

The InfoGram



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EPA rolls out national electronic hazardous waste tracking system

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a new national system for electronically tracking hazardous waste shipments.

The Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System, or “[e-Manifest](#),” transitions the current cumbersome paper process to an electronic one-stop hub of manifests available for use by the EPA and state governments.

The e-Manifest system is not designed for emergency response purposes but can work to support emergency response. State administrators or site managers may choose to give emergency responders access to site or state information. Hazardous waste transportation vehicles will continue to carry Department of Transportation-required shipping paperwork.

The EPA provides several [fact sheets](#) to answer questions specific to different stakeholders including states, transporters, inspectors and the general public. A page of [frequently asked questions](#) is also available.

(Source: [EPA](#))

New Disaster Health Core Curriculum program announced

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) now offers the “[Core Curriculum for Disaster Medicine and Public Health](#).”

This is a modular, online course covering the [11 core competencies in disaster medicine and public health](#) (PDF, 1285 KB), such as:

- Surge Capacity.
- Situational Awareness and Personal Safety.
- One’s Expected Role(s) in Organizational and Community Response.
- Clinical Management Principles.
- Ethical and Legal Principles.
- Short- and Long-Term Considerations for Recovery.

The free curriculum consists of one 30-minute to one-hour online course focusing on each of the core competencies, approximately 8 hours total. It is self-directed and can be completed in pieces. Continuing education credits are available.

(Source: [NCDMPH](#))

Why people keep clicking on phishing emails

Despite repetitive training, warnings and even threats of punishment from some workplaces, employees still click on phishing emails. Why? The National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) explored this issue in a recent study and found some simple answers.

Phishing emails contain links that, when clicked, lead to a site that will collect

Highlights

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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.

credentials and other key information. [Phishing schemes are estimated to cost workplaces \\$9 billion in 2018](#), making this a serious problem needing to be addressed.

NIST found that despite training and reminders, context plays a big role in a successful phishing attempt. If an employee who is responsible for invoicing receives an email that appears to fit that job responsibility, they are more likely to click on it.

[NIST recommends](#) treating employees as partners in the battle against phishing. Educate them about new scams, make it easier to report attacks and make sure your technology keeps up and is proactive instead of reactive.

(Source: [NIST](#))

Effects of wildfire smoke on community health

Wildfires affect communities in many different ways. While most attention focuses on threat to life and property, communities also face long-term health problems from smoke and poor air quality. [Wildfire smoke can travel long distances](#) and have the potential to affect communities many miles away.

Wildfire smoke contains a mixture of gases and particulate matter that can hurt your eyes, irritate your respiratory system and aggravate chronic health diseases. Children, older adults, pregnant women and those with heart or lung diseases are most likely to be affected.

There are a number of resources available for public health departments and emergency managers on how to address wildfire smoke hazards. Many western states have information on their websites; a quick internet search will find these.

Other good resources include:

- [Smoke Advisories and Forecasts](#) on AirNow.gov.
- Guidelines to [Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- [“Smoke Ready Toolbox for Wildfires”](#) and [“Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials”](#) (PDF, 2 MB) from the EPA.

The National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) hosted the one-hour webinar [“Western Wildfires: Keeping Communities from Polluted Air”](#) in May to discuss the role local health departments and jurisdictions play in preparing for and responding to wildfires, and the health impacts of wildfire smoke.

In the webinar, local health department officials from California and Oregon present a recap of the 2017 wildfires. Academic and federal researchers review research gaps, and experts discuss current tools and resources available to local health departments.

(Source: [CDC](#))

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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**.

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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