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

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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.**

The InfoGram

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Security at Performing Arts Centers

The perspective of security professionals in business and industry is invaluable and they should be consulted by local law enforcement when creating or revising emergency plans that may affect them. One good example is security at performance venues. Wenger and JR Clancy, companies delivering stage and sound support to performing arts and athletics facilities, recently published a 3-part blog series on security for performing arts centers.

As these venues are repeatedly targeted overseas and law enforcement across the United States takes more interest in their security, partnering with these subject matter experts makes sense. They know the facility, their staff, and their vulnerabilities better than anyone and can point out gaps in the plans that otherwise might be missed and recommend evolving plans to meet new threats.

For example, the AT&T Performing Arts center in Dallas this winter hosted an outdoor holiday lights celebration. They used police cars and dump trucks to cordon off streets to protect the crowds from potential truck ramming attacks like Germany and France faced last year. Industry security specialists believe evolving as the threat environment changes must become the norm.

The blog posts cover operations, training, and planning, and touch on building design and education. Training staff in crowd management (with certification), suspicious activity reporting, and ensuring the training is repetitive so it becomes second nature is important. These articles cover much, much more and should provide local law enforcement food for thought.

(Source: Wenger and JR Clancy)

Skills Crosswalk Program Changes

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) would like to get the word out that the "Skills Crosswalk Gap Courses" have been revised and are now called simply "Skills Crosswalk." This program gives structural firefighters basic knowledge and skills in wildland firefighting suppression techniques not usually covered in typical structural firefighting training.

Further, the USFA is no longer the point-of-contact for this program's course material. Course materials are now available exclusively through the NWCG. See pages 31-39 for Skills Crosswalk course descriptions. Information on certification in this program is still available through the USFA website.

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

Coursework and practical demonstration of skills have been incorporated into the Crosswalk. The NWCG Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide, PMS 310-1, is the authoritative source for determining qualifications addressed by the Crosswalk.

The program identifies critical wildland firefighting skills structural firefighters need to be safe and effective in two situations: when making initial attack on a wildland fire in their jurisdiction, or when working with state and federal wildland firefighter agencies.

(Source: USFA and NWCG)

Evolving Role of EMS Data Collection

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of EMS produced a new report highlighting the changing role of EMS data gathering from simply being a collection mechanism to becoming a profession that turns the data into consequential information with the potential to drive decision-making. The report is a summary of the panel's findings through its research and discussions with the EMS community; it is not intended to serve as a consensus document.

"Beyond EMS Data Collection: Envisioning an Information-Driven Future" (PDF, 2.7 Mb) makes the case for using information not just to aid in decisions affecting patient-care, but also to aid in business- and industry-related matters, ultimately creating an EMS industry whose direction and delivery are both backed up with data.

EMS has a reactive culture: if there is a plea for help, it responds. This reactivity often translates to all areas, such as the business model. Changing the culture takes time, but the reasons for change are outlined in this report. In short, EMS has become a leader in healthcare information gathering, and it's time to advance beyond collection.

(Source: EMS.gov)

Pediatric Triage

Disasters or mass casualty incidents involving children can be the most difficult scenes to work. There are a number of triage methods and resources available through the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) website to help operations go more efficiently, if not more easily.

EMSC hosts the online course "Pediatric Disaster Triage: Doing the Most Good for the Most Patients in the Least Time," targeted toward prehospital providers such as fire and EMS personnel. The five module course is narrated, interactive, has quizzes embedded, and provides a certificate upon completion.

This course covers the basics of scene assessment, securing the scene, resource estimation, and covers the fundamentals of the most common triage algorithms used: JumpSTART, SALT, SMART, and Clinical Decision Making. It touches on specifics such as head injuries, children with disabilities, those medically dependent on technology, and how to keep family units together during triage and transportation.

EMSC also has information on the Emergency Severity Index (ESI) (PDF, 1.35 Mb), a triage tool with a new pediatric section. This section (as of the 2012 edition) outlines what is different for pediatric patients, the steps to take during a pediatric assessment, and special concerns you may encounter with children, such as those with trauma, psychiatric, or co-morbid and chronic conditions.

(Source: EMSC)