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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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London High-Rise Fire Prompts Mass Inspections

In the aftermath of the deadly high-rise fire in London, Fire Brigade officials have begun [fire inspections on dozens of high-rise apartment towers](#) and the results have been unsettling. Hundreds of residents have been displaced as inspections on 75 structures so far resulted in a 100 percent failure rate. While numerous structures have [cladding](#) similar to the Grenfell Tower, which officials believe contributed to the fast-moving fire responsible for at least 80 deaths, many other violations were found.

Police are considering criminal charges against anyone found to be responsible, and have said the [death toll from the Grenfell Tower will not be finalized before end of the year](#). Recent data shows [fire inspections have declined considerably](#) in London over the past decade and have only recently started to increase in regularity.

Fire marshals, building inspectors and codes enforcement officers are encouraged to maintain the frequency of inspections in their jurisdictions, especially new construction and renovation projects. Builders and building owners try to economize wherever they can, but it should not come at the expense of life safety. Good code enforcement and systematic inspections are often the only thing standing in the way of a tragedy.

(Source: [London Fire Brigade](#))

Fourth of July Fireworks Safety

Fireworks displays are staples of many cities and towns across the country on the Fourth of July, but improperly-handled fireworks often cause accidents and injuries. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports an average of [230 people go to the emergency room with fireworks-related injuries every day in the month around July 4th](#). More than 50 percent of the injuries are burns.

While public safety campaigns suggest leaving fireworks up to the professionals, others will continue to use them at home and sometimes the professionals need reminding, too. The CPSC and several other agencies have resources available for public safety campaigns including:

- [The U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA) – offers pre-written Facebook and Twitter messages as well as videos, fliers and posters.
- [Safe Kids](#) – a list of tips for families on how to keep children safe.

- [National Fire Protection Association](#) – produced a video, Fireworks Fact Sheet and statistics detailing injuries and property loss due to fireworks.

Fire and EMS should also brush up on their protocol and procedures for burns and injuries to the eyes, hands, head and face, as these are the most common injuries caused by fireworks.

(Source: [USFA](#))

New Virtual Training for Active Shooter Incidents

The military has used video game-style simulations for years to train their soldiers. Now, that technology will be available to train first responders on active shooter incidents. The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory joined forces to create a virtual training platform, available free to all response agencies nationwide.

[First pilot-tested in 2013](#), Enhanced Dynamic Geo-Social Environment (EDGE) allows responders from law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, and unified command to assume discipline-based avatars and role-play complex response scenarios. Responders outfit their avatar, navigate the simulation and respond to threats based on their department's policies. Each person determines their avatar's actions, meaning [the simulation plays out differently each time](#).

[EDGE](#) was designed to allow people to take part in training simultaneously from different locations. This supports single- and multi-agency use which reduces training costs due to travel. It encourages different agencies or jurisdictions to train together by reducing barriers. Interagency exercises and drills develop a stronger and more effective response.

The scenario currently available is of an [active shooter at a hotel armed also with Molotov cocktails](#). A second scenario, a school shooting environment, is planned for release this fall. Agencies interested in obtaining a free copy of the EDGE hotel scenario or who have general EDGE inquiries may contact first.responder@hq.dhs.gov.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Beating the Media Crush During a Crisis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with the [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#) (SHEA), announced the third and final webinar in the [Outbreak Response Training Program](#) program. “[Beating the Media Crush During a Crisis](#)” trains hospital epidemiologists in the interpersonal skills important in an outbreak situation. This webinar will include a discussion on how to:

- Identify the role of media relations during a crisis.
- Describe the steps that can help ensure effective internal communication.
- Prepare staff to communicate with external media outlets.
- Discuss tactics for managing external communication and media requests.

This free webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Eastern. [Pre-registration is required](#). This webinar series is part of the Effective Communication Webinar Series; past webinars are available online as recordings.

(Source: [SHEA](#))

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