



The InfoGram

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Results of EMS mental health services survey

The National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) recently released “[2016 National Survey on EMS Mental Health Services](#)” (PDF, 15.4 MB). The information can assist leaders to determine how to best address mental health issues in their departments.

Unfortunately, the survey indicated a lot of work is still needed to address stresses and strains so prevalent in EMS jobs. NAEMT candidly reports the survey results, including quotes from respondents along the way, discussing both what is being done well and what can be improved upon.

Most first responders can easily share stories of calls that haunt them. Even fairly routine calls have their share of risks and stressors as they force EMTs and paramedics to constantly be on guard against diseases, hazardous substance exposure or violent patients. Information gathered by NAEMT shows many mental health concerns are not addressed or, worse, not taken seriously.

Budget restrictions are only one barrier for beginning mental health care programs. The “just deal with it” attitude is common, but that philosophy is outdated and potentially dangerous to the health and wellbeing of first responders. Statistical evidence shows 37 percent of fire and EMS professionals have considered suicide, nearly 10 times greater than the general population. The time has come for this issue to get the attention it deserves, and it should be part of a comprehensive health and welfare plan.

(Source: [NAEMT](#))

Crisis leadership training for local officials

It’s important for community leaders and elected officials to be able to respond effectively to a disaster or emergency. Often newly elected or appointed leaders lack the emergency management experience necessary to be decisive when major disasters strike their communities.

There are a number of opportunities for training in emergency management for leaders. The [Emergency Management Institute](#) (EMI) in Emmitsburg, MD, offers many training options residually, regionally or through its Independent Study program. These include [Crisis Leadership and Decision Making](#), [Leadership & Influence](#), and [Senior Officials Workshop for All-Hazards Preparedness](#).

A quick online search will find the published guides many states have produced to assist elected officials with emergency management. Two examples are [Pennsylvania](#) (PDF, 1.24 MB) and [Nebraska](#) (PDF, 3 MB).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers the “[Elected Officials: What You Need to Know About NIMS](#)” (PDF, 26 KB) fact sheet. The recently revised [National Incident Management System](#) is a way for multiple governmental agencies and nongovernmental organizations to work together to manage disasters and threats. NIMS implementation is required for access to some federal grants. [There is training available for NIMS as well.](#)

Emergency Management magazine has penned several pieces on this topic over the past few years, one which talks about [a “crash course” training program held](#)

Highlights

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan 2017 Update

TRANSCAER chlorine training DVD now available



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.

in Illinois, and another focusing on [how elected leaders can prepare and respond effectively](#). Both give real-life examples and discuss how best to work with the local emergency management team.

(Source: [EMI](#))

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan 2017 Update

The United States Department of Agriculture recently released “[Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\) Response Plan: The Red Book](#),” newly updated to reflect lessons learned in the avian influenza outbreaks between 2014 and 2017.

The guide will help animal health emergency responders, all levels of government and industry partners detect, control and contain HPAI in domestic poultry as quickly as possible. Updates are related to:

- Policy changes since last update in 2015.
- The new National Response Framework.
- Replacement of surveillance sections, revised by the Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health.
- Incorporation of new permitted movement guidance.
- Inclusion of additional guidance on restocking activities.

The goal is to eradicate HPAI in a way that would regain a disease-free status in the nation without causing more disruption and damage than the disease outbreak itself. Done right, this protects public health and the environment, stabilizes animal agriculture, the food supply, and the economy.

(Source: [Department of Agriculture](#))

TRANSCAER Chlorine Training DVD now available

TRANSCAER just completed the newly updated version of the [Training Guide for Chlorine Emergency Response](#). The program is part of the TRANSCAER® National Training Tour.

This training is a “one-stop shop” for chlorine safety and emergency information. The classroom portion is available for free in DVD form (for smaller, individual orders) or through TRANSCAER (for larger, bulk orders of 100 or more DVDs), as well as online download/streaming through the Chlorine Institute Bookstore and the TRANSCAER website.

In addition to the PowerPoint presentations and talking points, the DVD Extra’s folder also includes: the 2016 U.S. DOT ERG, Chlorine Institute Emergency Response Resources and CHLOEP Brochures; and TRANSCAER® and CHEMTREC® information.

For more information on chlorine emergency response resources and training, visit [The Chlorine Institute](#) or email info@cl2.com.

(Source: [TRANSCAER](#))

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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