



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

INFOGRAM 23-09

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NOTE: This INFOGRAM will be distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures. For further information, contact the Emergency Management and Response- Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) at (301) 447-1325 or by e-mail at emr-isac@dhs.gov.

First Responder Awareness

According to a recent report seen at PoliceLink.com, a way of committing suicide popular in Japan has now occurred at least twice in the United States. The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) learned that the methodology involves mixing two chemicals (i.e., bonide and hydrochloric acid) purchased without restrictions in local stores. When the chemicals are mixed, they quickly produce heat and a flammable, noxious gas causing loss of consciousness and heart stoppage within minutes.

Usually concentrated within a small space (e.g., car, bathroom, closet), the resulting hydrogen sulfide gas could easily compromise an emergency response if the gas is released without the proper safeguards in place by trained and equipped hazardous materials personnel. Therefore, the EMR-ISAC agrees that awareness regarding this suicide method is essential to mitigate or eliminate the threat to the health and safety of emergency responders.

For more information and precautions to promote awareness, see the PoliceLink web site at <http://www.policelink.com/news/articles/100793-officer-safety-caution-method-for-committing-suicide>.

Chemical Safety Board Redesigns Website and Releases New Safety Video

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) unveiled a redesigned website, www.csb.gov that includes imbedded flash videos, a photo gallery, and a new accident news feed. Upon review of this website, the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) found that it included easier access to investigation information and an enhanced search capability. In addition, the homepage includes an improved news feed of recent chemical accidents throughout the country, as well as, direct access to CSB's safety videos. In many cases, the lessons from CSB investigations are applicable to many organizations beyond those investigated.

CSB's new safety video, entitled "Emergency Preparedness: Findings from CSB Accident Investigations," depicts a series of chemical accidents that illustrate the need for effective training, communications, and community planning. The video is available online at www.safetyvideos.gov. In this video CSB Chairman John Bresland notes, "Preparations by companies, emergency responders, government authorities and the public are critical to reducing injuries and saving lives. It's not only important to be prepared, but everyone must communicate, have an up-to-date plan in place and practice that plan regularly. We hope that our findings will help keep communities safe."

CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The Board strives to be a leader in the online communication of safety information and recommendations. Board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. The EMR-ISAC confirmed that interested personnel can view any of CSB's video's at <http://www.csb.gov/videoroom/videos.aspx?cid=1>.

Next of Kin Registry Assists both Local and State Emergency Agencies

The Next of Kin Registry (NOKR) was established as a free tool for daily emergencies and national disasters. The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) learned that this free proactive service stores emergency contacts, next of kin, and vital medical information, which could be useful to emergency response agencies and their family members.

NOKR's system has proven effective for missing, unconscious injured or deceased community members. Next of kin can be immediately contacted if seniors suffering from Alzheimer's are found carrying a registration card. The system has been utilized for national disasters including the 2009 Washington State Flooding, 2008 California Wildfires, 2008 Hurricane Disasters, and the 2008 Iowa Flooding Disasters. 92% of all state websites list NOKR as a resource for the public and emergency agencies.

Stored information is accessible only by Emergency Services Sector (ESS) agencies that have registered with NOKR at <http://nokr.org/nok/restricted/agencies.htm>, where system information and directions for the ESS can be found. The general public can click on <http://nokr.org> to obtain more information about NOKR or apply for its service. NOKR has available an optional registration card that indicates the person is registered with them.

National Fire Academy Applications

The National Fire Academy (NFA), located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD, promotes the professional development of the fire and emergency response community and its allied professionals. The NFA supports state and local training organizations to fulfill their obligation to the career and volunteer fire and emergency services. The Academy develops, delivers, and manages educational and training programs having a national focus, which is beyond the mission or capabilities of state and local agencies. These programs are designed to support Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) goals to help state and local responder organizations prevent, mitigate, prepare for, and respond to local, regional, and national emergencies.

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) verified that the NFA First Semester FY 2010 application period closes on Monday, 15 June. Emergency Services Sector personnel interested in examining more information about free on-campus courses, including the Volunteer Incentive Program courses, can use the following link: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa>. Also, eligibility requirements for reimbursement of transportation and lodging expenses can be seen at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/costs.shtm>.

To access the application form (FEMA Form 75-5), click on the following link: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>.

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REPORTING NOTICE

The National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Infrastructure Protection is the central point for notifications regarding infrastructure threats, disruptions, intrusions, and suspicious activities. Emergency Services Sector personnel are requested to report any incidents or attacks involving their infrastructures using at least the first and second points of contact seen below:

- 1) NICC - Voice: 202-282-9201, Fax: 703-487-3570, E-Mail: nicc@dhs.gov
- 2) Your local FBI office - Web: <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm>
- 3) EMR-ISAC - Voice: 301-447-1325, E-Mail: emr-isac@dhs.gov, fax: 301-447- 1034,
Web: www.usfa.dhs.gov/subjects/emr-isac, Mail: J-247, 16825 South Seton Avenue,
Emmitsburg, MD 21727