

The InfoGram



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Pipeline emergencies toolkit for volunteer fire departments

There are approximately 213,000 miles of liquid pipeline and 2.5 million miles of gas pipeline in the United States, the majority of which fall within the jurisdiction of volunteer fire departments. Often, these departments may have a more difficult time responding to pipeline emergencies due to the lack of personnel, training, resources and preparation.

Pipeline emergencies are considered low in frequency but high in risk. When they do occur, they can significantly impact the public and community. From 2005 to 2017, these incidents have cost 168 fatalities, 744 injuries and over \$5.4 billion in emergency response costs, damages and lost product.

The [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) (NVFC) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recently released "[Fire Department Pipeline Response, Emergency Planning, and Preparedness Toolkit](#)" (PDF, 1.8 MB), or FD PREPP, to assist volunteer departments prepare for pipeline emergencies by increasing awareness and improving operational capabilities.

FD PREPP is a short 11-page document that briefly covers pre-planning and risk assessment, standards and regulations, and available training. It goes on to provide job aids, checklists and blank templates of valuable resources including:

- Pipeline map.
- Site safety plan.
- Incident command organizational chart.
- Safe response checklist.

This is an invaluable planning tool for any department that has a gas or liquid pipeline running through or near its response area. For more information on pipeline hazards, visit [PHMSA](#) and the [Pipeline Association for Public Awareness](#).

(Source: [NVFC](#))

9-1-1 response to active shooter incidents

Just as police, fire and EMS departments have changed their procedures and tactics to active shooter incidents, so has 9-1-1 changed to meet the threat.

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) e-book "[Acts of Mass Violence: Public Safety Response & Recovery Initiative](#)" (PDF, 889 KB) lists several recommendations for dispatchers faced with a mass shooting incident. Here, we highlight two of IPSA's tips for 9-1-1 personnel faced with one of these incidents.

- The highest priority is to gather information to stop the threat. Law enforcement first responders must be provided with as much information regarding the type of threat and information to help identify the attackers and their location. Telecommunicators help inform the response by identifying any additional information sources at the scene such as video feeds and determining if there are possible secondary threats at the scene.

Highlights

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FEMA releases 2017 Hurricane After-Action Report

Online briefings: Russian Activity Against Critical Infrastructure



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.

- It is essential that 9-1-1 lines be kept clear so that additional information may be obtained. This often requires truncating calls from victims and witnesses on the scene. Calls must focus on stopping the threat, and until that happens, telecommunicators should not be triaging medical priorities or providing medical direction through emergency medical dispatch protocols.

IPSA emphasizes the need for training, exercises and evaluating appropriate response to 9-1-1 calls during acts of mass violence through the study of prior events, adoption of best practices and lessons learned, and development of new tactics and protocols in the 9-1-1 center.

(Source: [IPSA](#))

FEMA releases 2017 Hurricane After-Action Report

The 2017 hurricane season was record-setting and tested the plans, training and expectations of all concerned. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) "[2017 Hurricane Season FEMA After-Action Report](#)" looks at FEMA's successes and failures of the preparation, response, early recovery operations to hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

FEMA lists 18 key findings drawn from this review, and lists recommendations to implement in future mass disasters. Some topics addressed include staffing shortages, tracking resources, creating readiness stocks outside the continental United States, increasing state roles and responsibilities, and improving communications critical infrastructure.

After-action reports (AAR) are beneficial for agencies and departments to examine how they responded to a specific incident or set of incidents, take that information and data, and use it to make meaningful change to future incident response. Departments drafting them sometimes have to face difficult truths, but acknowledging failures or mistakes often leads to beneficial change.

AAR templates and guidance are available through online sources, such as [FireLeadership.gov](#) (PDF, 128 KB), the [U.S. Fire Administration, Texas Division of Emergency Management](#) (PDF, 127 KB), [Seattle Police Department](#) and [PoliceOne](#).

(Source: [FEMA](#))

Online briefings: Russian Activity Against Critical Infrastructure

The Department of Homeland Security is hosting several [awareness briefings on Russian cyber activity against critical infrastructure](#).

The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) will review recent cyber incidents, share mitigation techniques and highlight resources available to protect critical assets.

Two remaining webinars are scheduled for Monday, July 30 and Wednesday, August 1 from 1-2:30 p.m. Eastern. Content is the same for both sessions. [The dial-in number for audio will be provided on the webinar page](#). No pre-registration is required.

(Source: [NCCIC](#))

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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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.