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

The InfoGram

Volume 19 — Issue 40 | October 31, 2019

USFA celebrates 45th anniversary

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) celebrated a milestone anniversary this week, marking 45 years working for a fire-safe America.

On October 29, 1974, President Ford signed into law the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974. This act created the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. The name was changed to the U.S. Fire Administration in 1978.

This act followed over a decade of research on the effects of fire in the United States. Until 1974, fire protection was treated as a responsibility at the local level. However, research found fire to be a significant enough threat to life and property that federal fire legislation was necessary.

In 1979, President Carter placed USFA within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 1979 was also the year the National Fire Academy was created in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on the original site of Saint Joseph College, a Catholic girls school that operated from 1809-1973.

The campus in Emmitsburg was decorated with banners and posters in the months leading up to the anniversary, and FEMA headquarters displayed an e-sign in honor of the anniversary.

USFA staff, contractors and students in residence took part in a number of celebrations throughout October including a program with invited former fire administrators and other senior officials, a group photo, trivia contest, fitness walk, scavenger hunt, brick-laying ceremony, luncheon and a challenge coin designed especially for the anniversary.

(Source: USFA)

London Grenfell Tower High Rise Fire Inquiry, Phase 1 released

On June 14, 2017, a fire started in a 4th floor kitchen in the 24-story Grenfell Tower apartment building in London, England. It spread quickly up the building's exterior and around all four sides of the building. The fire killed 72 people, making it the worst residential fire in the United Kingdom since World War II.

The Prime Minister called for a public inquiry to review the details of the fire and response. The Inquiry has been divided into two phases. Just released this month, Phase 1 focuses on the events on the night of the fire. Several things contributed to the fire and loss of life:

- Grenfell Tower had recent renovations to include cladding and insulation on the outside of the building. Fire spread from the kitchen to the cladding, then spread rapidly up and around the building, enveloping it in under 3 hours.
- The tower had a "stay put" policy for residents in the event of a fire, basically shelter-in-place, due to the "compartmentation" design of the apartment building. Many residents became trapped by the time the policy was revoked.
- Several fire protection measures inside the tower failed, including some fire doors.

Highlights

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Cyber Threats

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.

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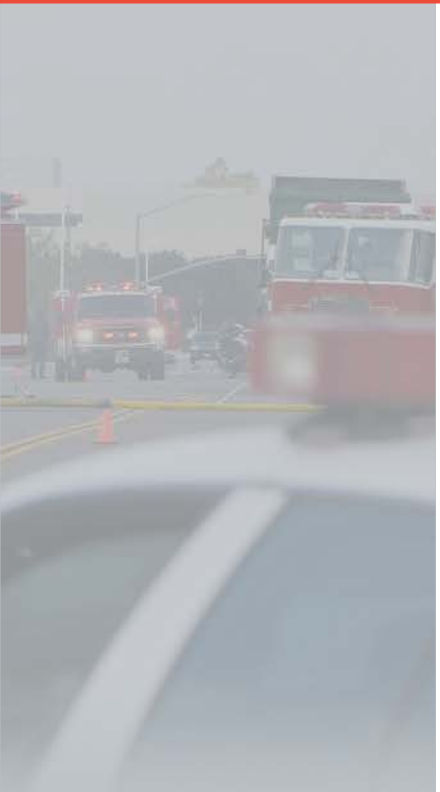

- London Fire Brigade (LFB) had no usable information on Grenfell Tower in its operational risk database. The information the database did contain was many years out of date and did not include the recent renovations.
- LFB incident commanders had no training on how to recognize the need for an evacuation or how to organize one. There was no contingency plan for the evacuation of Grenfell Tower.

See the full Phase 1 report for additional details on the renovation and building materials, the "stay put" policy, and additional information about the LFB response.

The Phase 2 investigation and report will review circumstances of death for the fatalities; the design of the building renovation and choice of building materials; and the organization and management of the LFB, among other things.

(Source: Grenfell Tower Inquiry)

Apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants by January

On Sept. 30, FEMA opened the Hazard Mitigation Assistance competitive grant programs application period. This funding assists state, local, tribal and territorial governments to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages.

$410 million in funding is available through two programs:

- Flood Mitigation Assistance: funding priorities include flood mitigation planning and efforts for reducing repetitive as well as severe repetitive loss properties.
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation: designed to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program with the goal of reducing overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events.

Eligible applicants must apply for funding through the FEMA eGrants system on the FEMA Grants Portal. All applications must be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern on January 31, 2020.

(Source: FEMA)

Webinar: Kari's Law and RAY BAUM's Act requirements for 911

In 2020, new Next Generation 911 (NG911) requirements will go into effect:

- Kari's Law requires multi-line telephone systems (MLTS), like those in hotels, to have a default configuration enabling people to dial 911 without dialing 9 first.
- RAY BAUM's Act affects dispatchable location requirements regardless of technological platform used.

These are significant changes. Fortunately there is a suite of new resources to help your agency, jurisdiction and state make the transition. Join 911.gov on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 12 p.m. Eastern to learn the requirements for Kari's Law and RAY BAUM's Act and how to meet them before February 2020.

Attendees will come away knowing how they can use the NG911 Roadmap, NG911 Readiness Checklist and several resources on 911 data to improve their systems.

Registration is required. View older webinars or sign up for email updates on the State of 911 webpage.

(Source: 911.gov)

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Cyber Threats

More liability protections needed for cyberthreat info

Representatives of commercial telecommunications and information technology gear told the House Homeland Security Committee additional liability protections are needed to share information about companies and products they fear might harbor cybersecurity threats.

Although **the 2015 Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act provided liability cover for companies to share specific indicator data from cyberattacks**, it didn't provide such cover for actual products.

(Source: FCW)

How to fight back against ransomware

The first documented ransomware attack hit in 1989, prompting organizations to implement security tools to guard their network perimeters and endpoint devices. Yet, three decades later, state and local agencies remain vulnerable.

Hardening security postures requires understanding how attackers "teach" ransomware to slip past their defenses. The security industry has developed five primary approaches to combating ransomware, although none have proven to be consistently effective.

(Source: GCN)

Three reasons you should never save payment information online

"Would you like to store this card information online for future use?"

Are you the type who clicks "Yes" or "No"? There is usually very little gray here - you either immediately click "Yes" because the convenience outweighs any issues, or it's always a firm "No" out of fear of becoming a victim of the next hacking scandal.

The option to save payment information is a no-brainer for online merchants. Saving your information makes it easier for you to shop and spend money. But what about for the consumer? If you are a "Yes" clicker, you know that every time that message appears, there's a tiny voice inside your head that says 'Is this a good idea?'.

There are three reasons to never save payment details online.

(Source: Forbes)

Cyberthreat Handbook documents who's who of attackers

Two cybersecurity companies have announced the release of The Cyberthreat Handbook, a **report designed to provide insights into the most significant groups of global cyber-attackers** through detailed rating cards.

The two companies combined to carry out a year-long investigation into the current cyber-threat landscape, observing attack techniques, targeted sectors and attack motives.

The research details the activities of approximately 60 major groups of cyber-attackers throughout the world, discovering almost half the groups were state-sponsored, often aiming to steal sensitive data from targets of geopolitical interest.

(Source: Infosecurity Magazine)

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.