

The InfoGram



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Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders

The White House released "[Fentanyl Safety Recommendations for First Responders](#)" last week to address the dangers emergency responders face due to the increased prevalence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids in the illicit drug market.

Law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel need to understand how to protect themselves from exposure in the field, and must balance safety with mobility and efficiency when responding to scenes where the presence of fentanyl is suspected.

This short 1-page guide provides unified, scientific, evidence-based actions you can take to protect yourself when you suspect the presence of fentanyl during the course of your daily activities, such as responding to overdose calls and conducting traffic stops, arrests or searches. Recommendations fall into three categories:

- Actions you can take to protect against exposure.
- What you can do if you are exposed to fentanyl.
- How to help your partner or coworker if they exhibit signs of exposure.

This product is a result of a Federal Interagency Working Group coordinated by the White House National Security Council and supported by stakeholder associations and organizations representing the medical, public health, law enforcement, fire/EMS, and occupational safety and health disciplines.

(Source: [White House](#))

New PPE may help protect firefighters against carcinogens

The [Smoke and Particulate Resistant Turnout Ensemble](#) (SRT), a new suite of personal protective equipment (PPE), may provide firefighters additional protection against chronic exposure to carcinogenic vapors and particulate matter at incident sites.

Numerous [recent medical studies](#) are now documenting what many firefighters already know: cancer rates in the industry are higher than those of the general population and they are rising. In fact, an NBC Nightly News series reported [cancer has become the number one killer of firefighters in the United States](#), and the Boston Fire Commissioner is quoted as saying "this is something that's going to consume us."

The resounding answer to this growing problem is fairly simple: you must consistently wear proper PPE and wash it regularly, and you must wear SCBA masks on the fireground during both fire suppression and overhaul. These steps are proven to significantly reduce the amount of toxins and carcinogens your body absorbs through the lungs and skin.

The SRT uses particulate impermeable fabrics at places other PPE often have gaps, such as at the wrists, calves and ankles. You also have the option of either an internal structure in the coat preventing particulates from entering the abdomen area, or a removable bib attached to the pants that provides similar protection. [All these features can be retrofitted into existing turnout gear.](#)

Highlights

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Updated emergency management requirements for medical facilities

Kidde announces recal of 38 million fire extinguishers



U.S. Fire Administration

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

The SRT was developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) in partnership with the North Carolina State University Textile Protection and Comfort Center. The ensembles were tested by first responders and are now available for agencies to purchase. Contact first_responder@hq.dhs.gov for details.

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

Updated emergency management requirements for medical facilities

[The Joint Commission announced updates to its emergency management requirements for health care organizations](#), effective November 15, 2017. These changes affect accredited deemed status health care organizations, rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers.

The updates include many new or revised elements of performance (EPs) that cover such things as continuity of operations, succession plans, documentation of collaboration with emergency management officials, and annual training for all staff, contractors and volunteers.

The changes address the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services final rule on emergency preparedness](#), which also goes into effect this month.

(Source: [Joint Commission](#))

Kidde announces recall of 38 million fire extinguishers

Last week, [Kidde announced a recall of almost 38 million fire extinguishers](#) sold in the United States. There are almost 400 reports of problems related to these fire extinguishers and one related death. Kidde recommends owners immediately replace these fire extinguishers, and Kidde will replace recalled extinguishers for free.

[The Consumer Product Safety Commission website lists models and serial numbers of affected units.](#)

The recall affects fire extinguishers manufactured as recently as 2017 and as long ago as 1973, a 44-year span. Extinguishers may become clogged and require a lot of force to use or they may fail to discharge. Also, the nozzle can come off with enough force to strike and injure someone.

Fire and public safety departments should share this information with their community through all means available and check their equipment for any recalled Kidde fire extinguishers.

In addition to these steps, Consumer Reports recommends replacing rechargeable fire extinguishers of any age if you are not sure it is in good working order, and nonrechargeable fire extinguishers 12 years older than the date of manufacture.

(Source: [Kidde](#))

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 or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov.

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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**.