



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

INFOGRAM 9-11

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NOTE: This INFOGRAM will be distributed weekly to provide members of the Emergency Services Sector with information concerning the protection of their critical infrastructures. For further information, contact the Emergency Management and Response- Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) at (301) 447-1325 or by e-mail at emr-isac@dhs.gov.

Emergency Roadway Responses

(Source: FireRescue 1 News)

According to [FireRescue 1 News](#), many fire and emergency services associations have been working on issues regarding fire and police interactions at roadway incidents. Consequently, there are a variety of training materials available on this matter.

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) acknowledges that much of the existing information on this subject resulted from the U.S. Fire Administration's effort to reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities. Nonetheless, "firefighter and police officer struck-by incidents have slowly risen in recent years."

Therefore, to promote the reduction and elimination of roadway injuries and fatalities by personnel of Emergency Services Sector organizations, consult the following various projects that have been completed to date:

- [Guide to Model Procedures for Emergency Vehicle Safety](#)
- [Best Practices for Emergency Vehicle and Roadway Operations Safety in the Emergency Services](#)
- [Emergency Vehicle Safety Initiative](#)
- [Highway Incident Safety for First Responders](#)
- [Traffic Hazards While Working Along Roadways](#) (PDF, 90 Kb)
- [Incident Safety Working Multilane Highways](#) (PDF, 479 Kb)

The FireRescue article recommends that the fire, police, EMS, and other agencies responding to roadway emergencies should "participate in pre-incident planning, so that any potential conflicts can be resolved in the conference room, not on the shoulder of a highway." However, "each individual who responds to these incidents must take accountability for their own actions and do the right things."

Flood Preparedness

(Sources: National Weather Service, FEMA, and CDC)

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States affecting specific localities or entire river basins and multiple states. For the third consecutive year, reports prepared this week by the National Weather Service (NWS) indicate that widespread moderate to major flooding is occurring on rivers across the Midwest. Flood Warnings or Watches are in effect in the region, including the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri.

According to the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA), "every state is at risk from this hazard," which has the potential to drain limited resources and paralyze personnel and equipment essential for the operational continuity and success of Emergency Services Sector (ESS) departments and agencies. While the emergency services in the six mentioned states are currently being tested, first responder organizations in other states have the opportunity to consider their vulnerability to flooding and adjust their disaster planning, training, and operations accordingly.

After reviewing FEMA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) flood readiness information, the [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) assembled the following few FEMA and CDC suggestions for the consideration of ESS leaders and operators in flood-prone areas:

- Develop or revise the annex for flood operations within the organization's emergency plans.
- Integrate organizational flood planning with those of the municipality with provisions for effective incident command.
- Guarantee the response activities of all community stakeholders are fully coordinated and approved.
- Ensure flood planning includes an alternate site from which to operate with available back-up power.
- Establish evacuation routes and contingencies for the location and movement of individuals with special needs and stranded residents.
- Determine the locations and requirements for possible sheltering, sandbagging, and emergency construction operations.
- Provide measures to safeguard local and regional medical centers.
- Arrange for primary and secondary means to communicate with all responders.
- Acquire the specific tools and equipment to maintain flood operations for extended periods.
- Rehearse flood operations to promote familiarization and to identify weaknesses for correction.

See the following websites for more information about flood preparedness:

- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Fire Administration](#)

Growth of Extremist Groups

(Source: Southern Poverty Law Center)

According to the "[The Year in Hate & Extremism](#)," recently released by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), the radical right in America expanded explosively in 2010. The SPLC, a professional watchdog of hate groups, suggests that the 7.5 percent increase has been caused by frustration over the lagging economy, resentment over changing national demographics, immigration fears, and mainstreaming of conspiracy theories.

When reviewing this and related reports, the [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) observed that the hate groups usually listed include neo-nazis, white nationalists, white supremacists, neo-confederates, racist skinheads, klansmen, black separatists, "sovereign citizens," etc. The SPLC has previously discussed other groups that target gays or immigrants, and those specializing in producing racist music or propaganda denying the Holocaust.

Senior officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have occasionally expressed growing concern over these groups. The most worrisome trend to law enforcement and other emergency responders has been the apparent increase in willingness by these movements to resort to violence.

Recognizing that the attention given to transnational terrorism often overshadows the possible threat from domestic hate groups, prudence dictates awareness of the tactics, techniques, and procedures of such groups by law enforcement, fire, and the emergency medical services.

To obtain greater comprehension of this problem and acquire insights for countermeasures, see [Countering Violent Extremism](#) (PDF, 178 Kb) by the Homeland Security Advisory Council. Additional information can be obtained at the [FBI's Hate Crimes site](#).

Emergency Communications Forum

(Source: DHS Office of Emergency Communications)

The [Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center](#) (EMR-ISAC) was notified that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Office of Emergency Communications](#) (OEC) released Volume III of the [Emergency Communications Forum \(ECF\) newsletter](#) (PDF, 404 Kb). The ECF engages and informs emergency responders; policy makers; and Federal, state, local, and tribal officials about issues and events that directly affect everyday nationwide emergency communications.

Volume V of the ECF newsletter highlights recent changes in the SAFECOM program's leadership. It also details OEC's efforts to support stakeholders through efforts such as the [Technical Assistance program](#), Narrowbanding, [Frequency Mapping Tool](#), and [Regional Intrastate Governance Guide](#) (PDF, 2.6 Mb).

OEC invites interested personnel to subscribe to the ECF through the link on the [OEC homepage](#). Those who wish to submit an article pertaining to emergency communications in the field, best practices, and lessons learned can send their information to oec@dhs.gov.

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REPORTING NOTICE

The National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Infrastructure Protection is the central point for notifications regarding infrastructure threats, disruptions, intrusions, and suspicious activities. Emergency Services Sector personnel are requested to report any incidents or attacks involving their infrastructures using at least the first and second points of contact seen below:

- 1) NICC - Voice: 202-282-9201, Fax: 703-487-3570, E-Mail: nicc@dhs.gov
- 2) Your local FBI office - Web: www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm
- 3) EMR-ISAC - Voice: 301-447-1325, E-Mail: emr-isac@dhs.gov, fax: 301-447-1034, Web: www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac, Mail: E-108, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727