



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

INFOGRAM 6-11

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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.*

Vacant and Abandoned Buildings

(Source: U.S. Fire Administration)

Vacant and abandoned buildings remain a threat of injury to the personnel of the Emergency Services Sector (ESS). The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(EMR-ISAC\)](#) re-examined this issue with the following results: These structures continue to attract vagrants, drug users, and homeless people; thieves still steal copper and fixtures, creating openings in walls and floors, and sometimes causing serious gas leaks; many of the buildings contain dangerous quantities of trash and combustibles; and they are frequent targets for arson. Compounding the risk is that these properties too often necessitate search and rescue efforts.

Tearing down vacant and abandoned buildings is time-consuming and expensive. Therefore, to mitigate the situation, some cities require owners of such structures to register them with the building and codes department for oversight. There are also municipalities where the fire department conducts annual inspections of all known vacant and abandoned properties to check for hazards, have combustibles removed, ensure the buildings are secured against illegal entry, and that they are clearly marked with special warning signs for the safety of citizens and first responders.

In every locality, responders should have access to accurate inventories of vacant and abandoned buildings so they can be considered for plans and operations. To inform ESS personnel about the inspection and dangers of blighted structures, the [U.S. Fire Administration \(USFA\)](#) (PDF, 178 Kb) and the [International Association of Arson Investigators](#) created the [Abandoned Building Project](#) (PDF, 115 Kb), a free, downloadable training resource that includes community strategies, and a sample ordinance and Memorandum of Understanding documents. The program, with lesson plans and additional resources is available at [interFIRE Online](#).

More insights on this matter are seen at the [USFA Board Up Procedures and Techniques](#) (PDF, 133 Kb) and the [Rutgers Center on Public Safety](#) (PDF, 193 Kb).

Hazus Website

(Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency)

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(EMR-ISAC\)](#) recently learned that the [Hazus Program](#) website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a new look and additional features designed to improve its usability. Redesigned navigational tools, new links, and updated graphics and layouts help users access information more quickly and easily.

According to FEMA, Hazus is a nationally applicable standardized methodology that contains models for estimating potential losses from earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes. Hazus uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to estimate physical, economic, and social impacts of disasters.

Hazus software is used for mitigation and recovery as well as preparedness and response. Government planners, GIS specialists, and emergency managers employ Hazus to determine damage and the most beneficial mitigation approaches to minimize losses.

Technical assistance is available via the Hazus Help Desk at <https://support.hazus.us>. If you do not yet have login credentials for <https://support.hazus.us>, send an e-mail to helpdesk@support.hazus.us to gain access. The Help Desk is available 24/7. Users can also call the technical hotline at 1-877-283-8789 as an alternative means of support.

Ethanol Emergency Response Training

(Source: Occupational Health & Safety)

“America is nearing a 100 percent saturation point with E10 [ethanol] in our nation’s fuel supply,” said the [Renewable Fuels Association](#) (RFA) market development director. “As ethanol continues to flow across the country through railways and trucks into fuel retail stations, it is important for first responders in these areas to be well prepared and trained for ethanol-related emergencies.”

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) observed in an [ohsonline.com](#) article that the RFA and numerous [Clean Cities Coalitions](#) announced they are hosting free Ethanol Safety Seminars in several cities this year. The sessions are mainly for responders, hazmat teams, safety managers, and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs). The goal of the seminars is for attendees to gain a full ethanol emergency response training experience they can use immediately in the field and pass on to other first response teams.

Each safety seminar is conducted with the local Clean Cities Coordinator and is taught by a professional trainer with a background in firefighter/hazmat materials response. The RFA has been working diligently with the State Fire Academies to offer certificates of training or participation that can be used toward their local department’s training requirements.

Visit the Renewable Fuels Association [Online Learning Site](#) to register and apply for these seminars.

Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse

(Source: U.S. Department of Energy)

The [Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse \(HDER\) Program](#) is a partnership of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Energy (DOE), serving state and local emergency responder communities. The mission of the HDER Program is to provide emergency responder agencies nationwide access to an inventory of items that are no longer needed by the Federal Government.

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) verified that the available items are refurbished and provided at no cost to the recipient. The allocation of these items helps to ensure that first responders are equipped to properly detect, prevent, respond, and recover from a national security threat.

Approved registrants from state, county, local, district, and other emergency responder organizations may order inventory items as frequently as every month not to exceed six orders per calendar year. Only orders approved at the state level are reviewed by HDER personnel. Conducted on a “first come, first served” basis, processing is contingent on the approval of the HDER project manager.

Use this [HDER form](#) to register and acquire a new account.

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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: 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