

The InfoGram



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Suicide deaths outpace line-of-duty deaths for fire, law enforcement

A sobering report released last month states that firefighters and law enforcement officers are more likely to die by suicide than from a line-of-duty death.

In 2017, **suicide accounted for a reported 103 firefighter deaths and 140 law enforcement deaths**. During the same time, **93 firefighters and 129 law enforcement officers were lost in line-of-duty deaths**.

“[The Ruderman White Paper on Mental Health and Suicide of First Responders](#)” looks at contributing factors to mental health issues among first responders. Some of the key findings:

- ❖ Researchers believe only 40 percent of firefighter suicides are reported, which would bring 2017 firefighter suicides closer to 250.
- ❖ Law enforcement officers witness or are subject to 188 “critical incidents” during their career on average. Examples listed include being beaten, mistakes that kill others, injured/dead child, being taken hostage, and making death notifications.
- ❖ Research also shows high numbers of other hazardous behaviors among firefighters such as binge drinking and other “self-medicating” activities.
- ❖ Out of 18,000 law enforcement agencies, only 3-5 percent have suicide prevention training programs.

May is Mental Health Month and, in light of these concerning statistics, we will touch on this topic throughout the month. Coincidentally, the National Alliance on Mental Health designated the 2018 theme as “[Cure Stigma](#),” a relevant goal for emergency first responders.

If you need help, the national suicide prevention hotline is 1-800-273-8255. There are several hotlines specific to first responders; these can be found at [CodeGreenCampaign.org](#). International numbers are listed there as well.

(Source: [Ruderman Foundation](#))

NFPA releases standard for active shooter/hostile event response

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) yesterday released “[NFPA 3000: Standard for an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response \(ASHER\) Program](#).” This provisional standard was fast-tracked to address the increase in such incidents in recent years and provide guidance in [developing unified command and integrated response with law enforcement partners](#).

As part of the NFPA 3000 rollout, the [press release](#) states they are offering an online training series, a downloadable checklist, a readiness assessment document, and a fact sheet to assist jurisdictions learn why establishing proactive, collaborative active shooter/hostile event programs is essential to effective response.

This provisional standard is also [being offered through a new digital subscription](#), which will be automatically updated when the next edition becomes available.

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Highlights

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Wildfire Research Center videos on community risk reduction

Human trafficking awareness training for EMS



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.

Wildfire Research Center videos on community risk reduction

The [Wildfire Research \(WiRe\) Center](#) released a series of short videos introducing communities to their approach for managing wildfire risk-reduction strategies.

WiRe uses social solutions to teach communities living with wildfire threats how to reduce risk on their properties. It uses data specific to the community in question to tailor plans for fire adaptation based on the strengths of that community.

[WiRe's new 3-minute videos show:](#)

- ➊ How community-specific data can be paired with physical data to provide tailored risk-reduction suggestions.
- ➋ How to work with communities to use this customized information to the best advantage.
- ➌ How, ultimately, these efforts can result in increased wildfire adaptation, wildfire program savings and more effective government policies.

Communities interested in learning more about WiRe's successes can read about their case reports and their services on their website.

(Source: [WiRe](#))

Human trafficking awareness training for EMS

The Polaris Project recently released [2017 human trafficking statistics](#) (PDF, 800 KB), based on contact made through the national hotlines and textlines. They report 10,000 individual victims of human trafficking nationally with California, Texas and Florida reporting the highest numbers. There was a 13 percent jump in identified cases.

It is easy to believe this is a problem only for big population areas, but the heat map in the Polaris Project report linked above shows hits in every state.

[EMS personnel are in a very good position to identify and report human trafficking victims](#) if they've received effective training, as shown in this case in [Hawaii](#). Many [departments are working to educate their staff](#) on the signs, who to contact if they suspect they have identified a human trafficking victim, and provide an overview of the local services available to help.

[New training for EMS personnel is now available](#), thanks to Florida State University's Institute for Family Violence Studies. The six-part training covers definitions, laws and facts; characteristics of both victims and traffickers; red flags; the dynamics of both sex- and labor-trafficking; and reporting methods and resources.

Agencies can utilize this online resource as part of an in-house training program, but you are urged to contact local resources as well. This is beneficial in two ways: you create partnerships to help deal with the problem, and these agencies can brief EMS staff on what the problem looks like in your region.

(Source: [Florida State University](#))

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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