



The InfoGram

Volume 18 — Issue 39 | September 27, 2018

Propane and natural gas safety in flooding conditions

Responding to a gas leak during average conditions is one thing, but responding during a flood or in the aftermath of a hurricane can bring an entirely different set of hazards. Consider the following tips and information when responding to possible natural gas and propane leaks during flooding conditions:

- Both propane and natural gas smell similar to rotten eggs, but each has a distinctly different odor. All first responders should know these smells.
- When approaching a propane tank, don't assume the owner has shut off the tank.
- Be aware of hissing sounds, any confined areas of dead or dying vegetation, or water or dirt spraying or bubbling from the ground - all indicators of a leak.
- [Propane tanks can float if broken away from their anchor or pipe systems](#). You may have emergency calls for floating tanks, and it's possible [the floating tank could even be on fire](#) as seen in this 2016 video from Louisiana.
- Be aware that small grill or torch bottles can be easily hidden by debris.
- Propane is heavier than air, but lighter than water. If there is a propane leak, the propane will pool in the lowest area.
- Natural gas is lighter than air and will dissipate rapidly. If the leak is inside, this will increase the parts per million in the air and make combustion more likely.

Consider contacting your local natural gas and propane companies to set up informal training for fire, EMS and even law enforcement personnel.

(Source: [Propane Education & Research Council](#) (PERC))

Fire Prevention Week campaign focuses on action

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13 this year and the focus is on three actions people can take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire, and how to escape if they do.

The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA) and [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) both have resources available for fire departments interested in doing outreach in their communities. These include social media toolkits, fire safety checklists for homeowners and renters, videos, games, apps and activity plans.

Working to reduce fire risk in your community should be an ongoing fight, not limited to one week a year. [NFPA reports 2017 fire losses in the United States](#) caused approximately 3,400 deaths, almost 15,000 injuries and \$23 billion in property losses. Your department has a lot of impact on reducing those numbers in the future through regular public education and outreach.

(Source: [USFA](#) and [NFPA](#))

National Cyber Strategy released

Under the newly-released [National Cyber Strategy](#) (PDF, 1.4 MB), the Pentagon,

Highlights

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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.

United States Cyber Command and other federal departments will take lead fighting malicious cyberattacks, going more on the offensive to deter future attacks.

Cyberattacks are a constant threat to state and local governments. In March, a ransomware attack took Atlanta's network servers, [affecting 30 percent of the city's online applications](#) and potentially costing the city millions. [Baltimore's 9-1-1 system was breached by hackers](#) the same month, forcing dispatchers to take emergency calls manually.

A more robust federal cybersecurity strategy may address some issues, but state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments can see the writing on the wall and should be working to secure their networks now.

The [Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (MS-ISAC) offers SLTT governments state-of-the-art tools and resources for cybersecurity prevention, protection, response and recovery. They can assist with malware analysis, log analysis, forensic analysis and vulnerability assessments.

Through a free membership, SLTT governments also have access to up-to-date cyber threat and vulnerability information, training resources, educational opportunities, members-only webcasts and more.

Most importantly, [the MS-ISAC can help SLTT governments with cyber incidents whether they are members or not](#). Their highly trained staff can assist your agency or department if you experience disruption or defacement of websites, compromised passwords, all kinds of malware and unauthorized use of system data.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, an optimal time for taking the steps to secure your systems. Visit the MS-ISAC website for more information on joining and how they can assist with your cybersecurity concerns.

(Source: [MS-ISAC](#))

Outbreak Response Training Program for public health

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create the "[Outbreak Response Tool Kits](#)" for healthcare and public health professionals.

Part of the SHEA [Outbreak Response Training Program](#), these toolkits expand on four topics: Incident Management; Communications, Negotiation, Implementation; Horizontal Strategies; and Emerging Pathogens. Each section contains resources such as interactive guides, fillable tables, clinical algorithms and case studies to assist providers during an outbreak.

This resource can be accessed via desktop or mobile device, online or off. Registration is recommended but not required. Resources can be accessed without registering, however users can keep notes and bookmark items for future use through a registered account.

(Source: [Guideline Central](#))

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.