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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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Diesel Exhaust and Firefighter Health

Exposure to diesel exhaust particulate matter increases the risks of short-term health effects such as headaches, nausea, and eye, nose, or lung irritation. Life threatening health concerns like [certain types of cancers](#) and respiratory diseases are connected to long-term diesel exhaust exposure. Firefighters fall into the occupational categories most at risk, and an online search for “firefighter diesel exposure risk” brings back more reputable search results than we can list here.

Diesel exhaust can be found in every fire station in the United States and while many career departments have ventilation systems in buildings and the apparatus bay, most volunteer departments are not so lucky. Volunteers also face more red tape proving work-related sicknesses due to red tape, lax record keeping, difficult state laws, and [inability to access paperwork](#). This is an issue that should be taken seriously by all concerned parties.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has partnered with the University of Arizona to study the diesel particulate matter and its effect on firefighters' health. They are requesting help from volunteer departments to [pilot test monitoring equipment over a one-week period at no cost to the department](#). The study will determine factors contributing to diesel exhaust exposure and propose interventions. Those interested should email [Lorraine Higgins](#) with the name and location of your department.

(Source: [NVFC](#))

New Patient Movement and Tracking Resources

The Technical Resource, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) site has created the new [Patient Movement and Tracking Topic Collection](#) to assist medical facilities and personnel plan and train for mass casualty incidents. Patient tracking and transportation is chaotic without the right coordination and communication methods, and those looking to strengthen their plans should find this information helpful.

The collection is divided into topical sections including Ambulance Strike Teams; Federal Patient Movement; Lessons Learned; and Plans, Tools, and Templates. There is also a Must Read section. The entire collection list is also available as a downloadable PDF.

Information and resources on initial pre-hospital transportation of patients are housed in the [Pre-Hospital Topic Collection](#). TRACIE stresses pre- and post-hospital

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mass casualty patient transport issues overlap with a variety of other Topic Collections on their site such as [Healthcare Facility Evacuation](#), [Alternate Care Sites](#), [Pre-Hospital Victim Contamination](#), and [Mass Patient Care](#), and those working on patient transport plans and operations should be sure to include them in their studies.

(Source: [TRACIE](#))

VALOR for Blue's Casualty Care Training Module

[VALOR for Blue](#) was created by the Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2010 to respond to the increase in assaults resulting in the deaths of law enforcement officers. The program offers free online training to officers and resources on a variety of topics. Recently it added two new modules to its [eLearning portal](#).

"Casualty Care—Recommended Equipment," a roll call video, discusses and demonstrates the types of medical equipment that should be carried by law enforcement officers, a hot topic right now. It also shows officers the recommended placement of the equipment for quick access when needed.

"Mental Health and Wellness," an online training module, provides an overview of the different levels of on-the-job stressors that law enforcement officers face in the fulfillment of their duties. It outlines the characteristics of stress and gives techniques for managing stress and creating a work-life balance.

Other modules include "Casualty Care – Tourniquets," "Common Indicators of a Potential Attack," and several modules on both ambush attacks and active shooter events. Be sure to check regularly for newly introduced modules.

The VALOR for Blue eLearning site is for law enforcement professionals and [requires a valid VALOR for Blue account for access](#).

(Source: [VALOR for Blue](#))

National Cyber Incident Response Plan Webinars

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently released the National Cyber Incident Response Plan (NCIRP), defining the national response to cyber incidents potentially affecting national security through cyberattacks on economics, foreign relations, civil liberties, or public health and safety.

DHS is hosting four upcoming webinar sessions in order to promote the NCIRP to stakeholders. Each session will cover the same information: updates to the plan and how it can best be utilized within communities.

Webinars will be held at 3:00 p.m. Eastern each of the following days:

- [Monday, March 27, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, March 28, 2017](#)
- [Wednesday, March 29, 2017](#)
- [Thursday, March 30, 2017](#)

For each webinar, the conference number (1-800-320-4330) and the passcode (372094) remain the same. More details and a copy of the National Cyber Incident Response Plan can be found on the [United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team](#) (US-CERT) website.

(Source: [US-CERT](#))

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