



Highlights:

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During the Holidays

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Using Lessons Learned from
2014's Disasters

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Personal and Facility Safety During the Holidays

The hustle and bustle of holiday travel, family visits, shopping trips, and community events often distracts us from personal security. Unfortunately, every year we hear of people or families targeted or houses broken into. Here are some easy security tips you can use to stay safe:

- Don't stack empty boxes out for the trash that may advertise the new or expensive additions to your home;
- Don't leave purchases or returns visible in your car; cover them or put them in the trunk;
- Use a timer to turn on lights at home, making it look like someone is there;
- Park and walk in well-lit areas of parking lots or streets;
- Be wary of any [strangers approaching you in parking lots](#) for any reason.

In addition, personal and work [cellphone security should be increased during the holidays](#):

- Don't use public Wi-Fi. Hackers can intercept transaction information via public networks;
- Do not charge a device using a computer or charging station you do not control;
- Turn off Bluetooth if it is not in use.

Offices and facilities should also be secure during the holidays:

- Ensure proper lighting near doors and employee parking areas;
- Report suspicious activity and any trespassers;
- Keep exits locked or secured from prohibited entry; monitor all unlocked doors.

(Source: [US-CERT](#))

Small & Large LE Agencies See Partnership Benefits

After September 11th, the role of small-town law enforcement shifted to include suspicious activity response, counterterrorism activities, and more attention to all-hazards response and preparedness. This was partially due to legislation and partially from the general tone after the attacks. This new direction was often uncharted territory for the small agencies, and many lacked the funding for training and other resources to complete this mandate.

The study "[Homeland Security in Small Law Enforcement Jurisdictions: Preparedness](#)."

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

[Efficacy, and Proximity to Big-City Peers](#)” funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that the more a small-town law enforcement agency worked with nearby large-town or city agencies, the more prepared for terrorist and non-terrorist events the small-town agency was.

Nearly half of all small law enforcement agencies are located within metropolitan counties and are not rural or isolated, making such cooperation not only feasible but also very practical. The smaller agencies gain the benefits of training and resources available to the larger agency. The larger agency in turn gains the knowledge that the smaller agency is better prepared and could possibly lend support during an event if it becomes necessary.

The researchers also found that though most agencies made a distinction between terrorism-related and non-terrorism-related risks and preparedness, agencies that prepared for terrorism-related events were still ultimately more effective in their response to any type of incident whether it was terrorism-related or not.

(Source: [NIJ](#))

Online East/West Coast Ventilation Training

The [Firefighters Support Foundation](#) (FSF) released “Ventilation: East Coast & West Coast; Tricks of the Trade” to address differences in ventilation technique between the East and West coast and provides tips for more efficient and effective ventilation techniques.

[Covered topics](#) include:

- Ventilation considerations;
- Roof type and construction;
- How the East and West coasts differ in tools and approaches;
- Tactics for enhancing your ventilation technique.

The program consists of a 20-minute video presentation, including discussion and demonstrations, and an accompanying 20-slide PowerPoint. The turn-key program is ideal for both in-service and academy instruction.

The program is free to all members of public safety and emergency management agencies. To download your free copy, visit the FSF Training page at either [FireEngineering.com](#) or [JEMS.com](#).

(Source: [FSF](#))

Using Lessons Learned from 2014’s Disasters

In 2014, the United States saw [deadly mudslides](#), [tornado outbreaks](#), its first cases of Ebola, an [unusually cold winter](#), riots and demonstrations, and [severe drought](#) in a substantial part of the West. Other parts of the world saw lone wolf terror attacks, [thousands dead from Ebola](#), and aviation accidents.

A big part of resilience is the ability to learn, adapt, and change as necessary to prevent the same mistake being made over and over. The events of 2014 provide many lessons those in the Emergency Services Sector can use to [build better plans and response practices for future disasters and incidents](#). By doing so, we can help ensure an effective and seamless response to disasters and incidents in 2015 and beyond.

(Source: [ISET](#))

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