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The U.S. Fire Administration maintains 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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Power Line Safety for Wildland Firefighters

Electrical hazards are one of the most dangerous threats to wildland firefighters. Under heavy smoke conditions and in wooded areas, firefighters may not even know power lines are in the vicinity unless proper pre-fire planning has been completed.

A [2002 report](#) from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) discusses these hazards, case studies of accidents, and lists recommendations to limit the possibility of injury and death.

An [18-minute training video](#) (PDF, 286.12 Kb) produced by the Salt River Project, an Arizona utility company, describes the best practices and expectations between both the utility and the wildfire responders. The video was created with the western part of the U.S. in mind and is specific to that area, but it gives an instructive starting point for planners in regions that don't usually see wildfires on a large scale.

The video discusses when to contact the utility company; how certain types of smoke can cause arcing; how to stage around electrical utilities; the use of water, foam, and retardants; dealing with downed power lines; and how to respond if someone receives electrical shock or injury.

It also details the basics of energy management and the expected responsibilities of the utility company, such as line inspections, clearing brush, or cleaning soot off electrical equipment.

(Source: [Wildfire Lessons Learned Center](#))

Apparatus Visibility Report Released by USFA

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) released a guide highlighting a study of [emergency vehicle markings, lighting, and design for greater visibility](#). The guide “provides information on best practices in the application of various arrangements of emergency warning devices, creative use of retro reflective decal markings, and other innovative designs.”

The overall intent of the study was to identify ways to increase visibility of emergency vehicles to motorists approaching them, especially to try to limit rear-end collisions. It focuses on emergency vehicles not covered by existing standards, and gives many

photos of markings on a variety of emergency vehicles and includes examples of international emergency vehicle markings compared to those in the U.S.

The report is available in an [Adobe file](#) (PDF, 4.35 Mb) and as a [PowerPoint presentation](#) (PPT, 37.57 Mb), either of which can easily be used as a reference aid.

The guide was produced with support by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and in partnership with the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association's (CVVFA) [Emergency Responder Safety Institute](#).

(Source: [U.S. Fire Administration](#))

Mobile Devices and EMS Providers

More patient files and records are being stored and transmitted by EMS providers electronically using mobile devices like laptops, tablets, and smartphones. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is [working to educate medical workers](#) of their responsibilities when transmitting [Protected Health Information](#) (PHI) using these devices.

Mobile devices can be less secure than other computers because they are more easily misplaced or stolen, can link to an unsecure wireless network, and can download viruses. HHS recommends providers have a plan mitigating the use of mobile devices within their office and the safe transmission of PHI.

[HHS's Web site](#) dedicated to the safe use of mobile devices in health care offers a series of videos, [frequently asked questions](#), and [downloadable materials](#). The 2012 [Mobile Device Roundtable](#) transcripts are also available.

(Source: [HealthIT.gov](#))

Indoor Google Maps App Shows Floor Plans

Google released an updated mobile application (app) giving [detailed floor plans for public buildings](#) like malls, box stores, casinos, and even airports. [Indoor Google Maps](#) was created to help people navigate unfamiliar locations, but it also gives a new free indoor mapping tool to emergency and public safety responders.

Indoor Maps is an addition to the Google Maps app that's been available for some time. It shows your position as a small blue dot moving as you move through the landscape. If you are near or in a building with an available floor plan, it will show a detailed diagram – and can even show what level you are on within the building.

Google reports it has over [10,000 floor plans available](#) with more being added. Floor plans can only be uploaded by businesses that own the rights to the plans, and can only include public areas. Excluded are secure areas (such as in airports), national defense locations, and dwellings.

Fire and public safety departments interested in incorporating this technology into pre-fire planning and drills should not assume the floor plans are current or updated regularly. Such indoor mapping technology should regularly be checked for accuracy.

(Source: [Google Maps](#))

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