



The InfoGram

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Increase in earthquake activity sparks concerns

It's been a long time since the United States has experienced major damage and a high death toll from an earthquake, long enough that an entire generation has grown to adulthood without experiencing it.

We are currently seeing an impressive increase in seismic activity. [California and Nevada](#) registered 1098 earthquakes in the past week alone. The [Pacific Northwest](#) and [Alaska](#) are also seeing high numbers of small and medium earthquakes. While there was no serious damage so far this year, the sheer number of quakes are enough to raise eyebrows.

The west coast is not alone. The Midwest, East Coast, Central America and the Caribbean are also seeing increased seismic activity including one 7.6 quake east of Honduras. In fact, [four of the six biggest earthquakes in the past 30 days have been in the Western Hemisphere](#).

Although no one can predict when or where the next "Big One" will hit, emergency managers should take this as an opportunity. Review and update any earthquake-related plans, conduct exercises and investigate new technology available to help you do your jobs more effectively.

It's also a good time to think about effective emergency communication. Again, there are [millions of teen and twenty-something Americans who have never seen a major earthquake hit an American city](#). Many of them rely almost solely on online and social media for news and information. Ensure your communications are able to reach as many of your citizens as possible, and that the information sent is effective.

(Source: [USGS](#))

Learning from the mistakes of others

The late author Douglas Adams said "human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so." This insight is true for both individuals and groups, but it doesn't have to be so.

The pros and cons of a 24/7 news culture are here to stay. A juicy story sweeps through online news and social media outlets so quickly, people have already decided the truth before the situation completely plays out. This is especially true for any agency or office that serves the public in one capacity or another.

Stories about the good and bad sides of emergency management and response provide opportunities for mini-training sessions and team building. When such a story hits the news, we can take the story to the next staff meeting and discuss what we would do if faced with a similar situation.

[Two major emergency communications-related stories broke in the past week](#), one in the United States and one abroad. Both can be used as learning moments – as can the repercussions that will no doubt follow. By learning from the experiences

Highlights

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Learning from the mistakes of others

NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code updated

National engagement for NIMS implementation objectives



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.

of other departments or agencies, our emergency response capabilities become stronger as a whole.

(Source: [Emergency Management](#))

NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code updated

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) issued the 2018 edition of [NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code](#). The updated edition establishes criteria for health care services or systems to minimize the hazards of fire, explosion and electricity based on risk to the patients, staff and visitors in health care facilities. It includes:

- New language on risk assessments.
- New permissible materials for medical gas piping.
- Revised gas storage requirements.
- Revised [hyperbaric facility](#) requirements.

Updates also address technical changes and provisions when dealing with new technology and materials. Some of these changes may specifically affect new construction projects, so all health care facilities should review the updated code before finalizing any plans.

(Source: [NFPA](#))

National engagement for NIMS implementation objectives

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Integration Center is seeking public feedback for an update to the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) Implementation Objectives for State, Local, Tribal and Territorial \(SLTT\) organizations and jurisdictions](#). It was last revised in 2009.

This National Engagement Period opened January 16, 2018, and will close at 5:00 p.m. Eastern on Monday, February 5, 2018. This is for interested parties to comment on the draft implementation objectives to ensure they are relevant for all partners.

NIMS is a key component of incident management, enabling diverse organizations to work together during incidents of all kinds and sizes. Implementing NIMS across the nation is a central part of building our national preparedness.

This revision ensures changes to the SLTT Implementation Objectives are consistent with the Third Edition of NIMS. Changes incorporate stakeholder input and make NIMS a clearer and more useful tool for implementation.

FEMA will host three webinars to discuss the proposed changes and answer related questions. See the [FEMA website](#) for more information on the webinars and to review the draft. To provide comments on the draft, complete the feedback form and submit it to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

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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