

The InfoGram



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Free online hazmat training for rural, volunteer and remote responders

Thanks to an Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grant, emergency responders from volunteer departments and remote locations now have access to [free training to prepare for hazards related to transportation of crude oil, ethanol and other flammable liquids by rail](#).

First responders can access training through the [National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center](#). “Regional Rail Response,” an 8-hour in-person training, delivers region-specific information for your jurisdiction. The course provides an overview of the rail industry and commodities commonly transported, the importance of a coordinated response and an overview of response disciplines and roles.

A sample of available online courses:

- Rural Response to Rail Incidents
- Hydrogen Response Considerations
- Pipeline Emergency Response Training
- Hazmat Awareness

Operated by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center is a one-stop shop for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information about hazmat emergency response. It offers planning guides, online courses and information covering a variety of topics.

(Source: [National Hazardous Materials Fusion Center](#))

Quick-thinking paramedic makes life-saving suggestion

Last week, a hunter in Oregon fell out of a tree and became entangled in his safety harness. He hung upside down 30 feet up in the tree for two days. Eventually, two other hunters heard his calls for help, located him and alerted authorities.

Rescuers from several different agencies responded, but none had the equipment tall enough to reach the man. The responding helicopter also didn't have proper equipment for a rescue.

However, a paramedic realized local electric utilities train to rescue injured linemen with bucket trucks able to reach that high. [The local electric co-op assisted the search and rescue team with the high-angle rescue](#). The man is recovering in the hospital.

Thinking outside the box can save lives, time and resources. When faced with an unexpected problem:

- Consider other organizations, companies or groups that may deal with similar circumstances and contact them for assistance.
- When brainstorming solutions, aim for quantity over quality and encourage all ideas no matter how absurd or unusual they may be. Real options sometimes grow from wild ideas.

Highlights

Free online hazmat training for rural, volunteer and remote responders

Quick-thinking paramedic makes life-saving suggestion

National test of IPAWS Public Alert and Warning System September 20

“State of 911” Webinar: Coordinating 911 and DoD Activities



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.

- Encourage all members to make suggestions, not just leadership.
- Incorporate lessons learned into future plans and exercises.

(Source: [FireRescue1](#))

National test of IPAWS Public Alert and Warning System September 20

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on Thursday, September 20, 2018 (primary date) or Wednesday, October 3, 2018 (secondary date).

The WEA portion of the test commences at 2:18 p.m. Eastern and the EAS portion follows at 2:20 p.m. Eastern. The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of national emergency or disaster messages and determine whether technological improvements are needed.

This is the first national WEA test to cell phones. The message will be a Presidential Alert and will read "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed." The WEA test will be sent through IPAWS as part of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure that automatically authenticates alerts.

This is the fourth nationwide EAS test and will be similar to monthly EAS test the public is familiar with. Periodic public alert and warning system testing assesses operational readiness of the infrastructure required for the distribution of a national message and determine whether technological improvements are needed.

Find more information on the national test on the [FEMA website](#). Questions on the national test can be sent to FEMA-National-Test@fema.dhs.gov.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

"State of 911" Webinar: Coordinating 911 and DoD Activities

How do you coordinate with Department of Defense (DoD) installations in your jurisdiction? Interaction between DoD and state and local partners differ drastically state-by-state and across the country.

Listen in on the upcoming "[State of 911](#)" webinar to see how you can improve communications with DoD installations in your area. The Washington State Enhanced 911 Office will share how it strives to develop a consistent statewide coordination solution meeting the needs of state and local partners and the three major DoD hubs within the state.

This webinar will also cover the NG911 Readiness Checklist self-assessment tool. The new digital version is currently in development by the Federal Communications Commission. Learn about the features of the upcoming digital version and how this new tool can help your agency prepare for NG911.

[All prior "State of 911" webinars are archived.](#)

(Source: [911.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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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**.