

The InfoGram



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EDGE virtual training platform releases school emergency scenario

A new school-based scenario available for the [free virtual training platform Enhanced Dynamic Geo-Social Environment \(EDGE\)](#) allows first responders to train for school-based emergencies with school staff and administrators. The EDGE school environment can be any type of critical incident on campus: parental custody disputes, potential bomb threats, active shooter or other scenario.

EDGE is a video game-style simulation in which people control avatars representing their real-life roles: law enforcement, fire, EMS, teachers, school resource officers, school administration and more. Each person determines their avatar's actions, meaning the simulation plays out differently each time.

This format allows people to take part from different locations, supporting single- and multi-agency use. It reduces training costs, encouraging different agencies or jurisdictions to train together. Cross-discipline training is crucial to an organized, unified response.

The first scenario, released last year, involves an active shooter armed with Molotov cocktails at a high-rise hotel. [See this short video on the EDGE training and what both available scenarios have to offer.](#)

The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the U.S. Army Research Laboratory joined forces to create this virtual training platform. Agencies interested in obtaining a free copy of the EDGE training or who have general EDGE inquiries may contact first.responder@hq.dhs.gov.

(Source: [DHS S&T](#))

AskRail app: real-time data on railcar hazmat shipments

The [AskRail mobile app](#) provides first responders in the United States and Canada with immediate access to accurate, timely data about the type of hazardous materials a railcar is carrying, allowing them to make informed response decisions during a railcar emergency.

Through an easy-to-use mobile interface, emergency responders can query the contents of a railcar with a simple railcar ID search to find a variety of information. Emergency responders have immediate, secure access to critical data sourced from railroads. This data can help you make informed decisions and determine the next steps in your incident response.

AskRail provides data such as:

- Hazard class for the railcar's contents.
- Loaded or empty railcar status.
- UN/NA ID for identifying hazardous materials.
- Proper shipping name (PSN) for a railcar's contents.
- Emergency contact information for all seven Class I railroads and Amtrak.

AskRail also includes a list of the 125 hazardous materials most commonly shipped

Highlights

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Federal reimbursement for fire suppression at federal property

DEA: prescription drugs cause more overdose deaths than illicit drugs



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.

by rail and integrates information from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG).

(Source: [AskRail](#))

Federal reimbursement for fire suppression on federal property

Did you know [if your fire department responded to a fire on federal property, it could be eligible for reimbursement of some costs](#) from the federal agency that had the fire. Your department may qualify if:

- Your department is a state, local, tribal, territorial, public or private fire department, either career or volunteer.
- Your personnel performed fire suppression activities. Training, fire prevention and other activities are not eligible.
- Your claims are for direct expenses or losses over and above normal operating costs such as overtime pay, additional fuel or damage to equipment.

It is important to note there is a time window for applying. You have 90 days to apply for reimbursement after the incident.

See the U.S. Fire Administration website for more detailed information on qualifications, instructions on filing a claim and contact information should you have any questions.

(Source: [USFA](#))

DEA: prescription drugs cause more overdose deaths than illicit drugs

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) "[2018 National Drug Threat Assessment](#)" (PDF, 8.7 MB), controlled prescription drugs cause more overdose deaths than illicit drugs. This statistic has not changed since 2001.

The report confirms what we already know about the opioid crisis and the increasing fentanyl problem. However, the drug problem in the United States is always evolving:

- Cocaine use is rebounding and fentanyl is increasingly found in cocaine.
- New Psychoactive Substances increases worldwide but remains limited in the United States for now.
- Marijuana remains the most commonly used illegal drug in the country, especially as more states pass legislation decriminalizing it.
- Transnational Criminal Organizations continue to find new ways to meet the demand for drugs and to find better ways to launder the money.

The DEA developed this updated report using data and intelligence collected from law enforcement partners over the past year. See the full DEA report for more detailed information.

(Source: [DEA](#))

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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