



## Highlights:

New, Safer PPE Options for Wildland Firefighters

Improving Medical Response to Blast Injuries

Officer-Involved Shootings Guide for Leaders

Tools and Resources for Emergency Services

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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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## New, Safer PPE Option for Wildland Firefighters

Wildland firefighters experience heat exhaustion and heat stroke more often than they do burn injuries on the job, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) requested the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T) try to [develop new PPE for wildland firefighters](#) to address this issue.

In response, S&T developed the Wildland Firefighter Advanced Personal Protective System (WLFF APPS), which improved on the fit and form. They reduce body temperatures using high heat loss materials, and this new prototype PPE was certified to the National Fire Protection Association 1977 standard, meeting the total heat loss, thermal stability, heat and thermal shrinkage parameters.

CALFIRE supplied 1,000 firefighters to test different prototype PPE garment systems and in trials, 90% of evaluators preferred one of the new designs over what they had been using. Specifics about the trials can be found in the [WLFF PPE Final Report](#) (PDF, 4 Mb). Trials also found a high-performance wicking base layer was crucial to keeping firefighters cooler.

This marks the first time the wildland firefighting community has dictated their PPE needs for manufacturers to meet. If your agency is looking to purchase new PPE soon, be on the lookout for the new designs.

(Source: [DHS S&T](#))

## Improving Medical Response to Blast Injuries

Explosions can happen in any community either as an accident or a man-made bomb. They cause a wide variety of damage to the human body, and it is important for medical first responders to be versed in the types of injuries and how to treat them as well as how to work such a chaotic scene.

The types and severity of injuries are often determined by the type of blast and the victim's proximity to the incident. Blast pressure waves can be reflected or dampened by structures and even cloud cover, meaning the locations of victims and severity of injury might not always seem logical. An explosion involving debris or shrapnel has its own set of parameters.

The [Journal of Emergency Medical Services](#) (JEMS) states in their recent article

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

that no single triage method “will work flawlessly in all situations.” The one thing you can do is accept there will be chaos in such a situation, and part of your job is gaining control of a portion of that chaos. Several high-profile bombings in the past few years have changed the standard response protocols; keeping up with those changes will help these scenes be less chaotic and save lives.

(Source: [JEMS](#))

## Officer-Involved Shootings Guide for Leaders

Headlines on officer-involved shootings are abundant recently, and regardless of the reason for the shooting or the outcome, there is a good chance your department and possibly the entire local government will be under a spotlight if and when it happens with one of your officers.

A new guide published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services aims to provide guidance for officers and departments prior to an officer-involved shooting.

“[Officer-Involved Shootings: A Guide for Law Enforcement Leaders](#)” (PDF, 6 Mb), along with the accompanying [trifold](#) (PDF, 2.5 Mb), helps leaders piece together a comprehensive plan to include elements such as writing clear policies and procedures; clearly defined use of force policy and training; conducting investigations; deciding on an investigative team; updated video evidence policies; managing public and media relations; and mental health support for involved officers and their families.

Knowing how charged action groups and communities are right now on this topic, law enforcement leaders should plan and prepare for such an event before it happens.

(Source: [IACP](#))

## Tools and Resources for Emergency Services

The Emergency Services Sector (ESS) forms the Nation’s first line of defense against natural and man-made disasters by way of response, recovery, and preparedness. It is a sector of trained and tested personnel, plans, redundant systems, and agreements providing life safety and security services.

The ESS is representative of many first-responder disciplines, including emergency management, EMS, fire, hazardous material, law enforcement, bomb squads, tactical operations teams, 9-1-1, and search and rescue.

It is unique in two things: first, that its primary asset is specially-trained people, and second that it is the primary protector for all the other sectors. Fifteen sectors depend on the ESS to assist with planning, prevention, and mitigation activities, as well as respond to day-to-day incidents and catastrophic situations.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Eastern, the International Public Safety Association (IPSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will conduct a presentation on the ESS’s collaborations, resources, and no cost training available to first responders. [Those interested in attending should register.](#)

(Source: [IPSA](#))

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