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# The InfoGram

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## 2017 Safety Stand Down: MAYDAY Situations

The annual Safety Stand Down this year will be the week of June 18-24, and the theme will be MAYDAY, Self-Rescue, and Rapid Intervention.

The National Volunteer Fire Council and the International Association of Fire Chiefs worked together to coordinate the event and produce resources, available through the [Safety Stand Down website](#), such as training materials and “Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival.”

Fire departments across the country are encouraged to suspend any non-emergency work during this week and focus on training and education related to MAYDAY situations, entrapment, rapid intervention, and self-rescue. All firefighters actively involved with structural firefighting will benefit from a review, as these are important personnel safety topics and training that could mean the difference between life and death.

(Source: [SafetyStandDown.org](http://SafetyStandDown.org))

## Active Shooter Planning for Healthcare Settings

The International Association of EMS Chiefs (IAEMSC) released the third edition of “[The Active Shooter Planning and Response Guide](#)” (PDF, 2.36 Mb), aimed at assisting healthcare facilities plan for and respond to active shooter incidents within their facilities. This guide presents actionable information designed to address the unique challenges medical facilities present including a vulnerable patient population, hazardous materials on site, special access areas, and dangerous equipment.

The guide covers a variety of response plans and exercises, and talks about proactive steps facilities can take such as pre-planning areas of refuge and providing video surveillance assistance. Many hospitals can be like mazes with defined, secure areas the public rarely sees. Ensuring law enforcement has access to and maps of these areas is vital; a pre-planning session with local agencies would be even more helpful.

This new edition provides updated and detailed information on what to expect from law enforcement response, “warm zone” operations, unified command, and psychological support. It also covers special areas at medical facilities, such as operating room suites and radiation laboratories, and their specific needs.

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

Active shooter situations are unpredictable and it will take time for law enforcement to respond. Because of this, facility staff must be prepared to deal with the situation until help arrives. Staff may have to make some very difficult decisions, such as leaving patients behind. Prior training and guidance will go a long way to allowing staff to make the best decision possible given the circumstances.

(Source: [IAEMSC](#))

## Prevalence of Ticks and Lyme Expected to Rise

Unseasonably warm temperatures this year may lead to an abundance of ticks, experts say, and an increase in Lyme disease will likely follow. Lyme is rarely seen as an emergency and it's unlikely you would receive a Lyme-specific call. First responders should still [know the signs and symptoms of Lyme](#) since early reporting and treatment is crucial, and it's possible the afflicted patient may be you or a family member.

[Lyme disease is severe in the Northeast and especially New England](#), where the disease is considered endemic, but it is found in almost every state. Lyme is spread via ticks so small many people never even know they've been bitten. The most obvious sign is the red bullseye rash, but not everyone develops it and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) believes Lyme is so underreported "the actual number of cases each year is likely 10-fold" what the numbers on the books state.

Lyme is expensive to treat and there is no vaccine, so prevention is still the best option. First responders and their families should be aware of the prevalence of Lyme in their area and take measures to reduce their risk. Use an insect repellent, wear long pants and long sleeved shirts, and inspect the body for ticks after being outside. Teaching kids what to look for is also important. Remember, the tick must be attached for 36 to 48 hours or more for Lyme to be transmitted.

(Source: [CDC](#))

## Ethanol Emergency Response Webinars

TRANSCAER and the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) are offering three on-line "Train the Trainer" webinars on ethanol emergency response. These training opportunities are open to member as well as non-member emergency response teams.

These "Train the Trainer" webinars are based on the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition's [Training Guide to Ethanol Emergency Response](#). The webinars bring vital training to individuals across the country, developing instructors who can then lead operations-level training events in their own community or region. Those interested should have an understanding of hazardous material storage, handling, and emergency response.

Webinars will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. [Registration is required](#) and each webinar is limited to the first 100 attendees. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion.

(Source: [NVFC](#))

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