



Highlights:

Violence Against EMTs Prompts Training in Detroit

Drought and Public Health

Emergency Management's Cyber Risk

"Stop the Bleed" Public Service Campaign

Disclaimer of Endorsement:

The EMR-ISAC does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.



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.

The InfoGram

Volume 15 – Issue 44

October 29, 2015

Violence Against EMTs Prompts Training in Detroit

The interim Detroit Fire Commissioner scheduled de-escalation and defensive tactics training for the department's EMS personnel after [two EMTs on a call were slashed and stabbed by a man with a box cutter](#). The two drove themselves to the hospital after receiving deep lacerations, but are expected to make full recoveries. Their assailant is in custody.

The interim Commissioner, who was previously an assistant chief with the Detroit Police Department, has [fast tracked the training to start less than two weeks after the incident](#) occurred. It is important to note this attack happened on his second day at the job. Sudden crises can test leadership; this quick decision brings defensive training and possibly body armor to a department already amenable to the idea.

This case is just the latest in the growing list of attacks or assault on fire and EMS personnel. A week earlier in Ohio a [man held two firefighters hostage at gunpoint](#) for over an hour, ending with the gunman in custody and, fortunately, no injuries.

Because of these incidents, more departments are investigating defensive training and gear for their firefighters and especially EMS workers, who come into [closer physical contact with patients and bystanders](#). Detroit's EMS crews will receive training from the same people who trained Boston's EMS crews in defensive tactics: their own Detroit Police Department.

If your department is looking into training options, your local or state law enforcement agencies are a good place to start. If they can't do the training themselves they will likely have an idea of who can. The Firefighters Support Foundation has a free online "[Firefighter/EMS Self-Defense](#)" training, running 90-minutes. A quick online search will also show a number of private companies that can provide this training for a fee.

(Source: [JEMS](#))

Drought and Public Health

The west is still seeing drought conditions, according to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), with much of California still in Exceptional Drought. Texas and Louisiana are also seeing Severe to Exceptional Drought in parts of their states, and almost every other state in the country has parts that are considered Abnormally Dry.

Drought impacts public health significantly, and the more severe the drought the

The InfoGram is distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures.

stronger that impact. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created the [Drought Communication Toolkit](#), providing a wealth of information in one location as a one-stop-shop. This site supports public health officials as well as homeowners, industries, recreational facilities, and vulnerable populations.

Health impacts from drought can include vector-borne and waterborne diseases, water treatment issues, poor air quality, and even increased emotional distress. The CDC's toolkit helps public health and emergency management offices spread the word, enabling the community to increase their resilience to this slow-moving disaster.

(Source: [CDC](#))

Emergency Management's Cyber Risk

The Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS) team took a look at [cybersecurity trends and capabilities of the emergency management community](#) based on reporting from the 2012 State Preparedness Reports and cybersecurity-related After Action Reports (AARs). What they found is outlined in six key trends that state and local agencies can use as a litmus test to determine the effectiveness of their own cybersecurity practices.

Cybersecurity is high on the lists of serious threats affecting this country. In fact, "cyber" took top spot from "terrorism" on the threat list nearly three years ago. While specific high profile hacks of government and business websites in the past year make headlines, the truth is we are under a constant barrage of cyber attacks and have been for some time. This week, [Congress passed a cybersecurity bill in an attempt to address this issue](#).

LLIS's two-page analysis finds gaps and areas of interest in planning; coordination; incident response; prevention; exercises and training; and funding and personnel. Overall, the analysis points to the need of more training, better prevention, and improved coordination and communications among state and federal entities. These topics were mentioned in all 16 of the AARs reviewed.

The LLIS Trend Analysis series covers topics that can help communities "build, sustain, and deliver the Core Capabilities assessed as being areas of both high priority and low proficiency." More from the Trend Analysis series can be found on the [Homeland Security Digital Library](#).

(Source: [HSDL](#))

"Stop the Bleed" Public Service Campaign

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released "[Stop the Bleed](#)," a new program designed to help the public learn how best to manage a bleeding victim before help arrives.

It is possible for a bleeding victim to die from blood loss in less than 5 minutes. In many locations this is well outside the response time for an ambulance, so bystanders may be the victim's best chance for survival. DHS makes available a few resources to help spread the word, including an infographic and video.

Ultimately, the public service campaign encourages bystanders to help those injured, reminding them of the important measures they can quickly and easily take to save someone's life.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Fair Use Notice:

This InfoGram may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

The EMR-ISAC believes this constitutes "fair use" of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

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**.