Firefighter cancer registry bill moves forward in Congress

Thanks to bipartisan support in both houses of Congress, the bill to establish a National Firefighter Cancer Registry is one step closer to passing.

H.R.931 "Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018" would require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect firefighter occupational information and history, both volunteer and career. Data can then be connected to state cancer registries.

While the details are not yet decided and the registry is likely months or years away, this is a crucial step to not only definitively link cancer to firefighter occupational hazards but also to show the true impact cancer has on the fire service, firefighter families and communities across the country.

The bill currently in Congress states information collection is to be voluntary and all data collected must be free to access. This provides researchers and scientists invaluable information to use in further study and statistical analysis.

There are things you can do today to keep from becoming one of those statistics. The Firefighter Cancer Support Network says "cancer is a looming personal catastrophe for each and every firefighter." Its library of cancer-related resources includes many articles and studies on reducing exposure to carcinogens; proper use, maintenance and cleaning of PPE; and other steps individuals and departments can take to reduce cancer risks.

(Source: Congress.gov)

FEMA releases NIMS Implementation for SLTT jurisdictions

Earlier this week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Implementation Objectives for Local, State, Tribal, and Territorial Jurisdictions, the first revision since 2009.

The NIMS Implementation Objectives identify specific activities involved in NIMS implementation for state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) organizations and jurisdictions. This update ensures objectives are consistent with the third edition of NIMS, released last year, and incorporates stakeholder input, resulting in a more useful tool.

FEMA developed implementation indicators for each Implementation Objective to serve as actionable activities jurisdictions can use to demonstrate NIMS implementation. The indicators are tools to assist jurisdictions and organizations in meeting the new implementation objectives. They are not requirements or criteria, nor are the indicators intended as a checklist for achieving the objectives.

FEMA will host a series of webinars in June to discuss the NIMS Implementation Objectives and answer related questions.

Please note that federal departments and agencies use a separate set of Implementation Objectives. FEMA will work with Federal NIMS Coordinators to revise those later this year.

(Source: FEMA)

Effective messaging: it's not your English class essay anymore

In the age of social media messaging, high school or college English class writing rules no longer apply. If you are still using the same techniques you were taught when writing the standard persuasive essay, it might be time to tweak your writing.

The public now has an unlimited number of resources available in seconds via fast internet searches. Readers are looking for short, quick answers and easily-scannable writing.

The main thing to keep in mind is most people don't read every word of every article anymore. Instead, they scan text and read what catches their eye. If your messaging doesn't fit that need, readers will move on to other outlets for their informational needs. Here are tips to make your writing more scannable:

- Identify your target audience and write directly to them.
- Begin with the main point or conclusion, don't bury it in the middle or at the end.
- Avoid big, blocky paragraphs and very long sentences.
- Use numbered lists, bullet points, headings/sub-headings and hyperlinks.
- Choose shorter words and avoid redundant words or phrases.
- Use active voice and concrete language.
- Avoid using too many acronyms or jargon the reader may not know.

One last tip is to address the reader as "you." It is more personal and direct. If you are constructing a preparedness message, for example, headlines like "How should you prepare your home for wildfire risk?" involves the reader and catches their attention, as opposed to "Homeowners should prepare for wildfire risk."

(Sources: Various)

Webinar: Increasing Situational Awareness for First Responders

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, from 1-2 p.m. Eastern, the National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) will host the webinar "Rich Data: Increasing Situational Awareness for First Responders." Those interested in attending must register.

NISC and RapidSOS will talk about delivering next generation data to public safety answering points and beyond to help safeguard first responders and communities. Some examples include images and live video that enhance situational awareness, or medical and demographic information that improve patient care.

This is the eleventh webinar in the NISC's Mission-Focused Job Aids Webinar Series reviewing tools, techniques and standard operating procedures that NISC partners in the Emergency Services Sector and related fields use to facilitate and manage information sharing. All prior webinars are available for viewing.

(Source: NISC)

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.**

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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