The InfoGram

Nerve Agent Information for EMS and Hospitals

In response to nerve agent attacks overseas, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, and Homeland Security issued a refresher on nerve agent recognition, treatment and personal protection for EMS personnel and hospitals (PDF, 216 KB).

The 3-pager briefly covers nerve agent characteristics and methods of exposure, but goes into greater detail listing the physiological and neurological symptoms of nerve agent poisoning. Some of these are drooling, breathing difficulty, confusion, twitching or tremors, watery eyes, pinpoint pupils and gastrointestinal distress.

First responders may see some of these symptoms when treating opioid overdose patients. This document offers a chart comparing and contrasting symptoms of opioid overdose and nerve agent exposure, enabling medical workers to better identify what they are treating for.

This refresher document covers PPE, patient decontamination and treatment and includes information on antidote dosages and pediatric considerations. The document links to more information from a variety of resources.

More comprehensive guidance for law enforcement, fire, EMS and hospital-based first receivers is in production.

(Source: Various)

Drug labs vs. bomb labs

Oklahoma police found more than they expected while serving a search warrant for a suspected methamphetamine lab. In addition to drugs and drug paraphernalia, law enforcement found homemade explosives made from pill bottles and a homemade stick of dynamite in the residence. The suspect was arrested on multiple charges.

A homemade explosive device was discovered in a car trunk near this residence in February 2017.

Most first responders are trained to spot illicit drug labs, as they are fairly common. However, a bomb lab may initially be misidentified as a drug lab, a mistake that can be deadly to first responders. Both are dangerous scenes, but being able to tell the difference could save your life.

The Office for Bombing Prevention offers free training for first responders to educate them on identifying homemade explosives and precursor chemicals. OBP offers in-person, computer-based, and virtual real-time training. See the OBP Counter-IED Training Courses site for more information.

(Source: OBP)

FAA releases guidance for suspected unauthorized UAS operations

The quick interest in unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly called drones, created a set of safety and legal issues that law enforcement and other first

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Highlights

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.

responders were not entirely prepared for.

Certain criminal elements took to UAS quickly, but most problems arise from hobby pilots operating in a dangerous manner. Authorities have had to act with little guidance as laws and regulation struggle to catch up.

To address these issues, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released the "Law Enforcement Guidance for Suspected Unauthorized UAS Operations" (PDF, 557 KB). It has recently been updated.

The FAA recognizes law enforcement agencies are often in the best position to deter, detect, immediately investigate, and, as appropriate, pursue enforcement actions in response to unauthorized or unsafe UAS operations. The information provided in this document supports the FAA and law enforcement's safety missions.

This document covers the FAA's basic legal mandates and safety requirements regulating UAS operations. It also covers airspace requirements, temporary flight restrictions (as might be in place around wildfires or some mass gatherings), and registration requirements.

The FAA identifies the role of law enforcement in policing UAS operations, including tips on spotting operator/pilots, reporting incidents to the FAA, how to verify UAS registration, and handling situations where the UAS is not registered for use.

For more information on UAS, visit the FAA's UAS page and the pages for law enforcement and regulation and policy.

(Source: FAA)

Reducing Stress: A Toolkit for 9-1-1 Call Center Managers

Job-related stress has a negative impact on satisfaction, job performance and health – especially in the fast-paced, high stakes work of emergency communication. Now, a free online toolkit for reducing stress is available for 9-1-1 call center staff.

Researchers from the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP) Next Generation 911 project studied stress in 9-1-1 telecommunicators to develop stress reduction tools, help improve working conditions and build resiliency. The project's individual-level training was released last month, and the toolkit followed.

Although it is designed with 9-1-1 call centers in mind, **most of the content is relevant to any profession where job-related stress is a factor**, including first responders and public health agencies. Aimed at managers, the toolkit provides evidence-informed tips and techniques to create a workplace environment where everyone can thrive even when dealing with challenging, high-pressure work.

For 9-1-1 call center managers and others, enroll in this self-paced, no-cost, 1-hour online toolkit to learn how to make your workplace a better place to be.

(Source: NWCPHP)

DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local FBI office and also the State or Major Urban Area Fusion Center.

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.**