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

The InfoGram

Volume 16 – Issue 46 *November 17, 2016*

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.**

New National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued a new National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin to replace the one that expired Tuesday. This updated bulletin reflects the continued concern of homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice.

The bulletin's issuance does not mean there is a specific or credible threat against the United States. International attacks coupled with some in the United States warrant increased security as well as increased public vigilance and awareness. When addressing these types of threats, public vigilance and awareness has and continues to play an integral role. This was seen in the recent New York City and New Jersey incidents.

DHS urges Americans to remain vigilant and aware of surroundings, particularly during the holidays. Report suspicious activity to law enforcement or call 9-1-1. First responders especially are in a position to report suspicious behaviors and should be familiar with recognizing suspicious activity and how to report it. Free online training is available through the National SAR Initiative.

(Source: NTAS)

Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals

A high percentage of firefighter line of duty deaths are caused by preventable medical conditions, such as heart attack, diabetes, and some cancers. This is a strong indicator that lifestyle changes, occupational safety and health programs, and regularly-scheduled physicals are crucial for life safety in the fire service.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs' (IAFC) Safety, Health, & Survival Section has as its strategic focus the goal of annual medical exams for every firefighter in the United States. To support this goal, they have produced the "Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals" to educate health care providers on the extreme conditions firefighters face in their daily job duties.

The guide provides information for providers on the unique health issues of firefighters and recommends a variety of yearly screenings and tests. Most importantly, it reminds medical providers of the diverse hazards firefighters encounter on the job that can affect nearly every system in the human body.

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

IAFC hopes all firefighters schedule a yearly physical and give a copy of this free guide to their medical provider so they become familiar with the health threats their patient faces. Fire departments who manage their members' physicals should also ensure their providers have a copy.

(Source: IAFC)

Internet of Things Used in Denial of Service Attack

The massive distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack the end of October was launched using malware that seeks internet of things devices and uses them as its own personal army to attack targeted websites. This particular attack went after popular websites like Twitter, Amazon, and Netflix. Another incident in January gave people access to video feeds that were not secure, to include banks, people's living rooms, marijuana plantations, and baby cams.

Internet of Things (IoT) devices are objects that automatically connect to the internet to send or receive data. These devices include printers, televisions, cameras, fitness bracelets, some smart car features, and even refrigerators or coffee makers. Some medical devices also fall into this category. IoT devices create access points hackers can use in DDoS attacks, as happened in October, or to infiltrate an organization's network.

Because of the variety of different devices, it is difficult to manage their security and guard against infiltration or DDoS attacks. Some companies, like Symantec and Dell, offer this service and consultations for a fee. There are a few things you can do to secure your devices:

- Research available options before purchasing new devices;
- Be just as selective when choosing and purchasing new software;
- Put IoT firewalls and gateways into effect;
- Update security software regularly to ensure patches are in place.

Dell offers some technical advice and guidance for IoT security, as does the Federal Trade Commission (PDF, 656 Kb), but depending on your particular circumstances and the resources in your jurisdiction or company, you may need to call in some experts.

(Source: Internet of Things Institute)

2018 Building Code Changes

Final voting is taking place on the International Existing Building Code and International Residential Code proposed changes. The International Code Council (ICC) says voting will close on November 22nd. This is the final opportunity to participate in the development process of the 2018 building codes (PDF, 73 Kb).

Building codes impact the fire service and residential life safety (PDF, 79 Kb) and development of those codes is often dictated by industry partners such as engineers or materials manufacturers. Those fire service members who are eligible to vote are strongly encouraged to do so.

All Governmental Member Voting Representatives and Honorary Members should log in and review the public hearing testimony before voting on proposed changes.

(Source: ICC)

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**.