



The InfoGram

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New National Terrorism Advisory System bulletin released

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a new National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin last week, updating the information to include unmanned aircraft systems as possible threats, outlines the ongoing threats to commercial aviation and air cargo, and discusses homegrown violent extremists.

DHS stresses that terrorist groups are adopting easy-to-use tools to target public places and events, such as vehicle ramming, small arms, and bladed weapons. It stresses that the public should be prepared for increased security when traveling, and that you should continue to travel and attend public events, but remain vigilant informed and prepared.

The updated bulletin outlines counterterrorism efforts and links to places first responders and the public can go for more information on preparedness methods, travel alerts, warnings and suspicious activity reporting.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Preparing for and responding to chemical threats

Chemical threats are one of the most deadly faced by first responders. Your department should know the chemicals used by industries in your jurisdiction, the dangers they pose, the layout of the facilities and you should run regular drills and exercises to prepare for accidents, fires, spills or man-made threats. There are a number of resources available to assist you with these tasks.

The [Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards](#) (CFATS) program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce risks. First responders can utilize some of these resources.

DHS released "[Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: The Role of Emergency Responders](#)" (PDF, 371 Kb) to provide CFATS information and resource recommendations to first responders. Departments should check out:

- ➊ The [Infrastructure Protection Gateway](#), an interface for all levels of government and private sector partners to identify, analyze and manage risk.
- ➋ [CFATS Knowledge Center](#), an online repository of CFATS information.
- ➌ Free training available to the Sector, such as the monthly [Virtual Table Top Exercise](#) (VTTX) program through the Emergency Management Institute.
- ➍ The Emergency Services Sector-Sector Specific Agency (essteam@hq.dhs.gov) and the [Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#), which push important information to the Sector.

In addition, there are chemical security inspectors available regionally to assist you to identify CFATS facilities and plan for incidents involving chemicals used there. To contact your regional inspector, call 1-866-323-2957 or email csat@hq.dhs.gov.

(Source: [CFATS](#))

Highlights

New National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin released

Preparing for and responding to chemical threats

NIMS tools for mutual aid, credentialing, inventory and resource typing

USFA webinar: Preparing for a National Catastrophic Event



U.S. Fire
Administration

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

NIMS tools for mutual aid, credentialing, inventory and resource typing

For those organizations working to get up-to-speed with the recent refresh of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released several [resources and guides on mutual aid, credentialing, inventorying and resource typing](#).

- ➊ The [NIMS Guideline for Mutual Aid](#) provides common practice and process for mutual aid planning and guidance on legal agreements and operational plans.
- ➋ The [NIMS Resource Typing Library Tool](#) is the online catalog of all definitions and job titles/position qualifications released by FEMA.
- ➌ The [NIMS Guideline for the Credentialing of Personnel](#) covers the established minimum criteria and qualifications individuals must meet for specific jobs.
- ➍ The [Incident Resource Inventory System](#) is a free software tool for resource inventory and management using NIMS resource typing definitions.

NIMS provides a common, nationwide format for the whole community to work together to manage all incidents, threats and hazards regardless of cause, size, location or complexity. [FEMA released the updated NIMS last month](#).

(Source: [FEMA](#))

USFA webinar: Preparing for a National Catastrophic Event

On Wednesday, November 29, 2017 from 1-2:45 p.m. Eastern, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is hosting the webinar "Preparing for a National Catastrophic Event." The USFA webinar will:

- ➊ Define what is considered a catastrophic event.
- ➋ Explain why it's necessary to prepare for catastrophic events.
- ➌ Outline three easy steps to assess your capabilities.
- ➍ Discuss actions local agencies can take that enhance national response.

During a catastrophic event, your department may have a limited capacity to maintain a sustained response. Even with mutual aid agreements in place, the direct support of the federal government is sometimes needed to prevent a catastrophic event from turning into an uncontrollable disastrous event.

The webinar will also introduce USFA's plans to conduct a formal survey of available and deployable fire service resources. This database would be used only during a catastrophic event when other resources are not available.

[Those interested must register](#). Other upcoming webinars are listed, as are recordings of past webinars. All USFA webinars are free.

(Source: [USFA](#))

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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DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local [FBI office](#) and also the [State or Major Urban Area Fusion Center](#).

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.