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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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Back to Basics: How Clean is Your Ambulance?

Research published in the [American Journal of Infection Control](#) shines a light on the contamination in ambulances. Research in Spain showed high levels of microbes such as *Staphylococcus aureus* on the steering wheel, passenger door handle, and stretcher handles. Similar testing found [contamination in United States emergency transport](#) can easily be transmitted to patients without proper workplace cleaning habits.

Cross-contamination like this is a preventable issue but one that can have dire consequences for patients if it is left unmediated. [Cleaning and decontamination are two separate processes](#). Decontamination can only happen after the area or medical device has been cleaned. Some items, such as items that would touch mucus membranes, must also be sterilized.

Some states require an exposure control plan, which is part of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) [Bloodborne Pathogens Standard](#). Whether your state requires it or not, it is a good idea to [have a plan developed and keep it updated](#). More importantly, make sure everyone is well trained, understands the reasons it is in place, and follows it every time.

(Source: [OSHA](#))

Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Guide for States

The "[Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning Guide for State Governments](#)," recently finalized and released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides information to support state agencies in emergency preparation, helping them more easily adapt to post-disaster response rolls and requirements.

FEMA designed these planning guides to help states and territories develop pre-disaster recovery plans by engaging members of the whole community, developing recovery capabilities across state government and nongovernmental partners, and creating an organizational framework for comprehensive state recovery efforts. Such a plan, and the inclusive process recommended to develop it, strengthens partnerships and resilience.

This guide is the first in a series of three to be released in the next year. The two forthcoming will include a guide for local governments and a guide for tribal govern-

ments. For any questions regarding this guide, please reach out to cpcb-rsf@fema.dhs.gov.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

More Radiological and Nuclear Planning Help

For those working with radiological and nuclear incident response planning, there are two new resources available. Developed by the National Security Staff Inter-agency Policy Coordination Subcommittee for Preparedness and Response to Radiological and Nuclear Threats, these two guides were created to support the 2010 “[Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation](#)” (PDF, 2.66 Mb).

The [Quick Reference Guide: Radiation Risk Information for Responders Following a Nuclear Detonation](#) (PDF, 913 Kb) provide responders detailed guidance about the risks associated with an improvised nuclear device incident. First responders will learn what to expect from these events, the types of injuries and illnesses to expect, related terminology, and “rules of thumb” and considerations for self-protection.

[Health and Safety Planning Guide For Planners, Safety Officers, and Supervisors for Protecting Responders Following a Nuclear Detonation](#) (PDF, 1.18 Mb) is a longer and more detailed guide to handling the first 72 hours after a detonation of a 10 kiloton improvised nuclear device. It states responders “need to be prepared to face a scene that is unlike any other they may have encountered,” and discusses considerations such as site control, decontamination, communication, recordkeeping, phased response, and training.

(Source: [EPA](#))

Cybersecurity for Healthcare Facilities & Hospitals

The rate of ransomware attacks is increasing and hospitals and the healthcare industry remain popular targets. Recent articles on ransomware show [70 percent of businesses say they are willing to pay the ransom](#) and in 2015, 40 percent of businesses attacked worldwide actually did.

Ransomware is one of the easiest attacks to prevent. Educating employees on ransomware tactics goes a long way to making sure it never becomes an issue. Back your data up regularly and store it off of your networked systems. This way, if you are attacked and your data frozen, you will be able to use the backup data and won’t lose much data if you choose not to pay.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is assisting hospital personnel whose job responsibilities include cybersecurity preparedness and response planning with the “[Healthcare Organization and Hospital Cybersecurity Discussion Guide](#)” (PDF, 191 Kb). This guide provides scenarios and discussion questions to aid healthcare organizations and hospitals in the development of cybersecurity preparedness and response planning.

The activity-based discussion guide assists with identification of issues to address when responding to a cyber breach or attack and promotes development strategies to address these issues. This is the first step toward creating a robust cybersecurity response plan, and all hospitals and healthcare entities are encouraged to develop such a plan as soon as possible.

(Source: [CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response](#))

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