Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)

The InfoGram

Volume 20 — Issue 36 | September 3, 2020

National Registry makes recertification easier during pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians recognizes the unique needs and concerns of EMS professionals requiring recertification. One of those concerns is the uncertainty and limited availability of classroom education.

To address the change in training delivery needs, the National Registry's Board of Directors responded by announcing the decision to waive the Distributive Education (DE) limits in the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) Model for the 2021 recertification season. This will help EMS professionals maintain their national certification while assuring continued competency.

These changes allow all continuing education to be accomplished online through properly accredited programs or education sites. In-person continuing education will also be accepted. See the National Registry's website for details on dates and deadlines.

The DE limits and NCCP Model Requirements are available on th website:

- Emergency Medical Responder.
- Emergency Medical Technician.
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician.
- Nationally Registered Paramedics.

DE limits will be restored for the 2022 recertification cycle. Providers at all levels who have an expiration date in 2022 must follow the NCCP 2016 Model Requirements, including DE limits.

(Source: National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians)

FAST training teaches high schoolers to stop the bleed

More than 250 high school teachers across the nation are now provisional instructors of the First Aid for Severe Trauma (FAST) certification training from the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T).

The FAST program has the potential to save many lives by training high school students on how to stop major bleeding and treat injuries before first responders arrive at the scene.

The final step of instructor certification will be bridge training, to be developed online by the American Red Cross by 2021. The American Red Cross will host the finalized course, once available, on its learning management system.

These online trainings are part of a three-year effort to develop FAST curriculum for high school students. Training was initially intended to be in-person but the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the move to remote, digital learning platforms.

There is no charge to high school students for the FAST certification itself or for the online materials. However, there is a charge for equipment. The FAST program

Highlights

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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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is designed for a typical high school class of about 25 students. The American Red Cross will offer a training package.

(Source: DHS S&T)

Operation Warp Speed: when might we see a vaccine?

As we head into Fall we've been hearing a lot more talk about a COVID-19 vaccine, when one will become available and what other countries are doing. We've all felt like we've been running a marathon these past few months, it is important to keep things in perspective as we work through this.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) maintains an online facts sheet on Operation Warp Speed, the plan to produce and deliver 300 million doses of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines with the initial doses available by January 2021.

The page describes vaccine development, manufacturing and distribution progress in a helpful timeline structures, making the information easily scannable. The page is updated regularly.

As vaccine trials progress, many researchers are looking for volunteers and in some cases, such as this trial in New Jersey, priority will be given to essential workers including first responders.

The Operation Warp Speed vaccine plan is part of a broader multi-agency strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of not just vaccines but also therapeutics and diagnostics (collectively known as countermeasures).

There are a lot of variables and unknowns as we make our way through this process, timing is still up in the air and rumors are flying. Make sure you are getting your information from official sources and keep on top of the rumor mill.

(Source: HHS)

Webinar: Protecting Your Public Safety Network from Hackers

Join the Public Safety Broadband Technology Association (PSBTA) for the free 1-hour webinar "Protecting your Public Safety Network from Hackers" on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 12 p.m. Eastern. Registration is required.

With new technology comes the need for renewed attention on security and staff training. This webinar will provide FirstNet customers with the knowledge and tools needed to help keep their agency safe from hackers.

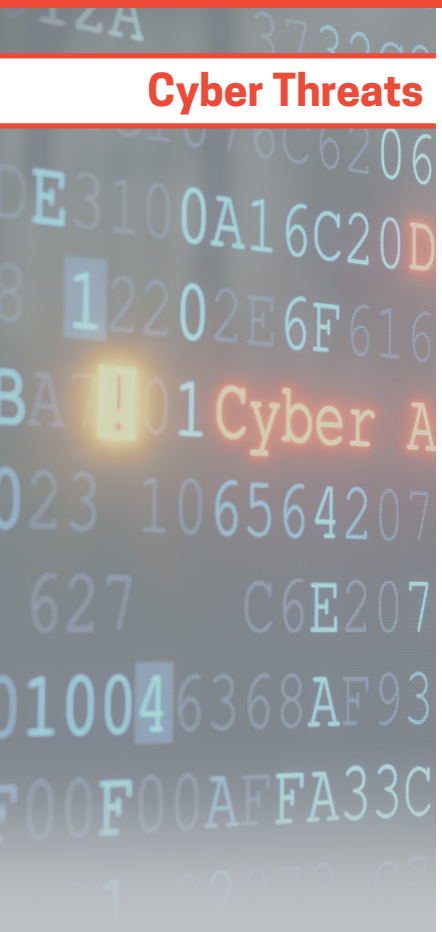
The session will consist of:

- Social engineering lessons.
- Malware and ransomware discussion with a security analyst.
- Overview of the FirstNet Cybersecurity Aware App.
- Information about FirstNet Security and the GNOC.

This webinar session is part of the PSBTA Technical Solution Webinar Series. Past webinars cover a variety of topics related to FirstNet, technology and enabling first responders to better do their jobs. All past webinars are archived on the PSBTA website.

(Source: PSBTA)

Cyber Threats



Joint international advisory targets malicious cyber activity

On September 1, 2020, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), along with an international coalition of cyber agencies, released a Joint Cybersecurity Advisory: Technical Approaches to Uncovering and Remediating Malicious Activity.

The joint advisory highlights technical approaches to uncovering malicious activity and includes mitigation steps according to best practices. This alert further enhances incident response guidance for network defenders among critical infrastructure partners, businesses and organizations.

This joint guidance provides best practices to mitigate and detect common attack vectors; however, organizations are reminded to tailor mitigations specific to their own unique network environment.

Joining CISA in this advisory are the Australian Cyber Security Centre, New Zealand's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC NZ) and Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT NZ), Canada's Communications Security Establishment, and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC UK).

(Source: CISA)

Microsoft says the pandemic changed the future of cybersecurity

Cybersecurity has shot to the top of business agendas in recent months, as the sudden shift of workforces from the office to the home highlighted a host of new threats within remote-working setups. Add to that opportunistic cybercriminals hoping to cash in on the situation and businesses are faced with a security minefield.

Microsoft recently conducted a survey of nearly 800 business leaders from the United Kingdom, United States, Germany and India to better understand how the pandemic will influence the cybersecurity landscape going forward, including their own plans for budgets, staffing and investments.

The bottom line is that the pandemic is accelerating the digital transformation of cybersecurity. Here are five ways COVID-19 is shaping the future of the industry, according to Microsoft.

(Source: TechRepublic)

Breach risk minimization for under-resourced teams

CISOs that have enough budget and enough people on their teams have always been about as rare as hen's teeth, but a confluence of challenges in today's environment has made resource constraints even more painful for information security teams. Three particularly acute pain points for today's CISOs include:

- Explosion of the enterprise attack surface, exacerbated by COVID-19.
- Risk Extending Far Beyond Unpatched CVEs.
- Lack of Resources.

Finding efficient ways to solve these three challenges means the difference between a team that continues to drown in issues, never able to catch up, and one that thrives despite tight resource constraints.

(Source: Security Boulevard)

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.