The InfoGram

Needlestick prevention during the opioid epidemic

Opioid use and overdose numbers have reached epidemic levels nationwide. With increased IV drug use comes an increased risk of needlesticks during pat-downs, property searches and medical calls. Every call puts first responders at risk for exposure to a variety of viral diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis.

In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates one-third of injection drug users between the ages of 18-30 are positive for Hepatitis C, while older and prior users have a 70-90 percent infection rate. Some EMS agencies respond to 12 or more overdoses on average per day. You do the math on the risks.

Safety officers and departmental leadership should ensure they are purchasing good quality gloves and other PPE and are using a strict sharps disposal method. They should also consider refresher training on avoiding needlestick injuries, as well as a review of reporting and medical procedures if a needlestick occurs.

One way departments can minimize exposure is by using nasal delivery naloxone instead of injectables. There is already a danger of infected needles at overdose calls, why add more risk with yet another needle?

The CDC covers many of these topics in its "Stop Sticks Campaign," which focuses on workplace exposure to bloodborne pathogens from sharps-related injuries. The free program materials are demonstrated to have an impact on workers, and you can tailor the campaign to your specific needs.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration and the American Nurses Association also have lists of resources likely to be helpful.

(Source: CDC)

Fitness tracker data now public, heat maps a serious security concern

Strava, a company that makes global positioning system (GPS) fitness devices and apps, recently made a global heat map based on 2017 data showing the tracks of 1 billion activities, such as running, walking and biking routes. The company is now under criticism as the maps can reveal military or intelligence operations overseas.

This poses a serious security risk in the states, too. The maps reveal typical movement patterns and daily routines in cities and complexes and even inside buildings. This data could be useful for terrorists, criminals and homegrown violent extremists who might be trying to avoid well-traveled pathways or to target where large groups of people often congregate.

It should be noted some sources suggest individual users can be tracked using Strava's data. It might be possible to use this data to target individuals as they go through their daily routine, though it is *not* possible to track people in real-time.

Strava intends to produce yearly comparison heat maps, making it possible to look for changes through comparing maps. State-sponsored hackers and spy agencies likely see Strava's release as a windfall of information.

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.

First responder agencies, critical infrastructure facilities and public venues should consider how this data release could affect them and take appropriate action. Individuals should also re-evaluate the amount of information they are sharing. Most fitness trackers and apps have a setting to turn off data sharing. If you are unable to find it, contact the manufacturing company for assistance.

(Source: Wired)

FEMA Core Capability Development Sheets updated

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently updated the 48 Core Capability Development Sheets, first released in June 2017. The sheets identify tools to help organizations sustain and improve their core capabilities.

The improvements for February 2018 include:

❯ Navigation pages to improve user search and experience.

❯ New resource types released by the FEMA National Integration Center.

❯ PREPTalks, video presentations on new research and insights for emergency managers.

❯ Updated tools for Natural and Cultural Resources Core Capability.

Spread the word on your favorite social media platforms using #corecapability, and please send questions and feedback to FEMA-TArequest@fema.dhs.gov.

(Source: FEMA)

Comments requested for NIMS draft Job Titles/Position Qualifications

The FEMA National Integration Center is seeking public feedback on the draft 109 National Incident Management System (NIMS) Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Resource Typing Definitions.

The NIMS Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Resource Typing Definitions define minimum qualifications and capabilities for personnel and their equipment within their assigned teams.

Public comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern on February 27, 2018. National Engagement provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment. This information is valuable to the review and revision process. FEMA has the draft available for review online. To provide comments on the draft, complete the feedback form and submit it to FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov.

NIMS is a key component of national incident management efforts and enables organizations from across the country to work together during incidents of all kinds and sizes.

(Source: FEMA)

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.

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