Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)

The InfoGram

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Preventing damage to fire department connections

Damage and vandalism to fire department connections (FDC) happens all the time. Passersby shove trash in the FDC opening, building owners block them or thieves steal parts for the metal. All these things can cause significant damage or make the connection inoperable.

This issue may be more prevalent during protests. While most protesters are not out to cause property damage, some are. It is important to be aware and inspect FDC more often if you are seeing protests in your jurisdiction.

Properly working sprinkler systems and FDCs help save lives and property. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has several codes and standards covering FDC maintenance. Both NFPA 13E and 25 cover these topics in detail although many others mention it as well.

Departments should regularly do the following:

- Periodically ensure FDCs are operational and free from debris.
- Plan for an alternate source of water in case a FDC is inoperable.
- Ensure any damaged or missing components are promptly fixed or replaced.

Humans are not the only cause of damage to systems. Corrosion, rust, ice and animals can all render a FDC inoperable. Fire and life safety rely on proper maintenance and inspections; catching these issues before they pose a threat is key.

(Source: NFPA)

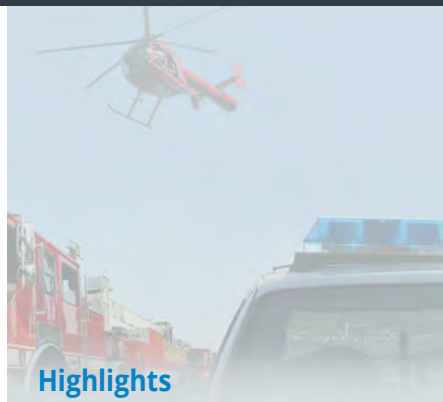
Silence is deadly: addressing suicide in your department

A Chicago deputy chief who had recently been promoted was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at a police facility this week. He'd been with the force for 30 years. He is at least the ninth member of the department to die by suicide in the past 2 years, and is another victim of the suicide epidemic among first responders.

Expecting people to repeatedly see injury, violent death and the dark side of humanity but not have it affect them is unreasonable and naive. The number one action experts say helps relieve traumatic stress is also the thing missing in many fire and law enforcement settings: talking about it. Providing a coworker the space to release the unseen pressure that's been building might save their life.

This is also a time for individuals to re-evaluate their responsibility to their team. Pulling a colleague out of the line of fire or out of a burning building comes naturally. You train for it. It's expected that you will to this – and someone will do this for you – in order to save a life. Remember: those struggling with what they see on the job also deserve to be pulled to safety. You don't have to understand what they are going through to be able to do this for them, you just need to do it.

If you or someone you know needs help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255. You can also call the Fire/EMS Helpline at 1-888-731-FIRE (3473). Resources for leadership interested in helping their staff and personnel:



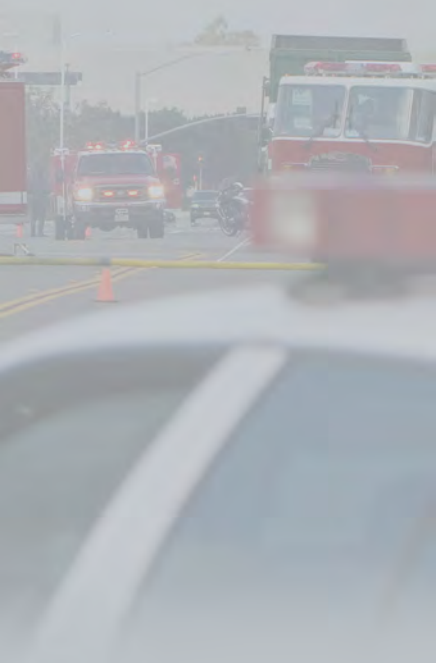
Highlights

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.

Subscribe here



- Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance workshops, self-assessments, resources.
- National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Everyone Goes Home program.
- Carry the Load program for all first responders, veterans and their families.
- National Volunteer Fire Council's Share the Load program.
- CopsAlive.com.
- The Total Policing Wellness Project requests your stories and tips on wellness for other officers and their families on all aspects of life and career.

(Source: Various)

The many dangers of wildfire smoke

A wildfire's immediate, life-threatening impact usually takes top billing when officials work to ensure the safety of their communities, but wildfire smoke brings its own dangers and it often affects a much larger geographical area than the fire itself does.

Smoke from wildfires contains dangerous toxins, particulate matter and gases able to travel long distances and affect a large number of people. In April, fires in the radioactive forests near the Chernobyl nuclear site forced people in Kyiv indoors as smoke spread radioactive particulate matter. This extreme example demonstrates the ways in which wildfire smoke can endanger people.

Smoke from a typical wildfire can cause adverse birth outcomes, trigger childhood respiratory problems and will cause irritation to the eyes, throat and lungs of just about everyone. Smoke is more impactful now during the COVID-19 national public health crisis and officials need to take all this into account when managing wildfires and public safety.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently published a webpage detailing ways to minimize the dangers of wildfire smoke during COVID-19. USFA provides a host of resources including links to online air quality monitors, guidance for public health departments and reminders to follow social distancing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in shelters. Visit USFA's page to learn more about ways you can minimize the wildfire smoke threat to your community.

(Source: USFA)

CISA Services Catalog

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) CISA Services Catalog is now available as a one-stop shop for anyone interested in CISA services.

The catalog and its interactive elements allow you to quickly and intuitively filter down to those services best fitting your needs, capabilities and challenges.

CISA believes partnership is a bi-directional service, and your partnership allows it to better tailor products, services and engagements to meet your most immediate priorities and capabilities. It also allows CISA to give you a seat at the table and join it in better understanding your unique risk environments, and to identify and implement solutions.

This catalog is the first edition of many to come and CISA welcomes your feedback. For questions about the services featured in the CISA Services Catalog or about the Catalog itself, please email central@cisa.gov.

(Source: CISA)

Cyber Threats

Secret Service creates Cyber Fraud Task Force

The United States Secret Service (USSS) just announced the creation of the Cyber Fraud Task Force (CFTF) through the merger of the Electronic Crimes Task Force and the Financial Crimes Task Force.

Because cybercrime is now increasingly intertwined with financial crime, it made sense to combine the two task forces. This improves coordination, sharing of resources and best practices, and leverages the strengths of both teams.

The CFTF currently has locations in 42 domestic and 2 international offices but it plans to expand to 160 offices total. It will investigate both cyber and financial crimes affecting individuals and businesses.

(Source: USSS)

COVID Era Should Drive the Urgency of Planning for a Cyber 9/11

The challenges weathered by the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic can help inform and should put a sense of urgency on plans to prevent and respond to a potentially crippling cyberattack, members of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission told the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Innovation at a recent hearing.

The congressional representative leading the hearing noted this year has underscored why lawmakers need to continually put a sharp focus on cyber strategy.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has upended and altered the way we live, the way we work, and the way we govern. Overnight nearly half of employed adults became teleworkers, putting added stresses on our infrastructure and creating new opportunities for hackers to wreak havoc," he said.

"Now Congress is holding remote hearings, and state and local governments have become e-governments with little time to transition. Many state and local governments are also finding that due to antiquated IT systems and the fact that their data aren't in the cloud that they are unable to scale and secure vital programs like unemployment insurance, highlighting the need for modernization as part of the security push. Our adversaries have noticed the broader attack surface."

Planning for a catastrophic cyber event also needs to take into consideration "the lack of readiness by the general public."

(Source: HSToday)

A taxonomy of spies in the modern technology landscape

Watching the cyber threat evolve over the last few decades has made it clear: we are all targets. As individuals we need to do what we can to minimize the threats to our personal information.

Leaders should do what they can to educate employees on these personal threats. Do this for two reasons: 1) Because you love your employees and want to make them aware, and 2) Because increasingly bad guys target employees at home to get to corporate data.

(Source: CTOVision)

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.