

The InfoGram



Volume 19 — Issue 7 | March 14, 2019

Geomagnetic Storms

When conditions are just right, [solar winds](#) cause shifts in the space surrounding Earth, resulting in a [geomagnetic storm](#). It often takes several days for a geomagnetic storm to reach Earth. They produce major changes to Earth's magnetosphere, and are the cause of the beautiful [aurora borealis](#).

Geomagnetic storms also affect movement of low-earth orbit satellites, resulting in [errors in positioning and navigational systems](#). They can create harmful geomagnetic induced currents in the power grids and pipelines. It's possible for these storms to cause [power grid energy spikes](#), which could trigger fires, power blackouts and physically harm individuals coming into contact with storm spiked wires or pipelines.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) classifies geomagnetic storms using a five-level [Space Weather Scale](#) ranging from G 1 (minor) to G 5 (extreme). The scale and duration determine the magnitude of impact on radio and navigational systems.

NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center provides [daily space weather predictions for responders and emergency management](#), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides [space weather preparedness information at Ready.gov](#).

(Source: [NOAA](#))

Upcoming highway and traffic incident scene training

The increasing availability of data, analytics and connectivity enhances safety and situational awareness of responders during highway and traffic incidents. An upcoming webinar introduces first responders to emerging applications and present use cases offered through Infrastructure to Responder (I2R) technologies.

I2R uses emerging digital infrastructure, technology and applications to push warnings and information to responders through handheld or worn devices and to response vehicles at, or en route to, the scene. I2R includes device-to-device and digital infrastructure to device applications.

The digital infrastructure provides a connection that includes the Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Cities/Communities applications, and geospatial and off-system data to provide a foundation for scene-critical information for the operations and safety of responders. Learning objectives:

- Understand what I2R is.
- Enhance awareness of new and emerging technology for transportation incident responder safety.
- Develop support for information sharing across disciplines in traffic incident management.

The webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019, from 3-4:30 p.m. Eastern. [Registration is required](#). Note that to register you must click the "Purchase" button, but **this webinar is free!** The Department of Transportation (DOT) Joint Program

Highlights

Geomagnetic Storms

Upcoming highway and traffic incident scene training

FirstNet app demonstration series begins next week

Help CISA update the National Emergency Communications Plan



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.

Office and the Transportation Safety Advancement Group are sponsoring this program.

(Source: [DOT](#))

FirstNet app demonstration series begins next week

An upcoming series of “Apps for First Responder” webinars will highlight applications available in the FirstNet App Catalog.

This is a great opportunity to see the capabilities of these apps first-hand. Each app currently available will be featured in one of the 90-minute sessions, complete with demonstrations.

Topics covered include common operating picture across data sources; live streaming video and body-worn camera capabilities; Internet of Things interface data sharing; remotely controlled messaging and alert sharing; and critical workflow management of incident information or patient data.

The first webinar is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2019, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Eastern. [Registration is required](#). The full series runs through August. FirstNet, built with AT&T and RadioResource Media Group will host these webinars.

(Source: [FirstNet](#))

Help CISA update the National Emergency Communications Plan

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) seeks feedback on proposed updates to the [National Emergency Communications Plan](#) (NECP)—the Nation’s strategic plan to improve emergency communications.

Informed by last year’s SAFECOM Nationwide Survey, the NECP provides guidance to those that plan for, coordinate, invest in and use communications to support response and recovery operations. This includes traditional emergency responder disciplines (e.g., law enforcement, fire, EMS and dispatch) and other entities that share information during emergencies, such as medical facilities, utilities, nongovernmental organizations, the media and private citizens.

CISA is leading a national effort to update the NECP (last published in 2014). Proposed updates reflect the expanding ecosystem of people, technologies and functions involved in supporting emergency communications. This will aid public safety entities to address today’s challenges while also planning for future advancements.

To provide comments on the updated NECP, complete the feedback form on the Department of Homeland Security website and submit it to OECNECP@hq.dhs.gov by March 22, 2019. Questions can also be directed to that email address.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Fair Use Notice:

This InfoGram may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

The EMR-ISAC believes this constitutes “fair use” of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond “fair use,” you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

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**.

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.