

The InfoGram



Volume 18 — Issue 7 | February 15, 2018

9-1-1 celebrates its 50th birthday

[Tomorrow, the national 9-1-1 emergency communications system turns 50 years old.](#)

As early as 1957, the International Association of Fire Chiefs recommended a single number for reporting fires. It took 10 more years before action was taken, after two other groups recommended a single number for emergencies such as calling an ambulance.

On February 16, 1968, the first 9-1-1 call was made in Haleyville, Alabama. Six days later and across the continent, the second 9-1-1 call was made in Nome, Alaska, but [it was decades before the majority of the country had access to the system we are familiar with today.](#)

Technology and necessity has forced the 9-1-1 system to change over the years, and it continues to evolve today as we move forward on [FirstNet](#) and [Next Generation 9-1-1](#). Technology is advancing faster than ever and we should expect 9-1-1 capabilities to keep pace.

Fifty years of 9-1-1 availability has saved countless lives, but it is the people staffing those centers day and night and those maintaining the technology that truly make the system what it is. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for the hours they put in calmly managing emergencies of all sizes.

(Source: [IPSA](#))

RadResponder Network: training and resources for SLTT

The [RadResponder Network](#) is a free program providing state, local, tribal and territorial response organizations a system for managing and using radiological data.

Created in response to an identified capabilities gap during the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, this cloud-based network enables teams to collect, manage, organize, analyze and map radiation data. The data is then available for future dose assessment.

RadResponder uses a mobile app through which first responders can enter information about a nuclear event. Radiological equipment can connect to the app using Bluetooth, if possible, or information can be called in and entered into the system manually.

Using this network gives first responders the scope of a nuclear event, providing a much deeper and broader view of radiation levels. Officials can monitor RadResponder to provide hourly averages or even minute-by-minute and as-needed measurements.

Some agencies are also using RadResponder for monthly radiation monitoring around their facilities or to collect a baseline of radiation levels from around their geographic location.

There are limits to who can join and who can access what information. For more information on joining and for training opportunities, see the RadResponder website.

(Source: [RadResponder](#))

Highlights

9-1-1 celebrates its 50th birthday

RadResponder Network: training and resources for SLTT

More seasonal and pandemic influenza resources

Webinar: Practical Decision-Making Tools for First Responder Agencies



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

More seasonal and pandemic influenza resources

This has been an especially bad year for seasonal flu. Some hospitals are limiting visitors, others are using surge tents to make extra space to handle flu patients, and there is a national shortage of saline due in part to the bad flu season.

In January, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Grand Rounds topic was "[Public Health Response to Severe Influenza](#)." The 1-hour video session is available for viewing on demand. It provides an overview of seasonal and pandemic influenza, how to reduce the spread and how to adjust to drug shortages.

The CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds run monthly, and all previous sessions (2009-present) are available on-demand. Those interested can also sign up for email notifications of future sessions.

To assist with pandemic influenza, the Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) released the "[Health Care Coalition Influenza Pandemic Checklist](#)" (PDF, 294 KB) in 2017. This planning tool is intended to assist health care coalitions and partners assess their preparedness for an influenza pandemic, or really any pandemic.

This resource may also be used to better direct response as a pandemic begins. It is set up as a checklist to help healthcare coalitions assess, create and improve their pandemic preparedness and response plans. TRACIE is part of the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and hosts extensive medical and public health resources, from infectious disease to active shooter.

(Sources: [CDC](#) and [TRACIE](#))

Webinar: Practical Decision-Making Tools for First Responder Agencies

On February 21, 2018, the National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) will host a webinar on practical tools first responder, public safety, emergency management and public health communities can use to enhance decision-making. The presenter will provide an overview of solutions to address specific problems, to include:

- Managing large-scale events.
- Integrating data silos into Esri's ArcGIS to enhance local decision-making.
- Developing a virtual exercise facilitation capability.

This is the sixth webinar in [NISC's Mission-Focused Job Aids Webinar Series](#) reviewing tools, techniques and standard operating procedures NISC partners can use to facilitate and manage information sharing.

[Those interested in attending this webinar must register.](#) Future webinars in this series are listed on the [NISC website](#), and completed webinar recordings and slidedecks are available for viewing.

(Source: [NISC](#))

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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