



## Highlights:

Electrical Dangers on the Fireground

HazMat Database Available to First Responders

Large-Scale Vehicle-Borne IED Testing

IPSA Offers Week of Free Webinars

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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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

# The InfoGram

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## Electrical Dangers on the Fireground

Electricity may be one of the most deadly threat to firefighters on the fireground: it is odorless, colorless, silent and can kill quickly. It can be present at almost any kind of incident the fire service responds to, and with everything else going on at the incident scene, it is easy for firefighters to become lax, overlook electrical hazards or just assume electrical power sources are not energized.

FireRescue1.com published an article this week containing two [videos of firefighters encountering live electrical lines](#) and the results. They are sobering to watch and should stand as a strong warning of the dangers powerlines pose.

As one of the referenced videos shows, extreme caution should be taken when using aerial platforms and ground ladders around overhead powerlines. Numerous incidents over the years have resulted in severe electrical burns, serious injuries and death. After a 2009 incident investigation, the [National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recommended fire departments do the following to reduce risk:](#)

- Develop, implement and enforce written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from overhead powerlines.
- Use an incident safety officer.
- Ensure firefighters receive regular safety training.
- Use proximity warning devices to detect electrical current.
- Follow apparatus manufacturer's safety warnings.

Details of past incidents can and should be used as teaching moments, and videos such as the ones linked to above can easily be incorporated into training. Departments are encouraged to review their SOPs, modify them as necessary and routinely train personnel on risk reduction measures.

(Source: [FireRescue1.com](http://FireRescue1.com))

## HazMat Databases Available to First Responders

RightAnswer.com recently announced a new initiative to make its extensive collection of environmental, health, safety, hazard and regulatory compliance information free to first responders throughout the United States. OnPointEHS First Responders offers any qualified U.S.-based first responder free access to aggregated databases supporting single searches across multiple sources of information on hundreds of

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thousands of chemicals. Data sources include:

- ChemCollection System (over 75 data sources including CAMEO and WISER)
- 1st Medical Response Protocols
- CHRIS
- Emergency Response Guide 2016 and NIOSH
- Daily Federal Register
- HazardText
- INFOTEXT and MEDITEXT
- IRIS
- OHM/TADS

The offer benefits hazmat responders, firefighters, emergency managers and planners, police officers, paramedics or other first responders based in the United States. Subscribers will be provided free access by registering at [OnPointEHSFirstResponders.com](http://OnPointEHSFirstResponders.com).

(Source: [RightAnswer.com](http://RightAnswer.com))

## Large-Scale Vehicle-Borne IED Testing

Overseas, terrorists have used massive vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs) to target crowded city centers, embassies and other high-profile targets. In several cases, buildings fitted with blast protection structures were still damaged. We have not seen these attacks in the United States often or recently, but officials are concerned that may change.

Research of explosions this large usually must rely on simulations. As part of an [advanced research project](#), recent live tests conducted by a multi-agency team produced data that can be used to develop better blast protection both here and at our interests abroad.

As a reminder, the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Bombing Prevention has several courses within its [Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Training program](#), including Vehicle-Borne IED Detection.

(Source: [Office of Bombing Prevention](#))

## IPSA Offers Week of Free Webinars

The International Public Safety Association provides mission critical, educational and affordable training opportunities to the public safety community throughout the year. This year it is hosting its first [Webinar Week August 14-18, 2017](#), with a different free educational webinar each day. Topics include:

- Monday: Critical Incident/Active Shooter Awareness.
- Tuesday: Post Action Strategic Debriefing.
- Wednesday: The Critical Role of a 911 Dispatcher in a Hostage Negotiation.
- Thursday: Drones/UAS and Public Safety.
- Friday: Cybersecurity, Information Privacy and Public Safety: Much More Than a Technology Challenge.

Please see IPSA's Webinar Week website for more detailed information on each topic and biographies of the scheduled presenters. Registration is required for each webinar. All webinars are 1:00 p.m. Eastern.

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