

The InfoGram



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First responder safety awareness of fourth generation nerve agents

“Nerve agent” is not the first thing to enter one’s mind when responding to an unconscious victim in a suburban or small-town setting.

Last year, several people in the United Kingdom were [poisoned using fourth generation nerve agents](#). Two victims were targeted and a few months later two others were accidentally exposed. At the first incident, first responders donned hazmat gear because [they feared fentanyl and had no idea a nerve agent was involved](#). The incidents could have sickened or killed dozens of responders.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released several [awareness guides to help first responders in the United States prepare for an unlikely fourth generation nerve agent incident](#). The guides provide information to all first responders and related fields.

Fourth generation agents are in the chemical warfare category and pose unique challenges to first responders. They differ from other nerve agents in that:

- They pose a significant cross-contamination hazard.
- Symptoms can be delayed as much as three days from exposure.
- They are most likely to be found in liquid form and do not easily evaporate.

For training on chemical incidents, the [Center for Disaster Preparedness](#) (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama, offers a variety of related courses for first responders. The CDP offers courses on biological and toxic agents for first responders and hospital personnel.

(Source: [HHS](#))

2019 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day grant money available

The National Fire Protection Association and State Farm are providing grant funding again for the 2019 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The \$500 grants go to support community wildfire risk reduction projects. [The deadline to apply for the grants is March 1, 2019](#).

The 2019 Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. Communities interested in applying for grants should review the official rules, tips on creating an effective proposal, previous years’ success stories and the list of project ideas.

Even if you don’t apply for a grant, this event is the perfect opportunity to build community relationships. Fire departments and community leaders can use this event to raise awareness of your community wildfire dangers and encourage homeowners and businesses to take steps to reduce their risk.

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Firearm-related law enforcement officer deaths increase in 2018

Preliminary data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

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Get involved with the National Exercise Program



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.

(NLEOMF) show [144 federal, state and local law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty in 2018](#). In 2017, 129 officers were killed in the line of duty.

Early numbers show an increase in deaths from firearms (52 killed, a 13 percent increase from 2017) and traffic incidents (50 killed, a 14 percent increase). However, only five officers were victims of ambush shootings, down 50 percent from 2017. Other statistics of interest:

- Handguns were used in the most shooting deaths.
- Struck-by incidents accounted for 14 deaths, a 56 percent increase over 2017.
- Medical causes accounted for 33 deaths, an increase of 57 percent.
- Of the medical deaths, 15 were cancers related to September 11 recovery efforts.

NLEOMF will release a final report later this year. See the preliminary report for more incident detail and statistics related to age, family and state.

(Source: [NLEOMF](#))

Get involved with the National Exercise Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Exercise Program (NEP) is a two-year cycle of national exercises to examine the capabilities of the five preparedness mission areas. 2019 begins a new NEP cycle and FEMA is hosting two webinars to talk about available exercise design assistance and the benefits of state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector participation in the NEP.

Exercises help all public and private partners better prepare for disasters and emergencies. FEMA is committed to providing partners with exercise design and delivery assistance, tools and resources, enhanced coordination and the ability to directly influence and inform policy, resource allocation and preparedness programs.

All webinars will be approximately 60 minutes and contain the same information. For audio, call FEMA Teleconference: 1-800-320-4330; Participant passcode: 559550. For slides, log in to the FEMA Adobe Connect: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/nepoverview/>. Webinars are scheduled for:

- Monday, February 11, 2019 at 10 a.m. Eastern.
- Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. Eastern.

Share this information widely with exercise practitioners and other stakeholders across your organizations and communities to ensure all have the opportunity to take part. For more information or to nominate your exercise to be a part of the upcoming National Exercise Program 2019-2020 Cycle, visit www.fema.gov/nep or send an email to nep@fema.dhs.gov.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

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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