



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

INFOGRAM 37-09

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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.

Tools for Local Communication Centers

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) reviewed two new tools for local communication centers. Both documents, meant to be used in conjunction with each other, were authored by the [Public Safety Data Interoperability \(PSDI\)](#) committee. The committee consists of a combination of practitioners and industry representatives supported by U.S. Department of Justice. The Integrated Justice Information Systems (IJIS) Institute and Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) manage the project.

The "[Guide to Information Sharing and Data Interoperability for Local Communication Centers](#)" (PDF, 2.5 Mb) states it provides managers of public safety communication centers with an overview of the issues and opportunities surrounding data interoperability. It offers practical insights and action-oriented advice for managers looking to enhance data interoperability in their facilities. Public safety data interoperability is the capability of the first responder community to exchange digital information, in many different formats, using well-defined, highly-repeatable business processes.

The second document, "[Priority Data Exchanges for Local Communication Centers](#)" (PDF, 9.7 Kb) delivers an overview of high-value information exchanges that are relevant to local emergency communications centers. This paper can be used by communication center directors and other planners to assess the current strengths, weaknesses, and growth potential of their facilities. Information presented in the document may allow leaders to understand emerging trends in data interoperability and to plan for future growth.

The EMR-ISAC noted that the results of this first project will set the foundation for future projects to create a value-added, first responder [National Information Exchange Model \(NIEM\)](#). The goal of this initial project is to improve real-time information sharing capabilities in the emergency response environment. Specifically, the program aims to define a strategy for the adoption and use of NIEM as the standard for sharing critical information between emergency communication centers and public safety agencies, within and across jurisdictions, and with other relevant emergency management and intelligence domains of the federal government, as well as to define a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) Exchange List of significant exchanges.

Fiscal Year 2009 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced the [FY2009 Fire Prevention and Safety \(FP&S\) grant application](#) (PDF, 307 Kb) will be available on Monday, September 21, 2009. The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) confirmed the application document is due October 23, 2009.

The [FP&S frequently asked questions](#) web page states that the grant can be used for fire prevention and/or research and development activities. Fire prevention activities are designed to reach high-risk target groups and to mitigate incidences of deaths and injuries caused by fire and fire-related hazards. Projects may include smoke alarms, sprinkler awareness, public education campaigns, code prevention, training, wildfire prevention, and risk assessments. Research and development grant activities are aimed to improve firefighter's health and safety.

The following are the key changes to the FP&S application for FY 2009:

- The eligible project categories under the fire prevention and safety activity are as follows:
 - General Education/Awareness
 - Code Enforcement/Awareness
 - Fire and Arson Investigation
 - National/State/Regional Programs and Studies
- Funding priorities for certain types of projects within each category.
- Listing of ineligible items for fire prevention and safety activity.
- Revision of the evaluation elements for the fire prevention and safety activity to indicate the relative weight of each evaluation criteria.

Additional information can be seen at www.firegrantsupport.com. Alternatively, contact the Department of Homeland Security Fire Prevention and Safety help desk at firegrants@dhs.gov or at 1-866-274-0960.

Phosphine Poisoning

Considering the potential for phosphine poisoning among first responders, the [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) researched the prevention of phosphine poisoning and explosions. Saint Louis University Centers for the Study of Bioterrorism and Emerging Infections "[Chemical Terrorism Fact Sheet](#)" (PDF, 131.6 Kb) states that pure phosphine is nearly odorless, but commercially available phosphine has an odor of garlic or decaying fish. Phosphine is used in the semiconductor industry as a fumigant and as a polymerization initiator. Its metallic salts, aluminum phosphide, and zinc phosphide are solids used as grain fumigants and rodenticides.

According to NIOSH Alert "[Preventing Phosphine Poisoning and Explosions during Fumigation](#)," (PDF, 151.6 Kb) exposure has been linked to blistering and edema of the lungs, chest tightness, headaches, dizziness, and nausea. Phosphine is a central nervous system depressant and is toxic to the kidneys. It is irritating to the eyes, skin, and mucous membranes. Improper handling of aluminum and magnesium phosphine has caused injuries from flash fires and explosions. Phosphide fumigants may explode when they contact air or are mixed with water.

HAZMAT specialists recommend Emergency Services Sector departments and agencies follow their local HAZMAT protocols if the presence of phosphine gas is suspected during any response or incident. See the [Chemical Terrorism Fact Sheet](#) discussed in the first paragraph for more information about signs and symptoms and treatment recommendations.

2009 Security Seminar

The 2009 Security Seminar and Shooter/Hostage Exercise has been scheduled for 22 October in Philadelphia. The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) was informed by the Infrastructure Protection Office of the Department of Homeland Security that the purposes of the seminar and exercise are to provide an educational opportunity for the participants and an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities for response to an active shooter scenario.

This event will focus on key emergency responder and chemical facility coordination, critical decisions, interoperability, and the integration of local assets necessary to bring an incident to a safe conclusion.

The following are the seminar and exercise objectives for the responder community:

- Identify the interoperability capabilities between responders and chemical facility owners and operators.
- Identify key expectations that deal with the Incident Command System between first responders and chemical facilities.

- Identify key communication protocols, requirements, and challenges during this type of event.
- Identify key information sharing capabilities and requirements.

This seminar is U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) approved. American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) re-certification credits are available for seminar completion. The registration form can be downloaded at www.pcic.org. To obtain more information about the security seminar, send e-mail to manelius@thebravogroup.com.

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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/emr-isac, Mail: E-108, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727