



## Highlights:

Utilizing the Whole Community During a Crisis

New Online Training for Bakken Oil Accidents

Facilities and Communications Continuity

Increased Vigilance for Independence Day Holiday

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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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## Utilizing the Whole Community During a Crisis

One of the best actions an emergency manager can make is involving local leaders, organizations, and businesses in the response and recovery process. Including these groups in planning sessions and exercises helps to grow whole community involvement in disaster response and recovery, while also utilizing community resources in an efficient way.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) publication “[A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management](#)” (PDF, 1.4 Mb) discusses ways to involve such diverse groups as faith-based organizations, higher education institutes, disability services, [big-box](#) and small retailers, embassies, advocacy groups, airports, and home care services by pairing the entity with a specific service or need that falls in or near their everyday mission.

One very recent example of this was illustrated last week. In an effort to address unrest seen in the country recently, [Shelby, North Carolina, police had been working with local clergy](#) to improve community relationships. Once they had captured the alleged South Carolina church shooter, the clergy was brought in to size-up and “gauge the attitude” of the crowd gathering outside the station.

Using available, known community leaders can help a potentially volatile situation stay stable, encourage citizens to assist with preparations when they normally wouldn't, help locate resources, and can ensure vulnerable populations are not overlooked.

(Source: [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov))

## New Online Training for Bakken Oil Accidents

Transportation Rail Incident Preparedness and Response (TRIPR) works to address concerns over train and truck accidents involving volatile crude oil and ethanol. They have just [released finished training materials](#) (PDF, 1.4 Kb) to help first responders plan for and manage these complex incidents.

The [free training material](#) offers local departments near transportation routes of hazard class 3 flammable liquids, such as Bakken crude, a way to start planning and training for accidents. The training package includes an instructor lesson plan, student work book, and a reference sheet on crude oil. Three interactive scenarios help with tabletop discussions. Modules include:

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

- Introduction & Planning – learn about physical and chemical characteristics, identify planning and response considerations;
- Problem Identification – verify presence of hazardous materials, determine identity of the rail carrier, identify information to be gathered;
- Hazard Assessment and Risk Evaluation - learn about train and truck markings, describe factors in predicting behavior based on scene conditions;
- Decon & Post-Emergency Operations – identify factors affecting decontamination and transitioning to post-emergency operations.

This multi-agency effort is based on a roundtable meeting from 2014 in which fire services representatives and emergency managers shared first-hand knowledge of handling these incidents.

(Source: [TRIPR](#))

## Facilities and Communications Continuity

The next offering in the Emergency Services Sector-Resilience Development Webinar Series will focus on "[Facilities and Communications Continuity](#)." Susan Flint, an intelligence research specialist with the Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis, will discuss how natural hazards can impact the Emergency Services Sector.

The webinar is scheduled for 1-2 p.m. Eastern on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. [Registration is recommended](#). For the audio portion, the dial-in number is 800-369-3364; the pin is 6481041. For more information or questions, contact [ESSTEAM@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:ESSTEAM@hq.dhs.gov).

The Department of Homeland Security's [Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis](#) (DHS/OCIA) produces Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (CISR) Notes in response to changes in the infrastructure protection community's risk environment from terrorist attacks, natural hazards, and other events.

(Source: [DHS OCIA](#))

## Increased Vigilance for Independence Day Holiday

While enjoying the festivities of the country's most popular and historic national holiday, please be sure to remain aware of and report any suspicious activity. There are no specific, credible threats at this time, but the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and al-Qa'ida both continue to encourage "lone wolf" attacks in the West.

Foreign and domestic extremists have an interest in targeting symbolic holidays or dates and well-attended events, as seen at the Boston Marathon Bombing. Certain activities can be indicators of a future or imminent threat and should be reported:

- False or diversionary emergency calls;
- Stolen explosives, fireworks, chemicals, uniforms, access cards, or keys;
- Someone dressed in clothing not appropriate to the weather;
- Unattended packages, bags, or boxes;
- Extended or repeated surveillance of an area or building;
- Someone asking questions about security, shift changes, or operations.

The [Nationwide SAR Initiative](#) (NSI) offers free online Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) training targeting audiences such as Fire/EMS, emergency management, and PSAP/9-1-1 dispatchers. They also provide resources on SAR reporting needs.

(Source: [Nationwide SAR Initiative](#))

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For information specifically affecting the private sector critical infrastructure contact the [National Infrastructure Coordinating Center](#) by phone at **202-282-9201**, or by email at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov).