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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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Decontamination and Sanitation of PPE

Chemical and biological agents are typical daily hazards for fire and EMS personnel, who regularly come into contact with household chemicals, blood or other bodily fluids, and even worse on serious hazardous materials incidents. MRSA is even a threat in the firehouse, although the reports of that have subsided recently.

Turnout gear and other personal protective equipment (PPE) can be an ongoing source of exposure and infection if not properly cleaned after being contaminated, as can uniforms worn in the firehouse. Washing clothing and PPE in hot water with detergent is often enough, but effective cleaning sometimes requires stronger measures and it's important to [know the difference between decontamination, disinfection, and sanitization](#).

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard "[NFPA 1851: Standard of Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Firefighting](#)" was updated in 2014 to more fully address this issue.

Before using chemical detergents or cleaners, check to see if the product is safe to use on the material of the PPE in question. Some cleaners will weaken the integrity of certain materials. It's advised to check with the manufacturer of the item before using any cleaner so as to further ensure the safety of the person using it and save in replacement costs if the item is inadvertently damaged.

(Source: FireRescue1.com)

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor

The Office of Justice Programs is accepting nominations for the [Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor](#). It is awarded by the President or Vice President of the United States to a public safety officer who has exhibited exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life.

For the purpose of this award, a public safety officer is defined as a person (living or deceased) serving a public agency, with or without compensation, as a firefighter, law enforcement officer, or emergency services officer. The term "law enforce-

ment officer” includes a person who is a corrections or court officer or a civil defense officer.

Nominations are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on July 31, 2016. Full details on the requirements, application process, and necessary documentation are [available online](#). For questions about the application process or application submission, please contact Gregory Joy, Designated Federal Officer, Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor, at Gregory.Joy@usdoj.gov.

(Source: [Office of Justice Programs](#))

Remember FEMA App as Hurricane Season Begins

Spring and summer weather is highly unpredictable. A few days into the 2016 hurricane season and already we’ve seen two tropical storms affect the southern coast. On top of that, 2016 saw its first hurricane in January – the first January hurricane since 1955. We’ve also seen serious flooding in Texas and up and down the Mississippi River, deadly tornadoes in multiple states, and [wildfires activity starting very early](#). The need for effective and timely emergency communications is great.

The free app from the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) enables users to receive weather alerts from the National Weather Service in real time. Users can choose to receive alerts for up to five counties across the country, allowing users to monitor alerts for loved ones living elsewhere, such as a child away at college or an elderly parent.

The FEMA app provides other information including a customizable emergency checklist, safety reminders, and tips on handling natural disasters. In the event of a natural disaster, the app provides the location of open shelters, advises how to talk to FEMA for assistance, and it even allows users to upload photos of the disaster scene to help emergency responders.

The app is available to Android, Apple, and Blackberry users.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

Bailouts and Confined Space Rescue Training

The Firefighters Support Foundation (FSF) released “Basic Firefighter Bailout” and “Confined Space Rescue,” the latest in its series of free online training downloads available to first responders.

The basic bailout video demonstrates the most common ways a firefighter can bail out of a building, specifically the head-first ladder bailout, basic hang technique, and the basic drop technique. This video is 16-minutes long and focuses on things that can keep firefighters from being injured while doing these bailouts.

“Confined Space Rescue” is 18-minutes long and covers the safety issues and technical points of an operation from set up to removing the patient. It talks technique and demonstrates the steps using a simulator.

All video training offered by FSF are free and can be found at FireEngineering.com.

(Source: [Firefighters Support Foundation](#))

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