



## Highlights:

[FBI Relaxes Security Constraints for Training](#)

[Assistance to Firefighters Grants Opens Soon](#)

[Interacting with the Transgender Community](#)

[Multidiscipline Training Benefits Communities](#)

## Disclaimer of Endorsement:

The EMR-ISAC does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.



The U.S. Fire Administration maintains the **Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)**.

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

Volume 16 – Issue 37

September 15, 2016

## FBI Relaxes Security Constraints for Training

For there to be a successful, cohesive response to a terrorist event or other violent incident, the different responding agencies are going to have to train together regularly. Fire, EMS, and 9-1-1 need to be involved in exercises in order to understand the battle rhythm law enforcement sets during a fast-paced, violent incident. Officer safety is of primary importance, no matter if the officer is wearing Kevlar or turnout gear or carrying a med kit.

In response to this need, the [FBI lowered the security restrictions of some of their training](#) and began community exercises focusing on successfully coordinating response between federal, state, and local agencies. The facilitator-led tabletop exercises can be customized to meet specific needs, come with exercise staff and observers, and give agencies the space to examine the effectiveness of the existing policies and procedures.

By allowing non-sworn officers into these trainings, the FBI shows an understanding of the changing landscape of response to violent events and support for the paradigm change happening at the local level. Those interested in the tabletop exercises should contact their local law enforcement offices or the [nearest FBI office](#).

(Source: [FireRescue1](#))

## Assistance to Firefighters Grants Opens Soon

The application period for the Fiscal Year 2016 [Assistance to Firefighters Grants](#) (AFG) program runs from October 11<sup>th</sup> through November 18<sup>th</sup>. The AFG program helps fire departments, nonaffiliated EMS departments, and state fire training academies get equipment, training, PPE, vehicles, and other gear they may not be able to get otherwise due to financial constraints.

The AFG website offers resources to help departments successfully complete the grant process, including application guidance materials; information on Economic Hardship Waivers; videos on getting a grant, procurement integrity, and AFG vehicle grants; a frequently asked questions section, and more.

Help is available for a fee through a number of groups such as the [National Volunteer Fire Council](#) as well as several businesses, which a quick internet search will find. This is a great way for departments to fill in gaps in their essential equipment and training needs, and an opportunity to [learn how to write a grant proposal](#). If

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

your department has not tried for an AFG grant, consider stepping up this year and trying for a piece of the pie.

(Source: [AFG](#))

## Interacting with the Transgender Community

A new roll call training video for law enforcement provides officers with information, tools, and techniques to help them interact with members of the transgender community, which is estimated at 700,000 people in the United States. This Justice Department's [Community Relations Service](#) (CRS) training is presented for officers by officers on handling non-emergency situations.

The 12-minute video introduces terminology central to the transgender community, cutting through misinformation and confusion. Demonstrating knowledge of these terms reassures transgender individuals and shows professionalism. "[Law Enforcement and the Transgender Community](#)" also stresses how important it is for officers to distinguish between a threat and a stereotype, and encourages the development and implementation of departmental policy.

The training emphasizes problems associated with transphobic stereotyping and the importance of respectful interaction with transgender individuals. Examples of respectful interaction include asking the individual about preferred pronouns and keep necessary questions and comments relative to the situation at hand. Lessons in this video can be helpful to all emergency responders, not just law enforcement.

The training underlines the fact that members of the public are more likely to be cooperative with law enforcement when treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect. Those of the transgender community are no different.

(Source: [CRS](#))

## Multidiscipline Training Benefits Communities

As there never seems to be enough funding to cover everything emergency response agencies need or want to address, some jurisdictions are looking at multidiscipline training, or cross-training, their responders and dispatchers in order to address those issues. Cross-training between departments may help reduce staffing costs, giving employers the ability to move personnel to cover staff shortages or ensure large emergencies are adequately managed.

Multidiscipline training may also benefit departments and jurisdictions by giving staff the ability to anticipate needs in the field. A dispatcher who has hands-on training in in a mass-casualty setting, for example, will have a better idea of the staffing and transport needs required and can assign resources more quickly instead of waiting until someone in the field requests them.

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) is offering a free webinar on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern discussing how the Cypress Creek, Texas, EMS worked multidiscipline training into their best practices for the Communications Center and Clinical departments. Staff can now work shifts in either department. [Those interested in the webinar must register.](#)

(Source: [IPSA](#))

### Fair Use Notice:

This InfoGram may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

The EMR-ISAC believes this constitutes "fair use" of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

---

DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local [FBI office](#) and also the [State or Major Urban Area Fusion Center](#).

---

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)**.