



Highlights:

[Scene Safety and Awareness Around Bridges](#)

[Executive Order: Critical Infrastructure Security](#)

[Planning for People with Medical Dependencies](#)

[Recent Terrorism Cases with Western Citizens](#)

Disclaimer of Endorsement:

The EMR-ISAC does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.



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.

The InfoGram

Volume 13 – Issue 7

February 14, 2013

Scene Safety and Awareness Around Bridges

Firefighters and EMS personnel respond to vehicle crashes or other incidents at bridges regularly. In the past two years, at least three first responders were injured or killed after falls from bridges. Accidents like these can be preventable with proper safety and situational awareness.

Two incidents involve people attempting to jump over divided highway overpasses while responding to accidents. An [Alexandria, VA, paramedic](#) died in 2012 after suffering injuries attempting to jump a 3-foot gap between highway lanes. This week, a [paramedic in Delaware](#) fell 50 feet while attempting to do the same thing.

A [2007 fatality investigation](#) by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) lists several recommendations including proper lighting, ensuring the bridge barriers (concrete, railings, etc.) are high enough, and the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for bridge operations.

Departments should identify bridges or overpasses having gaps between lanes and rewrite SOPs to address them, if necessary. Focus on things such as apparatus staging, lighting of the scene at night, and how to cross the gaps properly and safely.

(Source: [ABC WPVI-Philadelphia](#))

Executive Order: Critical Infrastructure Security

This week, the White House released Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-21 on [Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience](#) and an Executive Order entitled “[Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity](#).” The administration has been working on these documents and they were released jointly to promote an integrated approach to overall security needs.

PPD-21 replaces Homeland Security Presidential Directive/[HSPD-7](#), which served as the policy for critical infrastructure protection and security since 2003. The [Fact Sheet for PPD-21](#) discusses six specific deliverables, including:

- Updating the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) within 240 days,
- Developing a situational awareness capability within 240 days, and
- Identifying baseline data and systems requirements for the federal government to enable efficient information exchange within 180 days.

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

The Executive Order's press release discusses ways to strengthen ties between the federal government and private sector companies, as cybersecurity often falls jointly between the two. One specific need is a [better reporting system for classified and non-classified cyber threat information](#) in order to enable "near real time sharing...to assist participating critical infrastructure companies in their cyber protection efforts."

(Source: [The White House](#))

Planning for People with Medical Dependencies

A recent article in Homeland Security Affairs addresses the [gap in preparedness for people with medical dependencies](#) and the need for a re-evaluation of plans for these at-risk populations. Census data suggest roughly 12 percent of the population falls into this category, but the number triples when those over age 65 are added.

Federal regulations require equal level of access to programs and services for everyone. This includes situations where locating, transporting, sheltering, and making care accessible may be difficult or impossible without prior preparation.

The article defines the term "medical dependencies" and discusses how emergency planners can underestimate the needs of these populations, leading to a shortage of supplies and medications during a disaster. One example is the electrical needs or short battery life of portable medical equipment (e.g., insulin pumps) coupled with inadequate supplies or generator capabilities in shelters.

The authors discuss the pros and cons of various information collection methods for at-risk population size, location, and needs including surveys, [registries](#), working with medical and social services organizations, and even door-to-door canvassing.

(Source: [Homeland Security Affairs](#))

Recent Terrorism Cases with Western Citizens

In 2010, the [Director of National Intelligence testified in front of congress](#) to discuss "the difficulty U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies have in spotting terrorists who are American citizens - the so-called 'terrorist next door' phenomenon." The Annual Threat Assessment presented that year also predicted "violence from homegrown jihadists will persist 'but will be sporadic.'"

Since then, media reports do show a [rise in terrorists with western ties](#) and homegrown violent extremists (HVEs). Numerous arrests around the country include incidents in [Georgia](#), [New York](#), [Alabama](#), [Ohio](#), and [Oregon](#).

News articles describe the accused as "fringe militia," "lone wolf" terrorists, or "anarchists." Some had interaction or communications with international terrorist organizations, but others planned and attempted the attacks on their own.

Last week, undercover FBI agents stopped another attempted bombing [incident in California](#) and FireRescue1.com refers to the incident as an opportunity for fire departments to [re-evaluate their planned response to improvised explosive device and bomb incidents](#). This can mean changes in staging, improved situational awareness training, and a refresher on state and local procedures.

(Source: [AP News](#))

Fair Use Notice:

This InfoGram may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

The EMR-ISAC believes this constitutes "fair use" of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local [FBI office](#) and also the [State or Major Urban Area Fusion Center](#).

For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the **National Infrastructure Coordinating Center** by phone at **202-282-9201**, or by email at nicc@dhs.gov.