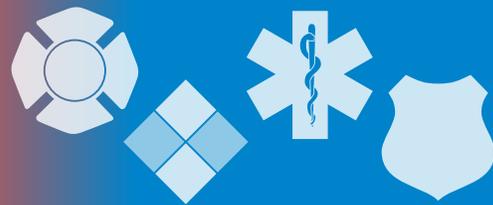


The InfoGram



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September is National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month and the theme for 2019 is “Prepared, Not Scared.” Public education and information officers can focus messaging on the weekly themes using materials [Ready.gov](#) has available. The chosen weekly themes for this year:

- Week 1: Save Early for Disaster Costs
- Week 2: Make a Plan to Prepare for Disasters
- Week 3: Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters
- Week 4: Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness

Here is a list of other resources for first responders, communities, families and businesses to help prepare for disasters:

The [American Red Cross](#) has a variety of apps for disaster preparedness, shelter location and first aid. They also have detailed information on how to prepare for and deal with different types of disasters.

In addition to the messaging materials, [Ready.gov](#) offers planning information on different disasters and how to stay prepared for each. There is also a large section specifically for kids and advice for parents on how to help kids deal with disasters. Information is available in 13 languages.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration both offer information on disasters and mental health care.

The [Department of Labor](#) has a section of its website focused on emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. The [Small Business Administration](#) offer disaster assistance, financial assistance and planning help for small businesses.

(Sources: Various)

Mapping data shows evacuation problems of small US towns

StreetLight Data took a look at small towns across the United States to [analyze evacuation risks during emergencies](#). The results are available free to government agencies interested in developing better evacuation plans and infrastructure.

The team looked at 30,000 towns in the United States with populations under 40,000. It selected a subset of around 800 communities scoring at least 3 times the average of all towns analyzed. These are the communities seen on the [public-facing map](#).

StreetLight considered how many total routes out of town there were, the percentage of people who take certain routes on a typical day and total population. The data from this study can help towns consider the reality of their evacuation plans in terms of road maintenance and availability when combined with human behavior.

States with the most evacuation-challenged communities were Florida, California, Arizona, Texas and Washington, all states facing reoccurring threats from major



Highlights

September is National Preparedness Month

Mapping data shows evacuation problems of small US towns

Webinar: Respiratory Protection Advancements for Firefighters

Online course looks at community response to violent extremism

Cyber Threats



U.S. Fire Administration

The U.S. Fire Administration operates 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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natural disasters such as hurricanes and large wildfires, year after year.

See the article in [Emergency Management Magazine](#) for a list of the top 20 communities with the most constrained evacuation routes.

(Source: [Emergency Management Magazine](#))

Webinar: Respiratory Protection Advancements for Firefighters

Next week is the first annual Respiratory Protection Week, a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) initiative to both recognize the evolution of respiratory protection over the past 100 years and to bring more awareness to the work being done to address today’s hazards.

Be sure to register for “[Respiratory Protection Advancements and Potential Options for Firefighters](#),” a NIOSH webinar scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 12:00 Eastern. Two presentations are scheduled:

- Respiratory Protection Advancements for First Responders: covering the changing threat environment emergency responders face, including natural and manmade disasters.
- Evaluation of CBRN Respirator Protection in Simulated Fire Overhaul Settings: discussing recent studies measuring the protective capabilities of air-purifying respirators versus protection offered by SCBA.

[Registration is required.](#) See the NIOSH website for more information on the presenters, topics and additional resources on respiratory protection.

(Source: [NIOSH](#))

Online course looks at community response to violent extremism

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) is offering a 6-week facilitator-led online course “[Designing Effective Community Responses to Radicalization to Violence](#) (DECRRV),” providing community focused, rigorously researched and academically-informed instruction on countering violent extremism (CVE).

DECRRV is an interactive, hands-on training applying design thinking methodologies to the development of community-based CVE efforts. Those completing the course will be able to:

- Explain how whole community approaches to CVE can build resilience to hazards, including the threat of violent extremism.
- Identify the five phases of the design thinking process and associated techniques.
- Describe how design thinking methods can be used to develop a community-based program to counter violent extremism.
- Utilize design thinking methodologies to develop a community engagement program or initiative to counter violent extremism.

This is a 9-hour course in total. There are three sessions still enrolling; see the START website for course dates, deadlines for enrollment, eligibility requirements and contact information.

(Source: [START](#))

Cyber Threats

Hospitals and hackers team up to test medical device cybersecurity

Ten of the nation's top medical device companies will **give hundreds of ethical hackers free rein this weekend to poke and prod their pacemakers, drug infusion pumps and other devices** — and look for bugs that could hurt people or even end their lives if they're exploited by criminals.

Since 2011 the FDA has released a series of rules urging device makers to vet their own products for digital vulnerabilities and to have a formal process for dealing with bugs found by outside researchers.

(Source: [Washington Post](#))

Coordinated ransomware attack in Texas hits 23 local governments

Texas is currently fighting an unprecedented wave of ransomware attacks targeting local government entities with **at least 23 jurisdictions impacted by the attacks**.

Details are at a minimum at the moment as the Department of Information Resources leads the response and investigation into the attacks. Texas released a brief notification advising affected local jurisdictions to call the state's Division of Emergency Management for assistance.

The attacks started in the morning of August 16 and, based on the collected evidence, appear to have been conducted by a single threat actor.

(Source: [Bleeping Computer](#))

16 common phishing scams consumers need to be aware of

Consumer phishing scams are a global problem. In the United States, the Federal Trade Commission received more than 1.4 million fraud reports in 2018. In 25 percent of those cases, money was lost, with the total being around \$1.48 billion. This is an increase of 38% over 2017.

Here we'll look at 16 consumer phishing scams, but this list is by no means exhaustive. It is also worth noting that scams may be as old as the hills, but the ways and means of scamming folk are always changing. **The only way to keep on top of phishing scams is to be security-aware.**

(Source: [InfoSec](#))

CISA chief recommends change to federal cyber posture

The Homeland Security Department's cyber chief on Thursday countered the notion that every civilian agency should be responsible for managing their own digital risks and said **federal leaders are considering ways to centralize cybersecurity operations**.

"The 99 federal civilian agencies all manage their own risk, all own their own networks—that is not a particularly defensible posture," Chris Krebs, director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said Tuesday in a speech at Auburn University. "In five years, I think you may see a completely different architecture across those 99 agencies."

(Source: [NextGov](#))

Cyber Information and Incident Assistance Links

[MS-ISAC](#)

SOC@cisecurity.org
1-866-787-4722

[IdentityTheft.gov](#)

[IC3](#)

[Cybercrime Support Network](#)

General Information Links

[FTC scam list](#)

[CISA alerts](#)

[Law Enforcement Cyber Center](#)

[TLP Information](#)

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.