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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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Crash Statistics by State – Where Do You Fit?

Cities have more people crammed into each square mile than rural areas and when we think of city traffic, it isn't good. However, [a disproportionate number of motor vehicle crashes happen in rural areas](#) statistically and 54 percent of traffic fatalities are on rural roads, too.

This is a problem for the mostly volunteer EMS and fire departments that respond in rural communities, who typically have fewer resources to cover training and equipment. [Responder Safety Learning Network](#) can help fill this void with free training focusing on roadway incidents. Courses cover blocking procedures, long-term events, special hazards, traffic incident management on rural roads, and more.

The public is not the only group having accidents. Vehicle collisions while responding to or returning from a call are the second leading cause of firefighter fatalities. The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) offers extensive information for departments looking to prevent its members from being included in this statistic.

(Source: [USFA](#))

Flooding Resources for Emergency Responders

Multiple major floods this year again remind us of the wide variety of emergencies first responders and public health must prepare for. A slow moving disaster like a flood brings with it different threats to the public. Below is a list of resources from the Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and others to help public health and first responders prepare and respond.

Public Health:

- TRACIE Topic Collection – [Flooding-Lessons Learned](#);
- TRACIE Topic Collection – [Flooding-Plans, Tools, and Templates](#);
- TRACIE – [Resource Library – Flooding](#);
- Illinois Department of Public Health – [After the Flood](#) (PDF, 39 Kb);
- CDC – [Flood Resources](#).

Fire and EMS:

- Fire Engineering – [Flood Response: Maximizing Safety & Customer Service](#);
- NIOSH – [Storm, Flood, and Hurricane Response for Fire Service Operations](#);

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

- NIOSH – [Emergency Response for Storm, Flood, and Hurricane Response](#);
- U.S. Fire Administration – [Preparedness & response to non-fire emergencies](#).

(Source: Various)

Public Mental Health Concerns: People in Crisis

Emergency responders interact with people who have mental health concerns regularly. Sometimes those interactions don't go as well as they could. Ensuring you and others in your department have good training is the first step to managing these calls appropriately and to serving people with mental illness safely and with respect.

There are several new resources on this topic available for law enforcement agencies. The Bureau of Justice Affairs gathered best practices and resources together in the [Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit](#), which serves as a comprehensive, go-to source of information. This toolkit focuses on forming collaboration teams between law enforcement and mental health agencies to ensure people with mental health issues receive proper care.

The Bureau of Justice Affairs Smart Police Initiative is presenting a webinar focusing on the role of policing in helping to address community mental health concerns. It will also talk about successful collaboration programs across the country, and three large departments will talk about their response models and how they manage high utilizers of services. This webinar will be Wednesday, November 2nd from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern; [please register if interested](#).

As shown in last year's [study of EMS calls](#), psychiatric calls account for about one-third of patients admitted to the emergency room. EMS providers transport many of these patients despite receiving minimal training on handling behavioral health emergencies. The [Firefighters Support Foundation](#) (FSF) video "[Interacting With the Mentally Ill at Emergency Scenes](#)" discusses identifying people who may be mentally ill and outlines a 5-step process for communicating and interacting with them effectively.

Disasters can often be a cause or trigger of mental health concerns. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has numerous available resources for communities who are interested in ensuring this at-risk group is fully incorporated into any emergency plan. The [Disaster Behavioral Health catalog](#) (PDF, 2.3 Mb) lists out the free resources available for order.

(Source: [PMHC](#))

Federal 9-1-1 Data Call

The Department of Homeland Security's [Emergency Communications Preparedness Center](#) (ECPC) is conducting a [Federal 9-1-1 data call](#) (PDF, 120 Kb) to develop a comprehensive understanding of the availability, nature of assets, and capabilities of public safety answering point (PSAP) and public safety communications center (PSCC) facilities operated by Federal agencies.

Current 9-1-1 technologies are becoming obsolete. This data collection survey will help the ECPC be able to develop an accurate picture of federal PSAP needs.

Please take a few moments to complete and submit the "[Federal 911 Data Call Questionnaire - Phase 1](#)" (PDF, 145 Kb). If you could, please forward this information to other appropriate individuals that could assist with this effort.

(Source: [ECPC](#))

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