

The InfoGram



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Chief's Guide to Carfentanyl: the elephant tranquilizer in the room

Synthetic opioids remain a serious concern for first responders. While much of the focus is on safety surrounding a fentanyl exposure, not as much information is out there regarding [carfentanyl](#) (PDF, 298 KB) and its dangers. A recent [article in Police Chief Magazine](#) sheds more light on this problem.

While [fentanyl](#) is 100 times stronger than morphine, carfentanyl is 100 times stronger than fentanyl. Traffickers use both as cutting agents for heroin to increase the potency. Both look like table salt, and [a few granules are enough to be fatal](#), depending on the drug and the method of exposure.

As carfentanil use spreads as a cutting agent, it is more and more likely you may come into contact with it during the normal course of your duties. These steps may save your life or those of your team:

- ❶ If fentanyl is suspected at a scene, do not approach without proper PPE.
- ❷ Fast field decontamination should only be done with cold water.
- ❸ Have the overdose antidote naloxone (Narcan) on hand. Multiple doses may be necessary.

This article also delves into the complexities of a multiagency response, describing the differences between law enforcement command and control approach and the fire/EMS approach. Law enforcement agencies should recognize these differences, the reasons behind them and work them into plans, procedures and multiagency exercises.

(Source: [Police Chief Magazine](#))

Implications of liquid assets on American preparedness

Earlier this year, the current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administrator said ["liquid asset poverty" is the nation's largest active disaster](#). The savings rates of American households has steadily declined from near 14 percent to around 5 percent since the 1970s. A 2016 survey found 63 percent of American households do not have enough money saved to manage a sudden \$500 expense.

While financial gurus have pointed to the statistics and lectured about money management repeatedly over the years, it doesn't seem to be doing much good as the numbers continue to worsen. Many families are one bad day away from financial disaster.

Emergency managers and elected leaders should consider the ramifications to their emergency preparedness expectations and how it will affect their jurisdiction during and after a disaster. Ways to address this issue locally:

- ❶ Encourage financial literacy and savings as community resilience strategies.
- ❷ Form nontraditional partnerships outside emergency management community.
- ❸ Introduce no- or low-cost citizen preparedness measures.

Highlights

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Implications of liquid assets on American preparedness

EMI Virtual Tabletop Exercise Program January-March 2018 schedule

The Internet of Things Risks to Homeland Security



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.

Relying on FEMA Individual Assistance is not enough, according to the article, because it is a temporary fix to a much larger problem and does little to promote future resiliency for families or communities. True community resiliency begins at home.

(Source: [Hagerty](#))

EMI Virtual Tabletop Exercise Program January-March 2018 schedule

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) released the Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) Program schedule for January-March 2018. Scheduled scenarios include a passenger train incident, airport Ebola, medical countermeasures (SMS), a cyber incident, and a mall active shooter.

EMI facilitates this free 4-hour training using a video teleconferencing (VTC) platform, hosting 10-15 participating jurisdictions per exercise. Each jurisdiction is encouraged to bring a diverse group to work through scenarios, including first responders, planners, local military, public health, school administration, and non-profit organizations.

The EMI VTTX program addresses Principal Objectives identified in the [National Exercise Program 2017-2018 Cycle](#). The Principal Objectives are based on an analysis of homeland security challenges, threats and hazards. All agencies should develop similar objectives based on local jurisdictional analysis of response issues and shortfalls to update plans, policies and procedure.

Jurisdictions interested in participating must have access to VTC capabilities (not web-based). Those interested should contact Douglas Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov or (301) 447-7645 at least 14 days prior. Your email is your application. For additional contact information and full details on the schedule, exercise goals, participation requirements and exercise design, [please see EMI's VTTX website](#).

(Source: [EMI VTTX](#))

The Internet of Things Risks to Homeland Security

By 2020 there will be between 20-50 billion Internet of Things (IoT) devices in the world, ranging from new consumer products — light bulbs, televisions, thermostats, etc., to legacy critical infrastructure systems that have been in place for decades but are only recently being connected to the Internet. Unless properly secured, IoT devices can be a door allowing hackers access to your secure systems.

On Wednesday, December 20, 2017, from 1-2 p.m., the Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis (OCIA) will conduct the webinar "[The Internet of Things Risks to Homeland Security](#)" providing background information on the IoT, and will discuss the risks the IoT poses for Homeland Security and the critical infrastructure community.

Those interested must register for the webinar. If you do not have a HSIN account, please use the direct meeting link at the webinar's scheduled date and time. For more information, contact OCIA at ocia@hq.dhs.gov.

(Source: [OCIA](#))

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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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.