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

The InfoGram

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Anniversary of September 11th attacks

Next Tuesday marks 17 years since the terrorist attacks of September 11th and while there are currently no specific, credible threats, the anniversary remains an attractive target for terrorists and extremists.

Terrorists and violent homegrown extremists show continued interest in targeting mass gatherings such as concerts and festivals. Historical methods of attack are mass shootings, knife attacks, explosives and vehicle ramming. We should note one thwarted attack specifically targeted a 9/11 memorial stair climb in 2015.

First responders and the general public should be extra vigilant leading up to the anniversary, review potential indicators of pre-operational terrorist planning and suspicious activity, and report anything questionable immediately to the authorities. Potential indicators can include:

- Unattended packages, bags or boxes near an event.
- Potential surveillance of an event location, security procedures or exits.
- Social media postings with threats of potential violence.
- Suspicious behavior by people renting vehicles or purchasing items that could be used to make explosives.
- Probing questions about security procedures, shift changes or emergency plans.

(Source: Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative)

Are your social media skills up to par for a disaster?

One year after Hurricane Harvey devastated Houston, the University of Houston Downtown (UHD) shares how the experience improved its emergency communications plan by leveraging existing technology instead of creating solutions from scratch.

UHD had several tested, working emergency plans on the books. However, rising flood waters took out primary and backup technology services, generator refueling routes, power and water. The UHD website, its internal intranet and network connectivity were all offline, basically gutting the cloud-hosted emergency communications system they were relying on.

The university fell back to basic text messaging, social media and a hosted blog on an inexpensive platform (normally used for a campus newsletter) to keep the UHD community appraised. It worked extremely well for them, so well that they suggest other institutions consider this as a viable option.

Utilizing existing technology is a great alternative to building layers of redundant technology from scratch. Not only does it save your organization or agency time and money, it just makes sense to capitalize on platforms people are already connected to and using regularly, like social media or an established blog.

There are many benefits for using social media during a crisis. As with any emergency

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.

plan, you should hold trainings and exercises on it to ensure it works, identify gaps and make sure everyone knows their role.

(Source: Campus Safety)

National Preparedness Month and Media Toolkit

September is National Preparedness Month, and Ready.gov has available a set of resources tailored to this year's theme: Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.

This year focuses on practical steps people can take to prepare for disasters. Last year's devastating hurricanes and this year's destructive wildfire season reminds us as a nation how quickly disasters can change lives. This year, the focus is on practical steps individuals and families can make to change their circumstances such as checking insurance coverage, saving money and learning lifesaving skills.

There are several new resources available to help agencies working to promote resiliency in their communities including logos, flyers, pre-written messages you can share on your social media channels as well as graphics, videos and pre-chosen hashtags. Some resources are available in Spanish; other preparedness resources are available in 12 languages.

Many of these resources will be available throughout the year as part of Ready.gov's collections. Be sure to keep them in mind when planning outreach campaigns targeting specific threats or seasonal severe weather.

(Source: Ready.gov)

IPSA releases Fall 2018 Webinar Week agenda of free training

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) released the line-up for the Fall 2018 Webinar Week, a week of free training on a variety of topics. Scheduled for the first week in October, this season's topics are:

- Fire Suppression During an Active Shooter, Violent Incident (previously recorded).
- How to Recognize Domestic Violence and Advocate for Others.
- Becoming a resilient bleed safe community: how to train citizens and first responders to stop the bleed.
- NFPA 3000: The New National Standard for Preparedness, Response, and Recovery to Active Shooter Hostile Events.
- The Critical Role of a 911 Dispatcher Within a Hostage Negotiation Team (previously recorded).

Registration is required to attend these no-cost online events. For the descriptions of each event, dates, information on the presenter and registration details, visit IPSA's Webinar Week page.

(Source: IPSA)

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.**

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.