

# The InfoGram



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## USFA logs lowest annual count in 2019 Firefighter Fatalities Report

[The U.S. Fire Administration \(USFA\) logged 62 firefighter fatalities in 2019, the lowest total number since USFA began keeping track.](#) This is an 18 percent decrease from 2010.

Some details from the 2019 report:

- Volunteer firefighters saw 34 deaths while career firefighters had 25 deaths.
- Seven people lost their lives during wildland firefighting activities, also the lowest number in 10 years.
- There were no multi-fatality incidents.
- The top three causes of death were heart attacks (33), trauma (15) and burns (4).
- Firefighters age 61 and older accounted for 19 fatalities; 17 suffered heart attacks, the remaining 2 were from other causes.

Though we should mark this important milestone, our work is not done. The fire service faces an ever-changing work landscape, as this year proves in abundance. Meeting those challenges requires adaptation in training and planning. Firefighter fatality reduction relies on the work we all do today to prepare the workforce for the unknowns of tomorrow.

Every year, USFA reports on firefighter fatalities to identify their causes to understand how future deaths can be prevented. See the USFA website for the full 2019 report, all past reports and comparative data visualization graphics. Also see the [current tally for 2020 firefighter fatalities](#).

(Source: [USFA](#))

## Behavioral factors strongly contribute to landslide survival

Landslide mitigation and response has often revolved around civil engineering projects. But an engineer who studied the Oso, Washington 2014 landslide and others found a few simple, inexpensive actions may give people better chances of surviving than expensive engineering projects can.

The study "[Human Vulnerability to Landslides](#)" is available through open-access on GeoHealth. Researchers looked at what makes a landslide deadly, the factors that increase mortality rates and what actions survivors took leading up to and during a landslide.

They found individuals increased their chances of survival by doing the following:

- Moving to a downhill room in an upper floor of a building can multiply survival rates by 12.
- Open downhill doors and windows, which will allow liquids to flow out of the building and not build up.
- Do not shelter behind large furniture, as the force of the liquid and debris can



### Highlights

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2020 NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications

Webinar: Life-Saving Partners: 911 and Suicide Lifelines

### 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

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move it, injuring or trapping you.

- Be informed about the likelihood of landslides in your area and know the warning signs.

These findings suggest public education is an important piece of the puzzle, one emergency managers can easily work with.

See the [University of Washington](#) webpage for discussion of the study.

(Source: [GeoHealth](#))

## 2020 NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) announced the release of the 2020 NWCG Standards for Wildland Fire Position Qualifications, PMS 310-1.

The PMS 310-1 transitioned from a PDF document to a web-based format. All information is still available to print from the NWCG website's [NWCG Position Catalog](#).

NWCG positions enable consistent and uniform performance by personnel mobilized by position under NIMS-ICS principles. The position catalog provides comprehensive information about each NWCG position, those for which NWCG establishes qualifications standards.

Two other supplemental documents are also available:

- [Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement](#).
- [NWCG Wildland Fire Position Qualification Flowchart](#), PMS 308.

Agency-specific positions such as those located in the Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications Supplement are not included in this catalog.

(Source: [NWCG](#))

## Webinar: Life-Saving Partners: 911 and Suicide Lifelines

Dispatcher and crisis hotline staff both play important roles in helping individuals in moments of crisis. Although they both share the goal of helping the caller, the steps each role takes can differ greatly.

Join the Justice Clearinghouse on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, from 1-2 Eastern for the webinar "[Life-Saving Partners: 911 and Suicide Lifelines Working Together](#)." Registration is required.

This webinar will teach what steps dispatchers and crisis hotline staff can take if they receive a possible suicidal caller, how shared information can speed up the process and how each agency can best help the other to save a caller's life.

This is the second webinar in a two-part series; the first "[No Second Chance: Handling Suicidal Callers in Dispatch](#)," is available through the Justice Clearinghouse.

See the website for a [full list of upcoming webinars](#) on a variety of law enforcement, first responder and emergency management topics.

(Source: [Justice Clearinghouse](#))

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## Cyber Threats

### 5G is here: get ready for the cybersecurity battles of tomorrow

The worldwide rollout of 5G will create innumerable benefits for the enterprise business community and the United States economy. Advanced 5G and wireless networks will bring a huge selection of benefits, including higher traffic capacities, lower latency, and increased reliability. It will empower millions by broadband connectedness. It will impact commercial verticals such as retail, health, and financial by enabling processing and analytics in real time. In essence, 5G will function as a data superhighway.

5G speed, performance, capacity, and connectivity will necessitate the need for better security. As with any new technology 5G is not without its security concerns. Many of these issues have been out front in security discussions due to our highly charged political environment regarding 5G's supply chain roots and controls emanating from China. But there are also significant risks from an increased attack surface that 5G will foster.

(Source: [HSToday](#))

### HHS webinar: Chinese State-Sponsored Cyber Activity

The Department of Health and Human Services' Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center (HC3) invites you to join its monthly webinar on November 19, 2020, at 1 p.m. Eastern. The briefing topic: "[Chinese State-Sponsored Cyber Activity](#)."

[Registration is required for this webinar](#). After your registration has been approved, you will receive instructions for joining the event.

This webinar initiative will provide actionable information on health sector cybersecurity threats and mitigations. HC3 analysts will present relevant cybersecurity topics, engage in discussions with participants on current threats and highlight best practices and mitigation tactics.

Briefings will be conducted via WebEx teleconference. Each briefing may last approximately 30-40 minutes depending on the topic, with time reserved for questions and discussion.

Questions: For more information regarding the pilot briefings, or for general questions, please email [HC3@hhs.gov](mailto:HC3@hhs.gov).

(Source: [HC3](#))

### National Guard to help Vermont health network after cyberattack

The governor of Vermont has called in the National Guard to help the University of Vermont (UVM) Health Network respond to a serious cyberattack.

Six hospitals in the UVM Health Network are experiencing significant network problems following an attack that struck during the week of October 25, 2020.

The impact of the attack on services has varied at the network's different affiliate organizations. Outages across a number of systems are being experienced at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington, where some non-urgent elective procedures have been rescheduled.

(Source: [Infosecurity Magazine](#))

#### Cyber Information and Incident Assistance Links

##### [MS-ISAC](#)

[SOC@cisecurity.org](mailto: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.