



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

**INFOGRAM 35-07**

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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](mailto:emr-isac@dhs.gov).*

## **Sixth Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks**

Tuesday, 11 September, marks the sixth anniversary of the most deadly terrorist attacks on the United States. Throughout the country people will pause for a moment of reflection and remembrance of that tragic day, but maybe with some weariness and complacency about the ongoing terrorist threat. While there have been no acts of transnational terrorism in the nation since 9/11, the FBI recently warned that Al Qaida and similar groups remain a viable threat to American citizens and the critical infrastructures upon which they depend for essential services.

Although the intelligence community believes international terrorists pay little attention to dates (e.g., anniversaries and holidays), the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) encourages Emergency Services Sector (ESS) departments and agencies to seriously consider the possibility of another incident on or about 11 September 2007. Terrorists are known to change their methodologies to achieve surprise and success. Their tactics, techniques, and procedures demonstrate an ability to adapt to security countermeasures and find other methods of attack. There is no doubt among terrorism experts that terrorist cells within America have been busily studying softer and more vulnerable targets.

The recent arrests of terror suspects and various thwarted plots in the United States, Canada, England, Germany, and Denmark provide credible evidence that jihadist extremists are intent on attacking again. Despite no specific information from government sources concerning an imminent attack within the U.S. next week, it does not discount the possibility of one. Therefore, it is necessary for the EMR-ISAC to repeat again: "Be vigilant and maintain heightened awareness."

## **Municipal Resiliency**

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) accepts that the fundamental goal of local governance is to develop strong municipalities capable of continuity of government and services during and after major disasters. Scrutiny of current emergency management literature acknowledges that continuity of operations largely depends on the availability of internal and external resources to protect citizens and maintain critical infrastructures when disaster strikes. Having the capacity to draw on local and regional resources to deal with all hazards considerably bolsters the resiliency of municipalities.

When reviewing selected emergency management articles, the EMR-ISAC found several examples supporting the basic contention that municipalities with robust networks and relationships fare better with disaster activities involving mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Local experiences confirm that effective emergency management practices must include a strong interdependency among organizations within a community, as well as with the elected authorities of surrounding municipalities through mutual aid agreements.

From this literature review, the EMR-ISAC concludes that municipal resiliency is significantly determined by the degree to which emergency managers capitalize on local and regional relational resources and promote their development. It is logical that the cooperation of local and regional stakeholders will harness the power of collective knowledge, skills, and abilities. Furthermore, it will cultivate a resiliency that enhances critical infrastructure protection in addition to continuity of government and services.

## Chlorine Hazards and Protection

The Chlorine Institute is offering downloadable pamphlets, previously available for sale only, that provide personnel protection and survival information for Emergency Services Sector (ESS) organizations.

The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC), examined the ten free pamphlets, and noted four that seemed particularly relevant for ESS critical infrastructure protection:

- Pamphlet 1: *The Chlorine Manual* is a 64-page primer that includes basic overview information about chlorine, and addresses specific topics such as emergency measures, employee safety, health hazards, medical aspects and first-aid, transportation, shipping containers, and key regulations and documents.
- Pamphlet 63: *First Aid, Medical Management/Surveillance and Occupational Hygiene Monitoring Practices for Chlorine*.
- Pamphlet 65: *Personal Protective Equipment for Chlor-Alkali Chemicals*.
- Pamphlet 85: *Recommendations for Prevention of Personnel Injuries for Chlorine Production and Use Facilities*.

To access and download the pamphlets, users must first complete a very brief survey. (Responses are private and will not be shared.) The Institute will use the survey results to gauge the success of providing free safety information. To answer the few general chlorine-related questions and access the pamphlets, visit <http://www.chlorineinstitute.org/Bookstore/SearchBrowse.cfm>.

## 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook

A report in the latest issue of the Arizona Emergency Response Commission's (AZSERC) *Gatekeeper* newsletter alerted Emergency Services Sector (ESS) organizations that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is accepting orders for the 2008 *Emergency Response Guidebook* (ERG), a resource to assist and protect personnel, the foremost of ESS critical infrastructures.

The Guide, developed and disseminated by DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, assists first responders in quickly identifying specific or generic classifications of hazmat, and to protect themselves and the general public during the response phase of operations.

DOT's goal is to place one Guidebook in each emergency service vehicle nationwide through distribution to state and local public safety authorities. Copies are available free of charge to emergency departments through each state's emergency coordinator. Coordinator contact information can be obtained by contacting Suezett Edwards at [suezett.edwards@dot.gov](mailto:suezett.edwards@dot.gov) or 202-366-4863. A list of key DOT headquarters, field, and state participating personnel with hazmat responsibilities is available at [http://hazmat.dot.gov/contact/Hazmat\\_Employee\\_Resource\\_Book.pdf](http://hazmat.dot.gov/contact/Hazmat_Employee_Resource_Book.pdf).

In addition to providing information for ESS leaders, owners, and operators, *Gatekeeper* is a source of news about Tribal community emergency management and response issues. To view archived issues of AZSERC's *Gatekeeper* newsletter, visit <https://www.azserc.org>. However, for information about AZSERC, contact Executive Director Daniel Roe at [azserc@azdema.gov](mailto:azserc@azdema.gov).

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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](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)
- 2) Your local FBI office - Web: <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm>
- 3) EMR-ISAC - Voice: 301-447-1325, E-Mail: [emr-isac@dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@dhs.gov), fax: 301-447- 1034, Web: [www.usfa.dhs.gov/subjects/emr-isac](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/subjects/emr-isac), Mail: J-247, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727