



Highlights:

National Fire Academy
EFOP Symposium

Autism Training Video
for First Responders

NASA: Powerful 2012
Solar Storm a Near-Miss

Hospital Incident
Command System
Guidebook

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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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National Fire Academy EFOP Symposium

The National Fire Academy's [Executive Fire Officer Program \(EFOP\) Graduate Symposium](#) is planned for September 4-6, 2014. The focus of the event will be on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and its impact on fire and EMS agencies.

Applications are being accepted from all EFOP alumni. Current EFOP students are also eligible to attend; both groups are encouraged to apply immediately. Due to the programmatic and emergent program theme, all fire service policymakers, executives, and those with a specific interest in the fire service's engagement in or response to PPACA, or any other aspect of the act, are also encouraged to attend.

To apply, submit [FEMA Form 119-25-1](#) (PDF, 780 Kb) ASAP. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and meals. There is no stipend reimbursement for the EFOP Graduate Symposium.

(Source: [USFA](#))

Autism Training Video for First Responders

Temple University's Institute on Disabilities collaborated with several local fire and police departments in Pennsylvania to produce a new training video. "[Autism and First Responders: Seeing Beyond the Smoke](#)" aims to increase awareness in "the unique issues presented by people with autism" and to educate first responders on how to safely manage an emergency scene when someone with autism is present.

The short, 20-minute video is close captioned and begins with a simulated response to a kitchen fire. The person with autism is seen hiding from the smoke alarm sound – and the firefighters searching for him – in a closet. The video goes on to explain this is not unusual. People with autism will often go to a place they feel safe or calm when overstimulated; questioning family members may reveal where that spot is.

The video training highlights a discussion between firefighter/parents of children with autism where they talk about the challenges they've faced teaching them fire safety and exit strategies. The video stresses that no two people with autism are the same; needs and challenges of people "on the spectrum" are unique.

Including procedures and training for at-risk populations like this into your department's policies is an excellent way to do outreach in the community, learning

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

more about how better to serve them while increasing community support of your department.

(Source: [Temple University](#))

NASA: Powerful 2012 Solar Storm a Near-Miss

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) reported this week that Earth was almost sent back to the 18th century, technologically speaking, when [we barely missed being hit by an extreme solar storm](#). The July 23, 2012 solar storm was “the most powerful in as much as [150+ years](#).” Had the eruption occurred one week earlier, Earth would have been directly in the crosshairs.

Experts say the storm would have cost at least \$2 trillion and we would still be recovering from it today, 2 years later. For comparison, a [1989 solar storm](#) half the magnitude of the Carrington storm totally shut down Hydro-Quebec and spurred many countries to implement mitigation strategies against solar storm damage.

Federal agencies and utilities are concerned about severe [space weather's impact on the critical infrastructure](#) (PDF, 200 Kb), especially electric systems. Power lines span large distances and are natural “antennas,” making them more vulnerable. The [cascading effect of the power grid crashing](#) would be felt throughout all critical infrastructures.

Funding and hazards mitigation projects tend to focus on the hazards most likely to occur, such as weather events, earthquakes, or vandalism. A direct hit by a solar storm of this size would be catastrophic. If complete mitigation strategies are not possible, some planning ahead would be helpful with the understanding the power may be out for hours or days at a minimum:

- Find out how fully your organization and community would be affected;
- If possible, stock replacement parts and equipment;
- Practice doing tasks without the use of electronic equipment;
- Sign up for [space weather alerts and warnings](#).

(Source: [NASA](#))

Hospital Incident Command System Guidebook

The California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) recently released the [Hospital Incident Command System \(HICS\) 2014 Guidebook](#). This is its Fifth Edition, newly expanded to address the needs of hospitals regardless of size, location, or patient care capabilities.

The revision has added a Patient Family Assistance Branch to address patient family needs as well as an Employee Family Care Unit to assist the needs of the families of healthcare staff. In addition, new chapters addressing HICS for small and rural hospitals was added and HICS forms were revised to match more closely with those used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The California EMSA reminds the HICS Guidebook users that it should be considered a “living document” and lessons learned will ultimately lead to an even better update. Also, they request copies of After Action Reports and presentations on the use of HICS 2014 to aid in future editions; send these to hics@emsa.ca.gov.

(Source: [California EMSA](#))

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