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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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Don't Race the Train (the Train Always Wins)

[Operation Lifesaver, Inc.](http://www.operationlifesaver.com), promotes education and awareness aimed at reducing collisions and fatalities at highway-rail crossings or from trespassing on or near railroad tracks. They produced the “[See Tracks, Think Train](#)” campaign to raise awareness about this issue. The campaign includes public service announcement materials, radio ads, graphics and print ads, and videos to be used by local jurisdictions in public safety campaigns.

First responders are not immune to bad behavior around railroad tracks and crossings. We regularly see stories about apparatus drivers who tried to beat a train at an intersection or, more worrisome, never heard the train whistle over their own siren. Operation Lifesaver, Inc., has a section of their site focusing on [safely passing through rail crossings](#) when responding to incidents. They offer a rail safety refresher, an online interactive training program, and a classroom training.

There is also a [Grade Crossing Collision Investigation classroom course](#) for law enforcement officers who may need to investigate such a collision in their jurisdiction. The course is offered in three levels from basic to advanced at no cost and helps officers understand various legal issues involved and how to safely manage the incident.

(Source: [Operation Lifesaver, Inc.](http://www.operationlifesaver.com))

Airport Weather REAdiness (AWARE) Toolkit

Weather can have a catastrophic impact on airports and air travel. Strong weather can damage tarmac and structures, flip airplanes, and cause both economic impact and loss of life. Airport management and security, airline providers, and both aircraft rescue crews and regional first responders need to be prepared to manage significant weather-related emergencies at airports.

The [Airport Weather Advanced REAdiness \(AWARE\) Toolkit](#) helps stakeholders improve their planning and response for serious weather incidents. It focuses on six key functional areas including security, ground transportation, and both terminal and airfield operations. A seventh module for incident management at small airports consolidates all functions into something meant to be completed by one person.

The toolkit helps users determine the likelihood of 15 different types of weather events and assess readiness for them. The last module helps airports track a variety of things impacted by weather, including cost. This quantitative tracking can be used to both assist with preparedness efforts by determining what type of weather impacts

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an airport the most, and aid in determining budgetary needs for preparedness planning and response.

The AWARE Toolkit is available from the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Science. It includes a quick start guide, user guide, overview and brochure. Supplemental information on airport survey methods, case studies, historical weather data and National Incident Management System (NIMS) organizational charts is also provided.

(Source: [AWARE Toolkit](#))

An Inside Look at the NIST Fire Research Lab

The National Fire Research Lab at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) completed an improvement project in 2015, expanding the lab and enabling it to build and burn structures as large as two stories. The new technology and exhaust system handles fires producing up to 20 megawatts of peak energy, which is the equivalent of a small house fire and twice what the lab could previously manage.

NIST's ability to conduct such intense [fire research](#) and record data over the years led to safer building construction. The collapse of the World Trade Center buildings in 2001 led to some of the expanded research NIST is now doing; before then, no United States high-rise had ever collapsed due to fire. Now, the lab is able to better find out how to keep it from happening in new construction.

Recent testing on laminated timber construction showed conditions where fuel went from a solid state straight to a gas, sometimes faster than the fuel could actually burn. Testing fuel behavior like this through the years prompted industry safety changes in things like mattresses, children's sleepwear and cigarettes. The research currently being conducted will likely change the landscape of firefighting, building construction and consumer products in the future.

For more information on the lab and some of the current tests, and to see behind-the-scenes how they were able to video the fire tests, visit NIST's ["Built to House an Inferno."](#)

(Source: [NIST](#))

Removing Personal Data from Public Websites

A number of websites listing publicly-available personal information, some from supposed "genealogy" sites, have appeared in recent months. Personal information listed often includes full name; birth date; addresses and past addresses; family names including children, parents, spouses, and in-laws; possible relatives and associates; and phone numbers. This should be a red flag for those in public safety fields as all that free, readily-available personal information could be used in doxxing attacks or worse.

You should consider taking action to remove your information from these sites to protect yourself, your family, and your coworkers. An upcoming webcast ["How to Remove Your Name from Nefarious Websites \(and learn why you need to make this a priority\)"](#) will explain why these sites are so concerning, what to do about it, and more information on doxxing.

Those interested should visit the International Public Safety Association event page to find details about registering. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion.

(Source: [IPSA](#))

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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.