

The InfoGram



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Connect with the Fire Marshal Interchange for knowledge sharing

The U.S. Fire Administration is having a soft launch of the new Fire Marshal Interchange (FMI), a secure information platform allowing fire marshals from across the United States to share knowledge and information outside jurisdictions.

By sharing information on the FMI with others in your profession, you will help bring awareness to – and learn about – problems and trends threatening the lives of those you have sworn to protect from fire and life safety issues.

The world of the fire marshal is ever changing. The FMI provides you with a resource to collaborate with other like-minded professionals to discuss basic and oftentimes complex situations that arise throughout the nation. Interactions here can allow for better mitigation planning when confronted with significant life safety concerns.

The FMI controlled access page provides:

- Training & Resource List Calendar and Links Section.
- Contacts list for fire marshals nationwide.
- Discussion Boards to share information.
- Reference Libraries with topical categories to share documents.
- A Multimedia section to share pictures and videos.

The FMI website resides on the [Homeland Security Information Network](#) (HSIN). Email bruce.bouch@fema.dhs.gov to request access to the FMI. You will receive an invitation with details on enrolling. After we vet you into HSIN, we'll notify you of your access to the FMI.

(Source: [HSIN](#))

Preparing for solar weather emergencies

While performing lifesaving and high-risk operations, the last thing a responder wants is an unannounced capabilities loss. By getting yourself and your organization educated on space weather and its affects, you and your organization can be more resilient during and after an event. This allows you to provide valuable services and bring everyone home alive and healthy.

[Solar Flares \(Radio Blackout\)](#), [Solar Radiation Storms](#), and [Geomagnetic Storms](#) can affect emergency operations and response through power outages, radio signal losses and other problems. First responders should take time to understand the direct and indirect impacts of space weather and how they can be mitigated.

Space weather causes both short- and long-term issues. Short-term, space weather affects [radio](#), [power](#), [GPS](#) and [satellite communications](#) for minutes to hours. Long-term effects could last days or even cause permanent damage resulting in loss of radio connectivity, power line damage and [satellite drag](#).

Highlights

Connect with the Fire Marshal Interchange for knowledge sharing

Preparing for solar weather emergencies

National Inventory of Dams updated, now available



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.

Preparing for space weather requires commitment before, during and after an event. Individuals and families can learn about preparedness at [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov). Responders can do the same preparation and should coordinate with emergency management officials and other local authorities to plan, train and exercise a coordinated response to space weather events.

Being prepared for broken radio signals or interrupted satellite transmission allows responders to be aware and ready to provide services during all conditions. Creating an adaptable response enables you to meet the conditions and needs of those you are providing the service to.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [Space Weather Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov/Space-Weather-Prediction-Center) monitors and reports on space weather daily and provides focused [emergency management predictions](https://www.noaa.gov/emergency-management-predictions). The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides space weather preparedness information at [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

(Source: [NOAA SWPC](https://www.noaa.gov/SWPC))

National Inventory of Dams updated, now available

Spring flooding season is in full-swing in various parts of the country already with the Midwest seeing historic flood levels. A dam failed in Nebraska allowing floodwaters to wash away several roads and a bridge. Emergency managers and responders in flood prone areas should be aware of the state of the dams in their jurisdictions and have plans written to manage dam failures.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently released the [2018 National Inventory of Dams](https://www.usace.army.mil/nid) (NID). The database contains charts, queries and maps of over 91,000 dams across the country.

The NID lists dams with at least one of the following criteria:

- High hazard potential classification.
- Significant hazard potential classification.
- Equal to or exceeds 25 feet in height and exceeds 15 acre-feet in storage.
- Equal to or exceeds 50 acre-feet storage and exceeds six feet in height.

Changes to the 2018 NID gives users the ability to download and export some NID data and view hazard potential classification. Jurisdictions may in some cases restrict access to information about dams within their area of responsibility.

The NID will be updated annually beginning in 2019. If you have any issues or questions, please contact the NID Data Team at nid@usace.army.mil.

(Source: [USACE](https://www.usace.army.mil))

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.