out how to make people receptive to change.

One of the areas identified as needing work is individual responsibility. This includes not only performing the duties and tasks assigned to you effectively, but also ensuring you are healthy enough to do the job, and that you are doing it safely for your sake and the sake of those relying on you.

(Source: [USFA](#))

## NIOSH Talks Violence in Healthcare

The [National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#) recently [addressed violence in healthcare settings](#) on their blog. Though workplace violence is trending downward overall, it is still a major concern in every field and industry, and more training and information is now available to address it.

Fifteen healthcare workers were the victims of workplace homicide in each of the past 10 years. This past year has brought renewed interest in this issue: a [doctor was shot and killed](#) in January, while a patient was shot by a doctor after the [patient shot and killed his caseworker](#) in July 2014.

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

NIOSH states “workplace violence may occur in many forms including: an active shooter, a disruptive patient, or as ongoing incivility from a colleague. The most commonly reported...is from the disruptive patient or patient’s family member.” An estimate 9,200 workplace violence incidents in 2013 caused healthcare employees to take time away from work to recover.

Several resources are made available at the bottom of the blog post, including workplace violence prevention training for nurses and active shooter planning for health-care facilities. Though the focus of this information is healthcare facilities, EMS workers are just as vulnerable if not more so to workplace violence and will find several take-away lessons from this information.

(Source: [NIOSH](#))

## NIFC Releases 2015 Video Series for PIOs

The 2015 wildfire season has already begun in parts of the country. The 2014 fire season was fairly quiet even with the increasing drought in the west. In 2015, the drought is expected to spread, especially since the snow pack was well below normal this winter.

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) released a [series of short videos for Public Information Officers](#) (PIOs) focusing on the 2015 fire season. Videos are intended as a refresher for PIOs on typical wildfire-related communication as well as support in dealing with situations you may not have addressed before.

The video series includes a Leadership Message for PIOs, Crisis Communication, Back to Basics (basic PIO refresher), Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), the 2015 Fire Season Outlook, and an overview of the NIFC’s 2015 Fire Season Themes.

NIFC’s [PIO Bulletin Board](#) provides resources and documents to help make the PIO job a little easier. The Bulletin Board contains PIO training, policy support, social media tips, how-to’s, helpful strategic messaging tips, and more.

(Source: [NIFC](#))

## “EMS Focus” Webinar: Ground Ambulance Crashes

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) will host the webinar “[Analyze, Investigate, Document – NHTSA Addresses Ground Ambulance Crashes](#).” The NHTSA will be discussing ambulance crash data and how it can be used to increase the safety of providers, patients in transit, and other drivers on the road.

The data collected by NHTSA shows between 1992 and 2011, there were an estimated 4,500 motor vehicle crashes involving an ambulance each year. Of these, less than 1 percent resulted in a fatality, while 34 percent of the crashes involved an injury and 65 percent resulted in property damage only. The fatality and injury numbers involve all vehicles or pedestrians involved in the crash, not just occupants of the ambulance.

The webinar is free, but interested parties must register. The NHTSA EMS Focus webinars are recorded; previous webinars can be viewed on the [series’ website](#).

(Source: [NHTSA](#))

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