

# The InfoGram



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## What's your fire department's safety culture?

A fire department's safety culture is a strong predictor of firefighter injuries. Leadership can improve personnel behaviors by placing a stronger value on safety, but you really need to know where you are before you know what to improve.

Drexel University's Center for Firefighter Injury Research and Safety Trends (FIRST) developed a tool to do this. The [Firefighter Organizational Culture of Safety \(FOCUS\) survey](#) can help your department predict firefighter injuries and organizational outcomes (e.g., burnout, job satisfaction and work engagement).

This is an opportunity for fire department leadership to measure their safety climate. There is no cost to the participating fire departments, and it is open to both career and volunteer departments. FOCUS administration will provide you with objective data to assess departmental safety culture:

- Customized data showing your safety culture at both the department and station levels.
- A comparative analysis of your safety culture to other similar departments who have participated.
- Objective evidence to inform safety related policy decisions.

The program is available through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant and is funded through August 2018, so [departments are urged to assess their safety culture as soon as possible](#). One entry per fire department will be accepted.

For additional fire service safety culture information, see the U.S. Fire Administration website on [Operational Safety](#).

(Source: [Drexel University's FIRST](#))

## New DHS best practices guide on disaster area access

Restricting access to affected areas during a disaster or emergency is extremely difficult but crucial for efficient response. Managing personnel from multiple agencies and different levels of government is challenging enough. Jurisdictional lines and geographical boundaries just complicate matters further.

Then there are the utilities attempting to evaluate damage or make repairs, insurance companies performing inspections, and business owners or residents trying to access their property. Communities would be smart to have a plan in place to manage these issues well before it becomes necessary.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) just released the "[Crisis Event Response and Recovery Access \(CERRA\) Framework](#)" (PDF, 4.7 MB), a 30-page best practices guide to assist jurisdictions plan for managing access requirements. It provides recommendations on establishing:

- Restricted Areas - **where** restrictions need to be in place.
- Access Rules - **which** personnel may enter and **when**.
- Access Authorization Procedures - **how** personnel may gain access.

## Highlights

What's your fire department's safety culture?

New DHS best practices guide on disaster area access

FEMA PrepTalks gives national emergency management experts the stage

National Level Exercise 2018 to focus on hurricane response



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.

Jurisdictions are strongly urged to establish an access plan and incorporate it into any emergency plans already developed. It is vital to coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, critical infrastructure partners, local relief organizations, businesses and other levels of government. Establishing access needs and expectations during planning will limit potential conflicts during response and recovery efforts.

(Source: [DHS](#))

## FEMA PrepTalks gives national emergency experts the stage

FEMA puts subject-matter experts in the spotlight in its new [PrepTalks video series](#). Developed in a style similar to the popular TEDTalks, FEMA intends to promote innovation, conversation and spread new ideas within the field of emergency management.

PrepTalks are recorded and available on the FEMA website. It includes video of the presentations and question-and-answer periods, a discussion guide related to the topic, and additional resources. Topics currently available:

- Land Use Planning for Community Resilience
- Who's at Risk? Rapid Mapping of Potential Hazard Exposure
- Modernizing Public Warning Messaging
- Social Capital in Disaster Mitigation and Recovery

PrepTalks are through a partnership with FEMA and several other organizations. Be sure to check the PrepTalks website regularly for new talks.

(Source: [FEMA PrepTalks](#))

## National Level Exercise 2018 to focus on hurricane response

The [National Level Exercise \(NLE\) 2018](#), scheduled to run April 30 to May 11, will test response to and recovery from a major hurricane hitting the Mid-Atlantic coast.

Coming on the heels of one of the most destructive hurricane seasons in history, this scenario gives all levels of government, businesses, critical infrastructure partners and nongovernmental organizations a way to test and evaluate lessons learned from last fall's response and recovery efforts.

This is a large-scale exercise providing an opportunity to test communications and information sharing, coordination, and response and recovery. Agencies, organizations, businesses and even citizens are encouraged to join over 200 entities already involved, even if only for a few days.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides information for entities and individuals who would like to participate. [Details and contact information are listed on FEMA's NLE website](#).

The NLE is held every two years. Exercises from previous years involved cyber threats, earthquake/tsunami and terrorist attack.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

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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](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)**.