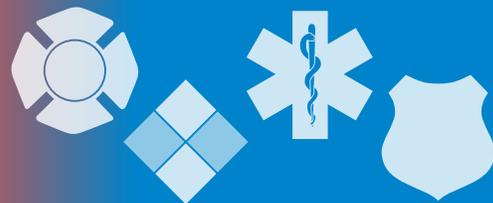


# The InfoGram



Volume 20 — Issue 47 | November 19, 2020

## National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide Final Report

In the past few years [more law enforcement officers \(and firefighters\) have died by suicide than in the line of duty](#). This is a fact made even more concerning since we know it's unlikely all suicides are getting counted, meaning the number is higher than what is reported.

[The National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide released its final report](#) in October. The report outlines the issues contributing to increased suicide in law enforcement and makes recommendations law enforcement agencies can use to improve access, quality and acceptance of mental health resources and to advance suicide prevention efforts and promote a culture of safety and wellness.

Recommendations promote normalizing the idea and the experience of seeking help by both officers and families; covering the topic of mental health and wellness throughout an officer's career; and establishing peer support teams within departments to provide safe, ethical and confidential interventions.

Efforts to reduce law enforcement suicides require leadership buy-in. Departments as a whole must be willing to "own" the problem and address it head-on, or to address unseen or overlooked job stress and mental wellness issues before they become a problem.

See the Consortium's webpage for information and resources on this topic. They offer an issue brief, messaging suggestions for leadership, a toolkit and a recorded webinar.

(Source: [IACP](#))

## START studying pandemic response impact to first responders

The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) is [researching the impact of COVID-19 on first responder organizations and is asking for your help](#).

If you were involved in your organization's response to COVID-19, please take a moment to fill out the [short questionnaire](#). A few minutes of your time now can help first responders in the future.

The START project hopes to measure the impact of COVID-19, identify and share best practices that can be used now and identify what can strengthen first responder organizations for future pandemics.

This research is part of a larger study funded by the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate to measure the impact of COVID-19, identify best practices organizations can put in place to protect themselves in the short term, and identify strategies to make first responder organizations more resilient to pandemics in the future.

All of the findings will be shared with first responders to help inform their continued efforts in the face of COVID-19. Visit the [START website](#) and follow #COVIDFirstResponders on social media for more information.

(Source: [START](#))



### Highlights

National Consortium on Preventing Law Enforcement Suicide Final Report

START studying pandemic response impact to first responders

Disasters and Religion app helps emergency managers

Virtual Tabletop Exercise program FY2021 schedule

### 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

[Subscribe here](#)

**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.

**Disclaimer of Endorsement:**

The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement of the linked websites or the information, products or services contained therein. Reference to any specific commercial products, process or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation or favoring by the EMR-ISAC or the U.S. government.

## Disasters and Religion app helps emergency managers

The [Disasters and Religions app](#) can assist responders, policy makers, emergency managers, chaplains and volunteers learn how to meet the needs of diverse religious and cultures during the disaster lifecycle.

The president of the National Disaster Interfaiths Network (NDIN) describes the app as a way to “equip responders with resources to feed, shelter, counsel, bury or provide emotional and spiritual care to the diversity of people of faith” in times of crisis. It is also a useful tool for building partnerships with faith communities before a crisis.

The app offers the following features to deepen religious literacy:

- ❶ Religions Index: in-depth information about 27 religious groups listing details on basic beliefs and practices; medical and mental health care; death and burial practices; and dietary guidelines.
- ❷ Tips by Topic: select a topic such as Dietary Practices or Physical Interaction, then select which religions you would like information about to get quick access to useful information to guide your work.

It also offers Tip Sheets on Mass Care considerations for different faith communities; 16 Tip Sheets on partnering with faith communities in disasters; and 26 Tip Sheets on equipping religious leaders about disaster preparedness through the Be a Ready Congregation program.

The app was created by the NDIN, New York Disaster Interfaith Services and the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture.

(Source: [NDIN](#))

## Virtual Tabletop Exercise program FY2021 schedule

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) released its 2021 schedule for the [Virtual Tabletop Exercise](#) (VTTX) program. Scenarios this session will cover active threats (office, vehicle, school); cybersecurity; HAZMAT (Bakken oil; chlorine); and a variety of other natural and man-made disasters. [See the online schedule for a full rundown.](#)

The VTTX program uses video teleconference to provide a virtual forum to 10-15 participation sites across the country per event. Each scenario consists of three discussion modules, local discussion with guided questions led by an onsite facilitator and back briefs from each location at the completion of each module. The exercises run from 12-4 p.m. Eastern on each scheduled day.

VTTX leverages the “whole community” concept, encouraging local governments to collaborate with their greater Emergency Management Community of Practice: non-profit organizations, school administration, local military, businesses and public health agencies. Participating locations usually have between 10-50 participants representing a variety of agencies, organizations and businesses.

To participate or ask questions about the program, send an email to the Integrated Emergency Management Branch at [fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-emi-iemb@fema.dhs.gov) or call 301-447-1381, and Doug Kahn at [douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov) or call 301-447-7645. See the [VTTX website](#) for full details.

(Source: [EMI](#))

## Cyber Threats

### Cyber Webinar: Understanding Open Source Anonymizing Tools

Register now for the next ISAC webinar scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern. This webinar will cover open source anonymizing tools.

Attendees will be introduced to some of the concepts regarding three major networks used for anonymous communication. The webinar will discuss Tor, i2p, and Freenet - why these tools exist, how to use them and what they can be used for.

Please note that with our continuous growth in membership, as well as the increasing popularity of our webinars, [you should register for this event as soon as possible](#). This will secure your attendance and allow you to logon the day of the call. After you register, you will receive a calendar invite containing detailed information about joining the event.

[See past webinars on the Center for Internet Security's website.](#)

(Source: [Center for Internet Security](#))

### Zoom adds tools to block, report people disrupting your meetings

Zoom on Monday released new features designed to remove and report "Zoombombers," or uninvited attendees who break into and disrupt meetings. The features are available on the Zoom desktop clients for Mac, PC, Linux and mobile apps. You'll need to download the latest version of Zoom to access them.

The first feature, Suspend Participant Activities, lets hosts and co-hosts pause a meeting, remove an uninvited user and notify Zoom's Trust and Safety team. After the host or co-host has reported the user, they can re-enable meeting features like video, audio, in-meeting chat or screen sharing, which are put on hold as they're blocking the disruptor.

(Source: [Cnet](#))

### Flood sensors drive predictive city management in North Carolina

Cary, N.C., is using internet of things (IoT) flood monitoring to go from a reactive to a proactive and ultimately a predictive town.

Situated atop three river basins, Cary installed seven water-level sensors in one – the Walnut Creek stream basin – and 30 to 40 rain gauges at town-owned facilities. The water-level sensors send alerts when levels hit a certain threshold, and the gauges provide minute-by-minute information that Cary officials can use to predict what areas might flood.

Before the IoT installation, residents would call in to report flooding and the town would react. With the data, town officials can make decisions such as closing roads or greenways, rerouting traffic to prevent drivers from encountering floodwaters.

Cary can also generate and deploy predictive models that help identify potential flooding events, both within its borders and in surrounding areas. This information enables stormwater management system staff to make informed decisions about what steps to take in the event of a flood.

(Source: [GCN](#))

#### 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.