



The InfoGram

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2017 mass attacks findings from the U.S. Secret Service

Recent findings from a study on mass attacks in public places strongly suggest the best chance of stopping such attacks is through suspicious activity reporting and follow-up investigation by law enforcement.

The Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center study "[Mass Attacks in Public Spaces 2017](#)" (PDF, 1.1 MB) looks at attacks in public places in which three or more people were harmed. There were 28 incidents fitting that criteria, and the report noted several interesting findings. Of the 28 attackers:

- More than three-quarters made threatening or concerning communications, sometimes eliciting concern from others prior to the attack.
- Those who did elicit concern from others caused more harm than those who did not.
- The majority of attackers had histories of criminal charges, mental health symptoms, and/or illicit substance use or abuse.
- All had at least one significant stressor within the past 5 years; over half had indications of financial instability.

Homeland security and law enforcement offices should consider taking a look at their public education on suspicious activity reporting. The above statistics could even be incorporated into outreach efforts. Reporting concerning behavior in others could be the first step to stopping a future attack.

Social barriers, such as fear of retaliation or of being wrong, keep people from reporting potentially suspicious activities. Building strong relationships between the community and first responders goes a long way toward breaking through these social barriers by giving citizens the option of talking to someone they feel they know. Providing an anonymous reporting mechanism is another possibility.

The [See Something, Say Something campaign](#) and other [Suspicious Activity Reporting \(SAR\) mechanisms](#) are available for reference and training. For more information, see this guide from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on [improving community awareness and reporting](#) (PDF, 2.1 MB).

(Source: [National Threat Assessment Center](#))

LEO Near Miss Reporting System

The [LEO Near Miss Reporting System](#) defines a near miss as "an event that could have resulted in a serious injury, fatality, significant property damage or a crisis if not for a fortunate break in the chain of events."

First responders experience these regularly due to the level of risk the job entails. The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office with the Department of Justice requests law enforcement officers share stories of near miss events as a way to prevent similar events from happening to others.

Officers must create a free account to be able to read about or share near miss

Highlights

2017 mass attacks findings from the U.S. Secret Service

LEO Near Miss Reporting System

Hazmat Accident Investigation Team Pilot Program

Webinar: Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication



U.S. Fire Administration

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incidents. All contributions are anonymous, secure, non-punitive and confidential. You are reminded that sharing such stories has the potential to be life saving for other law enforcement officers.

COPS produced a [podcast on the LEO Near Miss Reporting System](#) earlier this month. It is available as a recording; you may also read the transcript. All prior COPS podcasts are also available.

(Source: [LEO Near Miss Reporting System](#))

Hazmat Accident Investigation Team Pilot Program

In a continuing effort to improve safety, the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is promoting its Accident Investigation Team (AIT) Pilot Program, now available to emergency first responders.

Launched October 2017, the AIT Pilot Program is a comprehensive investigative process for investigating significant hazmat accidents and incidents. AIT's purpose is to uncover and analyze contributing and root causes, identify emerging risks, and recommending actions to mitigate or forecast future hazmat accidents.

This is a one-year pilot program. Download the [AIT Pilot Program fact sheet](#) (PDF, 3.3 MB) or contact HM_Accident_Investiagion@dot.gov for more information.

(Source: [PHMSA](#))

Webinar: Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication

Producing effective, timely messaging before, during and after an emergency can save lives. It is increasingly difficult to reach the entire population due to the differences in consumable media, so emergency communication is now less of an exact science and more of a moving target.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication](#) (CERC) program helps emergency managers navigate this issue through education, resources, and in-person and online training. CERC defines core emergency and risk communications principles and how they apply to different phases of a crisis.

An upcoming webinar "Introduction to CERC," is scheduled for May 1, 2018, 2-3 p.m. Eastern. It will help emergency responders and health communication professionals learn more about CERC principles so that they craft more effective emergency communications strategies.

Those interested can [join the webinar without needing to register](#). There are three phone numbers available for callers in the United States: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968. [International numbers](#) are also available. The webinar ID is 692 982 968.

(Source: [CDC](#))

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**.