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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](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).

# The InfoGram

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## Aging Infrastructure and ES: Bridges & Roads

The [Transportation Systems Sector](#) has several subsectors, but the Highway Infrastructure and Motor Carrier subsector is probably the one used by more Americans every year. According to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Infrastructure Protection, there are nearly 4 million miles of roadway, almost 600,000 bridges, and 400 tunnels in the United States.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave Roads a score of D in [the 2012 Report Card for America's Infrastructure](#). Bridges fared better with a C+. According to the [Federal Highway Administration](#) there is a shortfall of \$8 billion annual spending on deficient bridges alone; roads require an additional \$79 billion annually.

While bad roads lead to lost time and higher vehicle upkeep, bridge collapses are more worrisome. All Emergency Services (ES) agencies should be trained and adept in their specific part: technical or heavy rescue; crush injuries; hospital surge; well-staffed PSAPs; maintaining a common operating picture within the Emergency Operations Center; and as always good interagency communications, cooperation, and following of the National Incident Management System.

The Minneapolis I-35 bridge collapse was not directly caused by age, but it can serve as a reminder of the devastation and loss of life a major collapse causes. The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) [investigative report on the collapse](#) (PDF, 1.8 Mb) looks at the response by local agencies and the lessons learned for fire, EMS, law enforcement, emergency management, and 9-1-1.

(Source: [ASCE 2012 Infrastructure Report Card](#))

## Arson Awareness Week Focus on Vehicle Fires

Nearly 28,000 intentionally set vehicle fires occurred in the United States between 2004 and 2006. According to the USFA, they resulted in 40 deaths, 75 injuries, and \$165 million in property loss.

Vehicle arson is the focus of [Arson Awareness Week](#), May 4-10. USFA allies with several national and international organizations, providing resources for fire and law enforcement partners working to prevent and identify vehicle arson. Some of the resources on the USFA website include:

- National Fire Academy Fire/Arson/Explosion Investigation Curriculum;

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

- Common motivations behind vehicle arson;
- Helpful tips when investigating suspected vehicle arson;
- A focus on three successful regional anti-arson programs.

(Source: [USFA](#))

## Preparing the Healthcare Sector for the Worst

In a natural disaster or public health crisis, emergency management and health officials must respond quickly and efficiently to save lives and treat victims. Before the healthcare sector can help others, it must be sure it can handle the increased load, manage surge, and have preparedness and contingency plans in place.

The [Healthcare Preparedness Activity](#) (HPA), in the Division of Strategic National Stockpile, has as its mission and vision to assist healthcare systems to effectively prepare and respond to emergencies. They provide tools and other resources to enhance preparedness and response within many healthcare settings. The HPA works to support coordination between public health, healthcare, and emergency management to safely deliver the right care at the right time and in the right place.

The [Hospitals](#) section has reports and tools on pandemic influenza, the Hospital Incident Command System, and more. One of the best tools offered is the Hospital All-Hazards Assessment Interactive Tool, geared toward a facility's emergency and preparedness staff. After answering questions about your hospital's preparedness plan, you can print a summary of your responses and make changes to your plans.

The [Emergency Responders](#) section is geared toward planning to use community call centers, such as nurse advice lines and other hotlines, during large public health emergencies or pandemics. This would act to "triage" non-life threatening calls away from 9-1-1, leaving the critical resources available to those who were in grave need.

These pages are hosted by the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the Centers for Disease Control and Preparedness. Resources, toolkits, reports and guides will be added regularly and many are currently in various stages of preparation, and you can [sign up for email updates](#). Once you register and go to the selection page, click on "Emergency Preparedness" and then select "Healthcare Preparedness Info." You can also select other updates offered.

(Source: [HPA](#))

## Comments Requested: Draft EMS Guidelines

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is requesting comments on the new draft "[Model EMS Clinical Guidelines](#)." The Model Guidelines are "intended to be a resource for EMS medical directors and EMS systems of care." They apply the most recent evidence-based standards and guidelines.

The two-year project teamed NASEMSO Medical Directors Council with physicians from several other national EMS and medical associations to create the guidelines based on the latest evidence-based practices. They hope such a set of guides will promote a higher standard of prehospital care.

Comments should be submitted to Mary Hedges, NASEMSO Program Manager, at [hedges@nasemso.org](mailto:hedges@nasemso.org) no later than April 30.

(Source: [EMS.gov](#))

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