



## Highlights:

Designer Drug Flakka and “Excited Delirium”

Increasing Cybersecurity Threats Against PSAPs

H5N2 Avian Influenza Spreading Across Country

LLIS Moving to Homeland Security Digital Library

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# The InfoGram

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## Designer Drug Flakka and “Excited Delirium”

A new synthetic drug called “flakka” is making its rounds. The drug sells for around \$5 for a vial and it is popular to smoke it in an electronic cigarette, making it very accessible. Like the “bath salts” problems a few years ago, it is difficult to test for because manufacturers often change the formula.

Mainly seen in Florida over the past few months, other states are now reporting cases as well, so law enforcement officers and EMS personnel should know the common signs:

- Excited delirium: agitation, incoherence, violent behavior, increased strength;
- Users often believe someone or something is chasing them and will go to extreme measures to escape;
- Body temperature will go up to 105 degrees, and users will often take off their clothes;
- High body temperature makes medical attention mandatory, otherwise patient may die.

Excited delirium has many causes and is one of the primary reasons of in-custody deaths. Often, the subject literally exhausts himself to death. Learning to recognize the signs and manage people displaying symptoms is vital for police and EMS personnel to ensure the safety of the patient, the public, and themselves.

(Source: [FBI](#))

## Increasing Cybersecurity Threats Against PSAPs

For 9-1-1 call centers and public safety answering points (PSAPs), the move toward next generation (NG 9-1-1) Internet Protocol-based (IP) communications systems means an increase in their vulnerability to cyber attack.

Over one third of hacking attempts worldwide are against the United States, and one quarter of attempts target government agencies over individuals or companies. News reports of successful government website hacks appeared frequently over the past year, with several hacktivist groups openly targeting cities and local government for political reasons.

While PSAPs don't hold valued information like credit card numbers or social security numbers, they do often house names and addresses and sometimes medical records.

This information can be combined and can be used to help a hacker get the more damaging information.

PSAPs have already been targeted by distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, which slow down and can potentially shut down a network, and [telephony denial of service](#) (TDoS) attacks, which target call systems. Both [APCO International](#) and [PoliceOne.com](#) discuss both DDoS and TDoS and list a variety of mitigating steps.

(Source: [NENA](#))

## H5N2 Avian Influenza Spreading Across Country

In December 2014, the latest round of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) was first detected in North America. It has since slowly spread through the Midwest and as far south and east as Kentucky, mostly due wild bird migration. It is expected to continue to spread, especially as wild birds again migrate in the fall. The economic impact is severe as entire flocks must be culled.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says [no human infections have been reported](#) with this strain. However, similar viruses have infected people in the past and it is possible it may occur. The CDC currently considers the risk to humans low.

In addition to the CDC, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) also has information on H5N2 available. [Some farm workers are being offered antiviral medications](#) even though there is currently no indication of human infection. Seeing this is currently in the news, public health officials should be prepared if they receive phone calls from concerned people.

First responders should also be aware that there is a possibility of spreading H5N2 during the course of their work. If responding to a farm or feed mill be aware that all clothes, equipment, and apparatus should be disinfected. Take precautions not to go from farm to farm without disinfecting first. Contact your state's agricultural office to find out what else you can do to help minimize spread.

(Source: [CDC](#))

## LLIS Moves to Homeland Security Digital Library

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS), managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is in the process of moving the majority of its 25,000 holdings to the [Homeland Security Digital Library](#) (HSDL), sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School. Due to the large amount of data requiring action, [the move is expected to be ongoing through 2015](#).

Items being moved to HSDL include after-action reports, templates, guides, lessons learned, and innovative practices. The remaining information, such as trend analysis and documents relevant to emergency managers, will remain within the FEMA.gov domain.

The HSDL collects all-hazards- and homeland security-related documents published by government agencies, nonprofit organizations, private sector companies, colleges and universities, and foreign entities. There is a public collection of well over 100,000 items and a [restricted collection](#).

(Source: [HSDL](#))

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