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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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Tactical EMS Training

Tactical EMS has only really been getting serious attention in the past decade or so as an enhancement to law enforcement special operations teams, due in part to the success such teams have in the military on the battlefield. The [Counter Narcotics and Terrorism Operational Medical Support \(CONTOMS\)](#) program saw this benefit long ago and has been offering tactical medical training since 1990.

CONTOMS's goal is to offer standardized curriculum, a certification process, and quality control and improvement to medical professionals who are part of a tactical team. They also track data to ensure any changes are evidence-based. Courses include:

- EMT-Tactical (EMT-T), the 1-week cornerstone course of the program;
- Medical Director, an 8-hour course on medical control of tactical EMS teams;
- EMT-T Advanced, 3-day immersion course with realistic scenarios and exercises.

The United States Park Police runs the CONTOMS program. See the course descriptions for prerequisites, costs, and course requirements. In addition, the program's faculty consults with federal, state, and local agencies on problem solving, needs assessments, and to help meet immediate requirements.

(Source: [U.S. Park Police CONTOMS](#))

Protecting Medical Workers from Disease

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) [Respiratory Protection Standard](#) requires health care employers to develop and maintain a respiratory protection program for workers who may come in contact with respiratory hazards. Hazards can include aerosol transmissible diseases (ATDs), environmental hazards such as anthrax or fungi, chemicals, and some drugs. It does not only apply to medical staff.

OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) jointly released the "[Hospital Respiratory Protection Toolkit](#)," (PDF, 3.8 Mb), to help support healthcare employers in this requirement. This resource guides employers and workers in such things as performing hazard evaluations; developing policies and procedures; selection, cleaning, and inspection of respirators; and program evaluation.

In addition, the report “[Implementing Hospital Respiratory Protection Programs: Strategies from the Field](#)” supports the toolkit by providing case studies of programs around the country to assist medical facilities in implementing respiratory protection programs. It discusses administrative actions, quality improvement, training challenges, and educating employees, while giving examples of successful programs and lessons learned.

(Source: [OSHA](#))

NVFC Online Courses Free for a Limited Time

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is now [offering 16 health and safety courses free for a limited time](#) as a result of receiving a [Fire Prevention and Safety grant](#). The courses are available through the NVFC Virtual Classroom, an online training center that hosts a variety of self-paced, on-demand courses.

The grant is specifically for health and safety courses, including:

- Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations
- Incident Safety Officer (ISO) Series
- Injury Prevention for the Fireground
- Cancer in the Fire Service: A Growing Epidemic
- Flawed Situational Awareness: The Stealth Killer of First Responders

The NVFC Virtual Classroom has courses on a variety of topics available for a fee. Take advantage of the health and safety courses while they are no-charge.

(Source: [NVFC Virtual Classroom](#))

Webinar: Preparing Vulnerable Populations

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will host a webinar focused on engaging the public on nationwide disaster preparedness and resilience efforts for vulnerable populations. These include groups who have increased risk factors due to language, cultural isolation, immigration status, and national identity.

In addition to those listed above, [emergency managers and planners need to be prepared to properly assist all vulnerable populations](#) to include the elderly, children, the homeless, and those who have disabilities or rely on medical devices. Work in this area has come a long way, very much thanks to cities who share their lessons learned and best practices.

Representatives from Ready New York, New Orleans Medical Reserve Corps, and Newport News CERT will talk in this webinar about helping prepare immigrant populations and those with language barriers. These three cities work with a wide variety of nationalities and languages, and will offer an overview of their lessons learned.

Details for attending “Community Discussion: Preparing Vulnerable Populations”:

- Monday, November 23, 2015 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Please pre-register for this webinar [here](#).
- Join the webinar: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/prepvpop1/event/registration.html>
- The webinar will be closed captioned.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

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