

The InfoGram



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NIST offers free software for agencies to test forensics tools

As technology changes, law enforcement agencies must adapt their computer forensic tools and methods to keep up. In order to do this, and to ensure evidence collection is accurate and consistent, they must use reliable tools that meet specific capabilities sets.

The [Computer Forensic Tool Testing](#) (CFTT) project run by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) works to establish test procedures and criteria for computer forensics tools. First established nearly 20 years ago, the CFTT assists law enforcement agencies with computer forensics through tool testing research and Federated Testing software.

The Federated Testing option is a free tool enabling law enforcement agencies to do the testing themselves, as there is no way for NIST to keep up with the sheer volume of new software releases and updates every year.

Examples of common forensic needs addressed by the CFTT are recovery of deleted files, disk imaging and mobile device data extraction. All such searches or actions must meet legal evidence-gathering criteria, such as warrants and subpoenas, and CFTT helps ensure that criteria are met.

Interested agencies can find a variety of reports, a computer forensics tool catalog and a link to the Federated Testing project on the [NIST CFTT website](#).

(Source: [NIST](#))

Assessing Operations of Small Law Enforcement Agencies

The Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC) has a new evaluation solution for small law enforcement agencies short on time and resources.

Small law enforcement departments often have a difficult time performing assessments or evaluations simply because they are so busy actually doing their jobs. "[How to Assess and Improve Operations of Small Law Enforcement Agencies](#)," (PDF, 367 KB) aims to help chiefs and administrators manage the evaluation process.

By dividing a departmental evaluation up into manageable sections such as crime prevention, day-to-day operations or training, agencies can work through the evaluation process in parts, making it a less daunting task.

The guide also stresses how important it is for agencies to have both leadership and management. Lack of either leadership or management - often one is missing - damages the organization. Assessing and reviewing departmental functions regularly is a management task that usually results in a better-functioning agency overall.

(Source: [JTIC](#))

Planning for supply chain disruptions

It doesn't take a major disaster to cause disruption to the medical supply chain. We are on the downslide from a bad seasonal influenza season which by itself has caused a shortage of IV bags, flu shots, and both prescription and over-the-counter flu medications nationwide. Supply chain disruption can happen at any time.

Highlights

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Assessing Operations of Small Law Enforcement Agencies

Planning for supply chain disruptions

Dam safety training on demand



U.S. Fire Administration

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

The “[Supply Chain Disaster Preparedness Manual](#)” from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) helps healthcare emergency managers and healthcare supply chain managers identify events that may impact their facilities, create plans to address supply chain disruption, and plan an all-hazards cache of medical supplies to ensure operations can continue during and after a disaster.

The manual serves as a framework for a coordinated disaster response with supply chain management as a focus. Topics covered include team structure, hazard vulnerability analysis, issues with planning and vendors, and discussion questions to consider.

It also includes detailed worksheets covering different medical departments, supplies needed, departmental expectations, and reminders to consider things not normally kept on hand (e.g., non-medical sanitary or comfort care needs). Non-medical departments within the facility (e.g., security or janitorial services) should also be consulted.

The CDC takes a whole-community or system-wide perspective to this planning effort. Bringing people or teams together from different parts of the supply chain ensures the disaster plans are more robust and more contingencies are covered.

(Source: [CDC](#))

Dam safety training on demand

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) provides online training, on-demand and downloadable webinars, and scheduled webinars for on a variety of dam safety topics. Emergency managers, dam safety officials and engineers can take advantage of these resources to improve their response plans and keep up-to-date on current methods and issues.

Most of the webinars available are for engineers and are technical, but there are many options for the emergency manager looking to increase their dam safety awareness:

- How to Make Your Emergency Action Plan More Effective.
- Hydrologic Hazards - Estimating Probabilities of Extreme Floods.
- Human Factors in Dam Failure and Safety.
- Rainfall and Dam Safety - From PPM to the 100-Year Storm.
- Seismic Stability Evaluation of Earth Dams.
- Risk Communication for Dams.

You do not need to be a member of the ASDSO to take this training, but there are associated fees. Please see the [ASDSO Learning Center](#) for more information and a schedule of upcoming live events.

(Source: [ASDSO](#))

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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