



# The InfoGram

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## Mass overdoses tax emergency services

First responders were “sprinting from patient to patient” in a New Haven, Connecticut park last week after [more than 70 people overdosed within a few hours](#). The volume of patients badly strained emergency services. Within a few days the number had climbed to 114 overdoses, but no one died.

Though overdoses are in the news daily now, this case is surprisingly not attributed to the opioid problem but to a bad batch of K2, which also goes by the name Spice. [K2 is a synthetic marijuana](#), illegal in many states but often still sold in gas stations and is easily obtainable online. Authorities originally feared the K2 had been laced with fentanyl, but that appears not to be the case.

This could happen anywhere. Departments should review this incident and:

- Ensure your mutual aid agreements are up-to-date as well as your methods for recalling off-duty personnel.
- Review how to treat different overdoses, be familiar with drug paraphernalia and packaging to help identify the substance the individual has used.
- Work with state and local legislative bodies and public health offices to better address the drug problem locally.
- Check that your personnel are getting the support they need and have the tools and supplies necessary in case a mass overdose call comes in.

(Source: [JEMS](#))

## Your worst day is our every day: repeated exposure to trauma

Suicide rates among fire, EMS and law enforcement personnel generated much press this year, and rightly so as [statistics continue to show suicide deaths outpace line of duty deaths](#). Departments continue to struggle with this issue due to the stigma of mental health issues and the departmental organizational culture.

Departments wanting to take progressive action and address this deadly issue can listen in to the upcoming free webinar [“Your Worst Day is Our Every Day: The Impact of Repeated Exposure to Trauma.”](#) Sponsored by the U. S. Fire Administration, in partnership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the webinar will cover:

- Current findings on the rates of behavioral health concerns among firefighters.
- Changes in the approach, understanding and response to behavioral health issues across time.
- Signs and symptoms firefighters should watch for in themselves and their peers, and an understanding of what level response is appropriate.
- Suggestions for implementation of behavioral health programs.

Presented by the Center for Fire, Rescue and EMS Health Research, this event scheduled for Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. [Registration is required for access](#).

## Highlights

Mass overdoses tax emergency services

Your worst day is our every day: repeated exposure to trauma

FEMA seeks comments on National Qualification System

Intro to the FirstNet Network Status and Uplift Request tools



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.

(Source: [IAFC](#))

## FEMA seeks comments on National Qualification System

After the hurricanes and wildfires of 2017, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) realized the need to define National Qualification System (NQS) positions beyond the response mission area.

FEMA's National Integration Center is [seeking public feedback on several National Qualification System \(NQS\) documents that enhance interoperability and the effectiveness of mutual aid](#). The 14 positions released for this national engagement period represent work by FEMA and state, local, tribal and territorial partners, many of whom are still recovering from disasters.

The National Engagement Period will conclude at 5:00 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, September 5, 2018. The National Engagement Period provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on newly developed supporting tools. This engagement period includes:

- ➊ NQS Job Titles/Position Qualifications for the Recovery mission area, Mitigation, Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP), and Incident/Exercise Evaluator.
- ➋ NQS Position Task Books (PTB) for the Recovery mission area, Mitigation, EHP, and Incident/Exercise Evaluator.

To support stakeholder involvement, [FEMA is hosting 60-minute webinars](#) through August and the beginning of September to discuss the NQS and answer questions.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

## Intro to the FirstNet Network Status and Uplift Request tools

Progress continues with the First Responder Network (FirstNet), providing first responders better nationwide public safety communications coverage and a dedicated network. As this buildout continues, training and education opportunities for first responders become more widely available.

The National Information Sharing Consortium and the First Responder Network Authority is hosting the webinar "[Introduction and Overview to the FirstNet Network Status Tool and Uplift Request Tool](#)" on Thursday, August 30, 2018 from 1-2 p.m. Eastern. Continuing education units (CEUs) are available. Those interested must register.

FirstNet provides first responders the ability to uplift priority for jurisdictional users experiencing emergencies or network congestion. Users also have access to network status information, maps of local coverage, and site conditions. These are unique tools to the FirstNet network.

This event is part of the [NISC Mission-Focused Job Aids Webinar Series](#). Visit the website to see the schedule of upcoming webinars and view recordings of past webinars.

(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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