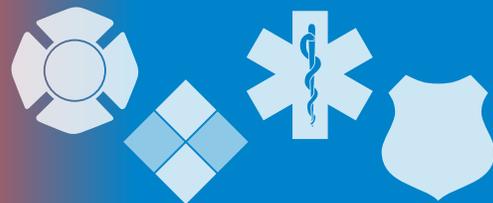


The InfoGram



Volume 20 — Issue 27 | July 2, 2020

Chemical Safety Board issues new hurricane video safety message

The United States Chemical Safety Board (CSB) issued a video safety message and safety alert that fire departments and emergency managers in hurricane-prone areas may want to share with any chemical plants in their jurisdictions.

The short video [2020 Hurricane Season: Guidance for Chemical Plants During Extreme Weather Events](#) talks about the [equipment failure at Arkema Chemical Plant in Crosby, Texas](#), caused by record rainfall and flooding from Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Chemicals decomposed and started burning, releasing fumes and smoke into the air and forcing the evacuation of nearby residents. Twenty-one people needed medical care.

CSB's investigation found a significant lack of industry guidance on planning for flooding or other severe weather events, and called on the Center for Chemical Process Safety to produce [Assessment of and Planning for Natural Hazards](#), an updated approach for assessing and addressing natural hazard risks.

These guides and videos are ideal to share with chemical plants in your area as well as other industries that may store chemicals on-premises.

(Source: [CSB](#))

FEMA's interim guidance on sheltering during pandemic response

Social distancing requirements are necessary to protect public health during COVID-19, but they will force changes to the way disaster sheltering is handled. Hopefully this will be a mild year for hurricanes, wildfires and other disasters that may require evacuations, but jurisdictions that usually utilize disaster sheltering should review their plans and procedures.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently released [Interim Guidance for Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). The policy defines the framework, policy details and requirements for determining eligible work and costs for non-congregate sheltering during pandemic response. It specifically calls out changes related to costs associated with facility cleaning and disinfection supplies, face coverings, and other work items related to COVID-19.

This policy applies to all Stafford Act or Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations from June 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

UL releases report on fire suppression of multi-family dwellings

Underwriters Laboratory (UL) Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) released a new research report. "[Analysis of the Coordination of Suppression and Ventilation in Multi-Family Dwellings](#)" is based on a series of experiments conducted as part of the "[Study of Coordinated Fire Attack Utilizing Acquired Structures](#)."

The purpose is to increase fire service knowledge of fire dynamics and the impact of our tactics through a better understanding of how suppression and ventilation are coordinated on the fireground in multi-family residential structures. The report



Highlights

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New NFPA guides on ensuring building safety as locations reopen

Cyber Threats



U.S. Fire Administration

The U.S. Fire Administration operates 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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is divided into four sections:

- 🔗 Experimental Setup – description of the garden-style apartment buildings, instrumentation and fuel packages.
- 🔗 Results – fire dynamics-based descriptions of the data from each of the 13 experiments.
- 🔗 Discussion – examination of fire growth and spread, impact of ventilation, examination of apartment and stairwell tenability, and impact of suppression tactics.
- 🔗 Tactical Considerations – assessments of the data for fire service members to consider with respect to actions on the fireground.

FSRI’s [Fire Safety Academy](#) will soon release a related online course detailing results of this study and their applications on the fireground.

See the behind-the-scenes video UL produced for a look at experiments in action.

(Source: [UL](#))

New NFPA guides on ensuring building safety as locations reopen

Building inspectors and life safety educators have to address some new concerns as social distancing guidance affects both how we occupy and how we evacuate buildings.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) addresses these issues and more through its webpage focusing on [the coronavirus and building and life safety](#).

NFPA created a checklist and the New Normal Fact Sheet to guide building owners and facilities managers through the reopening process, helping them make sure they aren’t overlooking anything. There is also a recorded webinar covering the available NFPA resources, during which NFPA engineers also answer questions from the webinar participants.

NFPA says building inspectors are reportedly seeing the following:

- 🔗 Lines of people outside stores blocking means of egress or filling up the fire lane in front of the store.
- 🔗 Businesses or building owners blocking exits, marking exits with “Do Not Use” signs or thinking they need fewer exits because they have fewer people in the building.
- 🔗 Basic maintenance issues (i.e., exit signs not illuminated).
- 🔗 Directing the flow of foot traffic inside stores to follow a specific path which may impede egress in an emergency if barriers are used.

NFPA’s engineers recommend holding fire drills in buildings once they are reopened as a refresher since it may have been months since they’ve been in that building.

For more information and to read the coronavirus-related blog posts, see the [NFPA webpage](#).

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Cyber Threats

California university pays \$1.14 million ransom to unlock servers

As one of at least three universities hit in June, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) paid about \$1.14 million to ransomware operators earlier this month after its malware compromised several important servers in the UCSF School of Medicine and encrypted them to prevent access, UCSF administrators stated on June 26.

The crypto-ransomware attacks, which have been attributed to the NetWalker group, also reportedly hit Michigan State University and Columbia College of Chicago. UCSF, which has pursued a substantial amount of research on coronavirus and COVID-19, stated that the attacks had not affected that research, nor had an impact on the operations of its medical center and patient care.

(Source: [Threat Post](#))

Phishing attacks target workers returning to the office

The coronavirus has been a subject ripe for exploitation and abuse by cybercriminals with phishing campaigns, malicious websites and phony apps. Now that organizations in some parts of the world are trying to reopen, recent phishing attacks observed by a cyber threat intelligence provider are targeting employees returning to the office.

(Source: [Tech Republic](#))

Cybersecurity Budgets: Will They Survive COVID-19?

As the number of cybersecurity threats has increased over the last decade, CISOs and their teams have benefited from budget increases. This wellspring of security spending was meant to help organizations create more resilient infrastructures, repel outside attacks and reduce the risks presented by data breaches and leaks.

And now the COVID-19 pandemic may change all that.

As stay-at-home orders begin to lift and some workers begin to return to physical offices, organizations large and small are coming to grips with the aftermath of staying closed for months, with indicators signaling that many parts of the world could slip into an economic recession, or worse, a depression. As a result, overall IT spending is likely to take a hit, which may affect cybersecurity budgets, as well.

(Source: [Dice](#))

Be aware of the privacy risk in your vehicle's infotainment systems

Most people understand the privacy risks when selling or disposing of a personal computer or cellphone. The same awareness doesn't seem to be translating to the vehicles we drive when it comes time to trade them in for a new model.

Your car collects personal information in many ways. If you sync your phone with your infotainment system, your contact list, texts, phone calls, photos and even internet passwords will live on in its memory. Your in-car GPS will record addresses and routes. And without proper steps taken, your personal data will be accessible to car thieves or, perhaps more innocuously, the next owners if and when you sell your vehicle.

(Source: [Globe and Mail](#))

Cyber Information and Incident Assistance Links

[MS-ISAC](#)

SOC@cisecurity.org
1-866-787-4722

[IdentityTheft.gov](#)

[IC3](#)

[Cybercrime Support Network](#)

General Information Links

[FTC scam list](#)

[CISA alerts](#)

[Law Enforcement Cyber Center](#)

[TLP Information](#)

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