



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

**INFOGRAM 43-10**

**October 28, 2010**

***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](mailto:emr-isac@dhs.gov).*

### TATP Update

(Sources: TheSunNews.com and TATP@3Dchem.com)

Earlier this month, two teenagers were arrested after an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in the hands of a fellow student. The “pen bomb” was filled with [triacetone triperoxide](#) (TATP), according to a responding bomb squad and [local police](#). Additionally, three hazmat firefighters were injured as they tested explosives (supposedly more TATP) found at the home of the offending young brothers.

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) reviewed current information regarding TATP and learned it is one of a group of explosives based on the highly unstable peroxide group of compounds, which are sensitive to heat, friction, and shock. The base ingredients are drain cleaner, bleach, and acetone. Counterterrorism specialists consider it alarming because its chemical composition is simple, can be easily purchased without raising suspicion, effortlessly synthesized in clandestine labs, and in its finished form is almost undetectable by conventional bomb detection techniques including bomb-sniffing dogs. Making matters worse, instructions for making TATP can be found on the Internet when applying relative basic search skills.

Since TATP is a very volatile explosive that can detonate with the smallest ignition source, the EMR-ISAC understands the challenge for first responder when the presence of TATP is suspected. Considering the risks, it is prudent for emergency personnel to treat all unknown or suspected substances with caution and call for specialized resources immediately. Chemicals used in the production of TATP such as peroxide and acetone should be indicators of a potentially dangerous environment.

More information about TATP can be found at [TheFutureofThings.com](#).

### Apparatus Safety

(Source: FireRescue1 News)

An article in [FireRescue1.com](#) this week emphasized the need for the fire service to do more to reduce the serious accidents involving fire apparatus. The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) noted the author encouraged the development and enforcement of guidelines or standard operating procedures that enhance apparatus safety.

The EMR-ISAC also observed that the article contains several suggestions for rules to reduce or eliminate apparatus accidents. Some of the recommendations are summarized below for the consideration of the fire and emergency medical services:

- Ensure everyone is seated and belted before the apparatus begins to move.
- Adjust speed according to existing driving conditions.
- Stop forward movement at all stop signs and red traffic lights.
- Drive defensively and watch out for other drivers and pedestrians.
- Use a guide or backer whenever the apparatus must move in reverse.
- Guarantee drivers are properly trained to operate response vehicles.
- Acquire timely professional maintenance with updated records for each vehicle.

## National Gang Center

(Sources: FBI and Bureau of Justice Assistance)

Considering the increase in gang activity in several parts of the United States as reported by the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), the [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) examined resources available to assist communities to reduce gang involvement and levels of gang crime. A noteworthy source of assistance can be obtained from the [National Gang Center](#) (NGC).

The NGC [website](#) features the latest research about gangs; descriptions of evidence-based, anti-gang programs; and links to tools, databases, and other resources to assist in developing and implementing effective community-based gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies. An online form allows communities to request training and technical assistance as they plan and execute anti-gang actions.

Users of the NGC website will be able to register for a variety of anti-gang training courses, and also access a database of gang-related state legislation and municipal codes. Additionally available are lists of newspaper articles on nationwide gang activity that are updated daily and an electronic mailing list for professionals working with gangs. The EMR-ISAC verified that more information regarding anti-gang training can be acquired at this NGC [link](#).

## Hazardous Materials Course

(Source: Center for Domestic Preparedness)

According to the [Center for Domestic Preparedness](#) (CDP), the threats against America and its citizens have become real, and the need for ready responders is ever more critical. "Response personnel must remain vigilant, and skilled with the preparedness knowledge to protect the citizens and cities they serve." The CDP, located in Anniston, AL, plays a leading role in preparing municipalities and local response forces to protect, prevent, deter, and respond to acts of terrorism or major accidents involving hazardous or toxic materials, or events resulting in mass casualties.

For example, the CDP notified the [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) that the [Hazardous Materials Technician](#) (HT) for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Incidents Course provides students an overview of the international and domestic threats with a spotlight on identification and decontamination of biological or chemical hazards. The course also includes hazardous materials technical training for operating in an all-hazards environment and preservation of crime scene evidence. Furthermore, the HT course presents training that incorporates advanced competencies, technology, and tactics that focus on the specific threats associated with CBRNE material.

The EMR-ISAC confirmed that tuition, meals, and lodging are fully funded (i.e., no cost) for state, local, and tribal first responders who attend this and other CDP courses. The CDP offers over 50 training courses at its resident campus focusing on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. Interested emergency responders can obtain information from the [registration contacts](#) or by calling the Training Hotline at 866-213-9553.

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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](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)
- 2) Your local FBI office - Web: [www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm)
- 3) EMR-ISAC - Voice: 301-447-1325, E-Mail: [emr-isac@dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@dhs.gov), fax: 301-447- 1034,  
Web: [www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac), Mail: E-108, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727