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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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Firearms Training and Hearing Loss

Law enforcement officers train regularly with firearms and are regularly exposed to noise on shooting ranges well exceeding the 140 decibel occupational health limits set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Many departments never discuss hearing protection in firearms training or within a safety and health program. Depending on when the officer's career began, he or she could have been exposed to damaging noise for years or even decades.

A [deputy sheriff from Florida was honored by the National Hearing Conservation Association for his work on hearing protection](#). After studying the issue with a local university, he created a workshop to educate officers on this health issue. Programs like this are rare. Departmental leadership or health and safety officers at other departments should consider starting a program similar to this one for their officers.

A quick internet search shows some information on hearing protection for firearms enthusiasts but not much targeting law enforcement, which is surprising as hearing is a critical sense for law enforcement operations, communications, and situational awareness. Kentucky covers hearing in "[OSHA for Law Enforcement](#)" (PDF, 205 Kb), a good resource listing occupational hazards faced by law enforcement officers and the OSHA standards that address them.

The [OSHA page on occupational noise exposure and hearing conservation](#) has information on general hearing protection and health effects which can be used to develop a program to educate law enforcement officers on these dangers. There is also a section discussing employer responsibilities and workers' rights.

(Source: [OSHA](#))

Highly Infectious Disease Exercise Tools

For more than a decade, public health departments, medical facilities, and national agencies planned for modern highly infectious diseases, including Zika, Ebola, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The United States has not yet seen a heavy patient load from these diseases, but the potential is there and facilities should be prepared to handle them.

A great way to determine if your facility is up to the challenge presented by highly contagious airborne diseases is to hold exercises. The [National Ebola Training and Education Center](#) (NETEC) and the [Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange](#) (TRACIE) hosted a webinar on creating and implementing

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effective exercises for infectious disease management. [The recording is now available](#), along with the [accompanying slide deck](#) (PDF, 1.78 Mb). Speakers discussed:

- Exercise methodology and program management;
- NETEC's suite of free, customizable exercise materials;
- How exercises support Ebola-specific Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) outlined by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR);
- NETEC's 4-hour interactive Emergency Management Workshop.

Tools include both discussion-based and full-scale templates for developing special pathogen drills and exercises. Speakers also covered planning and execution tips.

(Source: [NETEC](#))

Web-Workshop: Suicide in Public Safety

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) is hosting the 2-hour Web-Workshop . "[Suicide in Public Safety – Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention](#)" on Thursday, March 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 A.M. Mountain.

Mental health care and suicide prevention for those in public safety positions has become a focus area with the disclosure of worrisome statistics and stories. The suicide rate and rate of depression among those who work in public safety careers is higher than the national average, and preventable deaths make headlines each year.

IPSA's workshop will cover topics such as recognizing signs of depression, knowing when to step in, and resources for getting help. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion and will have access to the recording for 30 days. Registration is required; please see website for link and workshop fees.

(Source: [IPSA](#))

Webinar: Active Shooter Planning

The International Center for Enterprise Preparedness (InterCEP) is hosting a free interactive web forum on Tuesday, March 14th, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern entitled "Active Shooter: Planning, Response, and Recovery." A Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Adviser will be presenting and answering questions from forum attendees. This online event targets members of the emergency management and business continuity fields.

Active shooter events continue to be a threat and planning for them is a continuous process. As these incidents change and evolve, so must the agencies whose job it is to respond. We are seeing a shift toward targeted, complex attacks in addition to the kinds of "lone wolf" attacks more common in the past decade. Responding agencies must be prepared for either and must understand their similarities and differences.

New York University's InterCEP is an international research and development center focusing on organizational resilience and risk management. As such, it produces resources for those in fields including crisis management, security, preparedness, and emergency management in both the public and private sectors.

[Registration is required for attendance](#). For those unable to attend, a recording of the web forum will be made available on the [InterCEP website](#), where past web forum recordings can also be found.

(Source: [InterCEP](#))

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