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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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Fentanyl, Carfentanil Prompting HazMat Response

As the heroin and fentanyl/carfentanil problem grows and more first responders accidentally overdose after coming into contact with the drugs, law enforcement agencies are increasingly [relying on fire department hazardous materials teams to assist at drug busts where fentanyl or carfentanil may be present](#). The drugs are extremely potent and deadly, in many jurisdictions hazmat teams are being called in if there is the slightest chance those drugs may be present at the scene.

[Fentanyl](#) is 50-100 times more potent than morphine; [carfentanil](#) is 10,000 times more potent, and [absorption through skin exposure or inhalation of even a few grains of either drug can lead to overdose and possibly death](#). Both drugs are being used as an additive to heroin and overdose deaths are skyrocketing.

Fire, EMS and law enforcement leadership should be coordinating to ensure hazmat response meets the needs of all involved. In addition, all response personnel should be trained to identify fentanyl and carfentanil, recognize the signs of an overdose and how to treat it, and be able to determine what level of personal protective equipment is necessary for a safe response.

(Source: [DEA](#))

Power Outage Tests Resilience of Outer Banks

Last week a [construction crew on the Outer Banks of North Carolina accidentally severed a main electrical transmission line, cutting power to a swath of the coast](#). This cut vacations short for thousands of tourists visiting the beach and island mecca during the height of the season. The governor declared a state of emergency and a mandatory evacuation is in effect for visitors. The latest update says power should be back on by this coming Monday, possibly earlier.

Because hurricanes are prevalent in this area, residents already had a level of preparedness for this event. Generators are in place to provide limited power to those remaining and water use is restricted to essentials. Checkpoints are in effect to enforce the entry restrictions. While this is a financial disaster for businesses and an aggravation for visitors, threats to life are minimal and manageable.

This is not always the case as historical outages throughout the United States have often been during ice storms and extreme cold or during periods of extreme heat, all very dangerous times to be without power. Medical facilities should especially be aware of their vulnerabilities and preparedness levels. The checklist in "[Planning for](#)

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

[Power Outages: A Guide for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities](#)” (PDF, 3.87 MB) from the Department of Health and Human Services can assist medical facilities planning for long-term outages.

There will be many lessons learned from this man-made disaster that emergency managers, planners and first responders across the country can use toward their own planning and preparedness efforts. Another good source for guidance is the [State of Wisconsin’s long-term power outage preparedness plan](#), a good look at a start-to-finish effort complete with workshop and exercise notes.

(Source: [State of Wisconsin](#))

Western States Revisit Cold War Nuclear Plans

About 10 years after the Soviet Union collapsed, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency removed “intercontinental ballistic missile” (ICBM) from the state’s threat list, which consisted primarily of natural hazards like tsunami and volcanic eruption. ICBM was replaced with “terrorism.” Twenty years later, [ICBM is again a concern for Hawaii](#) due to North Korea’s underground nuclear tests and recent successful missile tests.

Experts now believe both Hawaii and Alaska are in range for a North Korea missile and in a few years the major cities along the west coast may also be in range. North Korea is unpredictable and has expressed interest in attacking the United States and even though a nuclear attack is currently considered a very low probability, several western states are planning for the possibility.

Ventura County, California, is working on a nuclear response plan to manage fallout, radioactive plume and millions of refugees from elsewhere in the state. Los Angeles County is planning exercises to [test response and plans to include fire, EMS and police](#). A major concern is effective public education and messaging. Entire generations of adults know nothing about dangers associated with nuclear attack or how to properly shelter and not flee.

It is fortunate old civil defense research is still available, meaning emergency planners don’t have to start completely from scratch. The [Library](#) at the National Emergency Training Center has thousands of vintage civil defense studies, reports, exercise descriptions, messaging and plans dating from the 1940s through the 1970s. While some information is clearly archaic and unusable, much of it could certainly be repurposed for modern situations and plans.

(Source: [NETC Library](#))

Critical Incident Response Webinar

On Monday, August 14, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Eastern, the International Public Safety Association (IPSA) is holding the “[Critical Incident/Active Shooter Awareness](#)” webinar. Registration is required. The webinar is for potential victims of workplace violence and will discuss how people react – both mentally and physically – to this kind of critical incident. The presenter will use videos of actual incidents to illustrate natural stress responses and how to manage them.

This webinar is the first offered as part of [IPSA’s Webinar Week](#). Other webinars during the week include the need for post action debriefings, 9-1-1’s role in hostage negotiation, regulatory considerations of a public safety Unmanned Aerial System program, and how cyberattacks can affect your department.

(Source: [IPSA](#))

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