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

The InfoGram

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The looming flu pandemic

Last month there was a small swine flu outbreak in Maryland as hundreds of pigs in at least three counties tested positive. Worse, more than 40 people contracted H3N2v swine flu after visiting the pig exhibits at the three county fairs. Several people were hospitalized and several pigs died.

Incidents like these where influenza is transmitted from animals to people are always on the radar for public health officials, as they can quickly spread without prompt identification and containment. Small outbreaks like this one happen regularly all over the world and sometimes result in a serious health scare, such as the most recent pandemic swine flu in 2009, which resulted in over 12,000 deaths in the United States.

Pandemic influenza cannot be predicted and health offices should review pandemic plans regularly and keep them current. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hosts several tools to assist state and local governments including a guide for governors and senior state officials, funding guidance and national standards for state and local planning.

The CDC also lists federal resources that local planners should be familiar with including the "National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Planning," "Regulations and Laws that May Apply During a Pandemic," and surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory, mitigation and communication information.

Flu monitoring and surveillance tools on the CDC website include weekly monitoring, flu activity maps, interactive surveillance data and vaccine information. This is updated regularly for the benefit of public health and health care facilities both during the regular flu season as well as a flu pandemic.

(Source: CDC)

Fatality management after a disaster

The primary concern during post-disaster mass casualty response is triaging and treating the injured or wounded. In a large-scale disaster, however, you may need to manage a large number of fatalities in addition to the wounded. The situation becomes more complicated if it is also a crime scene.

Processing remains is a multi-agency job and jurisdictions lacking a suitable mass fatality plan can quickly be overwhelmed. Inter- and cross-jurisdictional relationships should be well established before they are needed, and plans should be detailed enough that everyone knows their role. Here are some examples:

- "Managing Mass Fatalities: A Toolkit for Planning," Santa Clara County, California.
- "Mass Fatality Management Guide for Healthcare Entities," (PDF, 5.51 MB), California.
- Hospital Preparedness Program Target Capability 5 (PDF, 1 MB), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORTs) are available to assist with processing and victim identification, and they do supply temporary

Highlights

U.S. Fire Administration

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morgue facilities as a backup. These regional teams can be called in for local disasters, such as cemetery floods or train derailments, but should only be one part of a plan.

In addition, many states, large cities and hospitals have mass fatalities plans available online that can be used as a guide when working on your own. An internet search for "mass fatality management" will bring back some of these resources.

(Source: PHE)

Nationwide Cyber Security Review tool for SLTT governments

As we highlighted last week, October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) offers state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments a variety of tools and resources to improve their cyber security. One of the ways they do this is through the Nationwide Cyber Security Review (NCSR).

The 2017 NCSR is a free, confidential self-assessment tool designed for SLTT governments to capture their level of cybersecurity preparedness and resilience. Departments completing the self-assessment will receive reports anonymously aligning their results to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework functions and anonymously measuring their results against their peers based on department type and population size.

The assessment can also help you develop a benchmark to gauge your year-to-year cybersecurity progress, identify and fill gaps in your security program, and assist your department in documenting support for cybersecurity programs, funding and training.

The 2017 review is open now through December 15, 2017. To learn more about the NCSR and to register, please visit the MS-ISAC website.

(Source: MS-ISAC)

Webinar: Law Enforcement Operations on the Fireground

Law enforcement officers are occasionally the first on scene to a fire and, sometimes, their well-intentioned actions wind up hindering fire operations or worse, put their own lives in danger. If your fire department has experienced this issue, or if you haven't and you want to ensure you don't, consider inviting local law enforcement to sit at the table with you for next week's webinar "Responding Safer, Together: Law Enforcement Operations on the Fireground."

This webinar features both fire and law enforcement experts and will cover what law enforcement officers can do to if they are first on scene. It will also provide the attendees with sample fire operation policy for law enforcement agencies to consider incorporating into their operations plans and training.

The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2017, at 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern, and provides a good opportunity for departments to strengthen their working relationships. Those interested must register.

(Source: Lexipol)

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.