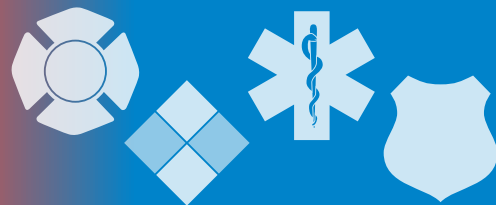


The InfoGram



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Space heaters and “space bubbles” are latest COVID-19 concern

Restaurants have struggled to stay in business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that restrictions are being slowly lifted and owners begin to increase seating capacity both inside and outside, they face several challenges that may impact life safety and fire and building codes.

Outdoor seating became a crucial part of many restaurant survival plans. Colder temperatures will make outside seating more difficult as fall weather hits. Many restaurants are extending the season as much as possible with space heaters, tents, igloos and “[space bubbles](#).”

Inside seating capacity is also increasing and some locations are installing plexiglass shields and walls as safety measures. Some restaurants are changing table layouts to put more space between patrons, creating what one Philadelphia restaurant owner calls a [jigsaw puzzle of tables](#).

Baltimore helped eating establishments meet some of the financial challenges by [waiving fees associated with inspections and permits](#) of tent and heater usage and committing to a 3-day permit processing turnaround. Any financial break benefits these establishments, especially when they’re looking at the added costs of purchasing tents, heating fuel and plexiglass.

Many restaurants have worked with inspectors to be sure their plans meet codes, but some may not have. Your jurisdiction should consider contacting restaurant owners to discuss some of the following and do an inspection:

- ❖ Some restaurants took over parking lot space to create outdoor seating where none existed before. Does this affect staging or access for apparatus?
- ❖ For locations using propane space heaters, where are the propane tanks being stored? Does the staff know how to properly handle the units? Are units a safe distance from tent walls or furnishings?
- ❖ If the restaurant is placing heaters in tents (or “space bubbles”), do they vent fumes properly?
- ❖ Do new indoor seating or plexiglass layouts affect egress or block exits or signs?
- ❖ How will plexiglass walls affect fire attack or ventilation?
- ❖ Some cities are closing streets to accommodate outside dining. [In some cases these road closures change day-to-day](#). How will this affect emergency vehicle traffic and response times?

(Sources: Various)

FEMA produces topical Resource Roadmaps to cover COVID-19 issues

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps](#) provides a deep-dive into specific topic areas and challenges associated with COVID-19 recovery. Resource roadmaps are based on anticipated COVID-19 recovery challenges in key topic areas and offer potential solutions and federal resources to support recovery activities.



Highlights

Space heaters and “space bubbles” are latest COVID-19 concern

FEMA producing topical Resource Roadmaps to address COVID-19

CMAT program offers community wildfire mitigation assistance

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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The COVID-19 Resource Roadmaps Overview describes how to use supplemental appropriations and other federal programs to implement potential solutions. It is meant for all state, local, tribal and territorial governments as well as private sector partners. In addition to the Overview FEMA has published:

- Education.
- Food and Nutrition.
- Housing.

The roadmaps are for informational purposes only and are compiled with publicly available information or with information provided by sources that are publicly obtained and should be viewed as only a starting point for individual research. Please directly consult the provider of a potential resource for current program information and to verify the applicability and requirements of a particular program.

FEMA will provide additional roadmaps for Healthcare and Economic Development. These resource tools were created by FEMA’s Recovery Support Function Leadership Group; more information is available online.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

CMAT program offers community wildfire mitigation assistance

The nation is in the midst of another horrendous wildfire season. Communities are under siege. It’s too late to offer mitigation assistance for some communities but for many this is a chance to establish or strengthen local mitigation programs. The [National Community Mitigation Assistance Team](#) (CMAT), supported by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, may be able to help.

CMATs help support and position communities to do wildfire mitigation work themselves through effective, sustainable partnerships using the right methods and tools. CMATs can:

- Help communities form cross boundary mitigation partnerships.
- Help communities strengthen existing mitigation programs.
- Help communities identify and overcome barriers to effective mitigation.
- Teach mitigation best practices to focus local efforts on getting the right work done in the right places to maximize risk reduction.

CMATS are now available virtually and Mitigation Mentors are ready to work hand-in-hand with local community partnerships to further on-the-ground mitigation and build local capacity.

Teams are made up of experienced mitigation professionals with proven skills. CMATs are funded by the regional or national large fire support code.

Please share this national service team information with communities in your jurisdiction that are at high risk of wildfire. To request a virtual CMAT, please fill in the [CMAT Request](#) and submit it to Greg Philipp at greg.philipp@usda.gov.

It’s not too late to help communities adapt to wildfire and reduce risk. Requests are being accepted now and will be vetted based on need, risk, community/partner engagement and CMAT availability.

(Source: [U.S. Forest Service](#))

Cyber Threats

UHS hospitals hit by reported country-wide Ryuk ransomware attack

Universal Health Services (UHS), a Fortune 500 hospital and healthcare services provider, reportedly shut down systems at healthcare facilities around the country after a cyber-attack hit its network.

UHS operates over 400 healthcare facilities in the United States and the United Kingdom, has more than 90,000 employees and provides healthcare services to approximately 3.5 million patients each year.

According to reports coming from UHS' employees, UHS hospitals in the US including those from California, Florida, Texas, Arizona, and Washington D.C. are left without access to computer and phone systems.

At the moment the affected hospitals are redirecting ambulances and relocating patients in need of surgery to other nearby hospitals.

(Source: [BleepingComputer](#))

CISA releases joint ransomware guide

Ransomware incidents have become more destructive and impactful to state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments. Malicious actors engage in lateral movement to target critical data and propagate ransomware across entire networks. They are also increasingly using tactics, such as deleting system backups, that make restoration and recovery more difficult or infeasible.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released the joint [Ransomware Guide](#), developed in coordination with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). The target audience of this resource is SLTT governments and small-to-midsize businesses, but it is widely applicable for all CISA partners. The Ransomware Guide has two parts:

- ❶ Best practices for ransomware prevention, detailing practices our partners should continuously engage in to help manage the risk posed by ransomware and other cyber threats.
- ❷ A step-by-step prioritized ransomware response checklist organizations can use as an annex to their cyber incident response plans.

CISA understands ransomware is one of the most critical threats facing our partners and stands ready to assist. If you have questions or would like to learn more about cyber risk management resources available from CISA, please contact us at CyberLiaison_SLTT@cisa.dhs.gov.

(Source: [CISA](#))

Comcast TV remote hack opens homes to snooping

A security flaw allowing attackers to remotely snoop in on victims' private conversations was found to stem from their voice-activated Comcast XR11 TV remotes. There are more than 18 million of these remotes in the United States.

The vulnerability has been fixed but it serves as yet another reminder of the inherent security and privacy issues plaguing even the least-suspected internet of things (IoT) devices.

(Source: [ThreatPost](#))

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.