The InfoGram

Life safety concerns of growing peer-to-peer hospitality industry

The boom of peer-to-peer (P2P) industries over the last several years is giving federal, state and local regulatory bodies a lot to think about. This new shared economy allows consumers to both use and provide ridesharing, money lending and lodging through P2P industry. After the release of some interesting statistics, P2P hospitality should be a concern for fire departments and planners nationwide.

The journal Injury Prevention reported a study of 120,000 Airbnb listings in 16 cities, which were checked for standard fire and life safety features required in hotels and other lodging businesses. The findings:

- 80 percent of the listings had smoke detectors.

- 57 percent had carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.

- 42 percent had fire extinguishers.

- 36 percent had first-aid kits.

There wasn't a mention as to whether the detectors and extinguishers were in working order within the Airbnb venues.

The hotel and motel industry suffered a number of large and deadly fires during the last century, ultimately resulting in national code changes to reduce fires and fire losses in the lodging industry. However, P2P lodging is not covered by these codes. This leaves a worrisome life safety gap that state and local governments must manage.

Airbnb encourages its hosts to have working smoke and CO detectors, but encouragement only goes so far. Some municipalities, like Nashville, Tennessee, have taken a step further and require hosts to not only obtain a permit but submit a drawing of their property showing the locations of smoke detectors. Unsurprisingly, Nashville fared better than the average in this study. Other locations requiring similar permits or licenses include Denver; Milwaukie, Oregon; and New Orleans.

There are several ways first responders can address this issue:

- Bring concerns to state and local officials responsible for permitting and planning. If your area already requires permits for short term rentals, check that fire and life safety features are included, and get them added if missing.

- Include local P2P hospitality hosts in outreach programs. Work with them to get detectors and extinguishers installed, either by purchasing their own or through free give-away projects. Currently, some P2P businesses offer free smoke detectors to hosts, but it appears to be a limited time offer.

- Despite progress within the industry, much of the responsibility currently falls to the renter. It's a good idea to do some general outreach to the community as a whole reminding them to check for safety features if they use P2P hospitality.

(Source: Injury Prevention)

Highlights

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.

Virtual Tabletop Exercise Program releases FY2019 schedule

The Emergency Management Institute released the Fiscal Year 2019 schedule for its Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) Program. FY2019 VTTX topics include Vehicle as Weapon; Bakken Oil Transport; two Active Shooter scenarios; Earthquake; Hurricane; Cyber; and Long Term Power Outage, to name a few.

The VTTX program leverages the "whole community" concept by encouraging collaboration with non-profit organizations, school administration, local military and public health agencies. Participating locations usually have between 10-50 participants representing a variety of agencies and organizations.

Each scenario consists of three discussion modules, local discussion with guided questions led by an onsite facilitator and back briefs from each location at the completion of each module. The exercises run 12-4 p.m. Eastern on each day.

To participate, send an email to Doug Kahn at douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-7645. Also, send a courtesy copy email to the Integrated Emergency Management Branch at fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov or call 301-447-1381.

(Source: EMI VTTX)

DHS Fellows Program open to Emergency Services Sector members

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis (DHS I&A) has enhanced its Fellows Program and is now accepting applications from state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners to join one of the following entities:

- **Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT)**: Fellows work alongside analysts from the National Counterterrorism Center, DHS, and the FBI to research, produce and disseminate counterterrorism intelligence products.

- **National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC)**: Fellows are assigned to the NGIC to help enhance partnerships among DHS, the NGIC, and SLTT partners to integrate gang intelligence with a transnational nexus.

- **DHS Intelligence Enterprise**: Fellows work to facilitate collaboration among DHS components and SLTT partners, promoting understanding of threats to the homeland; collect intelligence pertinent to homeland security; and share information that can inform operational and strategic actions. DHS Intelligence Enterprise opportunities exist in the following entities: Cyber Mission Center, Transnational Organized Crime Mission Center and Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative.

The Fellows Program provides a unique opportunity for SLTT partners to collaborate with federal agencies and the Intelligence Community to ensure that SLTT perspectives are integrated into the threat information shared by federal partners.

If you have any questions about the Fellows Program, please contact SLTTPartnerEngagement@hq.dhs.gov. Please feel free to share this information with your partners and/or members.

(Source: DHS I&A)

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.

Disclaimer of Endorsement: The EMR-ISAC does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.

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.**