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National Day of  
Action April 30th

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for First Responders

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# The InfoGram

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## PrepareAthon! National Day of Action April 30th

This week, the White House, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Weather Channel, and many other national and regional organizations are getting ready for the first [PrepareAthon!](#) national day of action. This campaign is scheduled for April 30, and focuses on four specific hazards: [tornadoes](#), [wildfires](#), [floods](#), and [hurricanes](#).

People are encouraged to register and learn which of the four natural hazards could affect them and their community, and to take steps to increase their preparedness. Maps show hazards by county, so you may see historical trends to determine your risk for each hazard. Participants may:

- Plan or participate in organized community resilience projects or events;
- Take an active role in the [online discussion forums](#);
- Learn more about the hazards and how to prepare for them.

This community-based program is part of the effort to work toward building a more resilient nation.

(Source: [FEMA PrepareAthon!](#))

## WUI Coffee Break Training Series

The busy schedules of fire and emergency personnel don't often allow for time to attend valuable skill-enhancing training sessions. The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA's) "[Coffee Break Training](#)" bulletins serve as quick, easy reads as informative one-page notices on technical training and administrative tips.

A new series on Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) with a focus on Fire-Adapted Communities can be found under the Coffee Break Training's Community Risk Reduction Series. The first in this series, "[Introduction to Understanding the Wildland Urban Interface](#)" (PDF, 336 Kb), was released in March.

Thirteen WUI-related Coffee Break Trainings will be released in total, including topics on how the fire service can help the community to prepare for wildland fires, implement mitigation efforts, and provide tips to prepare residents homes. Students

who complete all 13 in this series through the National Fire Academy (NFA) Online and pass the test will receive a certificate and Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Please visit the [USFA's Coffee Break Training page](#) to review this series, subscribe to receive Coffee Break Trainings by email, and to learn about other available training bulletins.

(Source: [USFA](#))

## Mass Chemical Exposure Decon Guidance

Draft guidance "[Patient Decontamination in a Mass Chemical Exposure Incident: National Planning Guidance for Communities](#)" is now available for public comment. The document gives first responders strategic best practices on effectively responding to hazardous chemical events in their communities.

The document was developed for the nation's first line of defense: incident commanders, emergency management personnel, training coordinators for emergency response organizations and health care facilities, public health officials, and law enforcement officials. It aims to further enhance planning and response to events requiring decontamination for any mass casualty chemical event.

The U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services are leading this effort, relying on the skills and knowledge of emergency response; emergency medicine; toxicology; risk communication; behavioral health; academic and non-government organizations; and federal, state, and local agencies.

The [public comment period for the draft guidance](#) is open until Monday, May 19, 2014.

(Source: [DHS OHA](#))

## Response to Gunfire for First Responders

New training "[Response to Gunfire – Tactics when Shot at or Working at Ballistic Scenes](#)" was just released by the [Firefighters Support Foundation](#). Firefighters are called to report to active shooter events and other on-going crime scenes more frequently. This training addresses what to do and expect while on the scene.

The program discusses different circumstances first responders may find themselves in. Some things discussed:

- Seeking cover and concealment;
- The physical changes fear can bring about in your body and how that might affect your perception and reactions;
- Basic individual movement techniques (IMTs) as life safety tactics.

The 48-slide PowerPoint presentation and 40-minute training video is presented by a commander of a state police SWAT team who has worked extensively organizing fire and EMS response with police actions during events. The free program is available on both Jems.com and [FireEngineering.com](#).

(Source: [Firefighters Support Foundation](#))

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