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# The InfoGram

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## Preparing for Attacks on Transportation

Recent train attacks in [France](#) and [Germany](#), older attacks in [London](#) and [Madrid](#), and [repeated warnings](#) over the years from intelligence outlets show mass transit systems remain an attractive target for terrorist attacks. The large numbers of people bustling through every day offer the potential for a high casualty count as well as cover for terrorist operatives. Attacks against transportation can lead to loss of life and serious disruption of an important sector in our critical infrastructure.

First responders should be working with owners and operators of trains, subways, and buses within their jurisdiction to ensure they and their workers are well-trained on suspicious activity reporting. The Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) offers the [First Observer Plus Program](#) (PDF, 322 Kb) to help this process along. The program promotes surface transportation security through training and education on potential terrorist activity.

Short but robust training available through the [First Observer Plus website](#) is for those working with buses, trucking, school buses, truck rental, parking, and highway, and includes a certificate upon completion. In addition, TSA produced flyers targeting suspicious behavior reporting to the subsectors of [freight rail](#) (PDF, 1.8 Mb), [over the road bus](#) (PDF, 814 Kb), [mass transit](#) (PDF, 1.14 Mb), and [pipelines](#) (PDF, 955 Kb).

As the Transportation Sector affects almost all Americans every day, it would not be a bad idea for first responders to also take at least one of the video trainings as a review of suspicious activity related to transportation. First responders spend a lot of time on our roads; more trained eyes can and will pay off.

(Source: [First Observer Plus](#))

## Terrorist Attacks Against Public Places

The Joint Counterterrorism Team (JCAT), part of the National Counterterrorism Center, released an unclassified report “[Terrorist Attacks against Bars, Restaurants, and Nightclubs Worldwide Highlight Importance of Public and Private Sector Partnerships in the Homeland](#)” (PDF, 494 Kb) detailing terrorist organizations’ interest against these places both here and overseas.

The JCAT believes terrorist organizations see attack strategies against these soft target locations as successful and will continue to pursue and promote them. Because of this, first responders are encouraged to review businesses and locations in their jurisdiction fitting the profile, ensure plans include response to such places, and

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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](#).

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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](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)**.

discuss security measures with business owners.

The bulletin lists indicators of suspicious activity and effective ways to increase security. The JCAT encourages sharing copies of this bulletin with owners and operators of bars, nightclubs, and restaurants to increase their awareness of suspicious activity, and instructing them on how to best report it to authorities.

(Source: [JCAT](#))

## Mitigation Planning Webinar Series for 2017

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 Mitigation Planning team would like to introduce the 2017 "Mitigation Planning Webinar Series." Each month will see a topic related to mitigation planning providing best practices; highlighting work from tribes, states, and cities; and with guest speakers outlining approaches to mitigation.

The webinar series is for public and private sector people involved in community planning. This includes emergency managers, floodplain managers, community planners, wildfire mitigation professionals, local and tribal government officials, contractors, and those involved in development and application of natural hazard mitigation strategies. Topics and details below; registration is required. More dates will be released in the future. Please note: all times listed are **Pacific**.

- January 27, 2017 10:00 a.m. – [Introduction to Mitigation Planning](#)
- February 24, 2017 10:00 a.m. – [Building the Mitigation Planning Team](#)
- March – Effective Public Engagement in Mitigation Planning
- April – Developing FEMA Mitigation Planning Grants
- May – Performing Natural Hazard Risk Assessments
- June – Integrating Natural Hazard Mitigation & Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Contact the FEMA Region 10 Mitigation Planning Program Manager at [brett.holt@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:brett.holt@fema.dhs.gov) for more information on the series topics. Those interested in presenting a 5-10 minute brief on any of the topics may send an email to the above address. All webinars will be recorded.

(Source: [FEMA Region 10](#))

## Grant Writing Fundamentals Online Workshop

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) is hosting a web-based workshop "[Grant Writing Fundamentals – Finding Opportunities and Writing to Win](#)" on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

As funding from government budgets dries up and expenses for first responders escalate, grant dollars become not only more important but more difficult to get as more departments compete. Successful grant writing is not undertaken without quite a bit of planning and teamwork, and departments serious about competing should start actively planning well before the application process.

This web-workshop will cover where to find government and private funding opportunities, how to determine eligibility, quality writing, budget and sustainability planning, and more. This webinar is \$75.00 for members, \$100.00 for non-members and all interested parties must register.

(Source: [IPSA](#))