

The InfoGram



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FBI releases active shooter 2016 and 2017 report

The FBI released a report last week on active shooter incidents in the United States during 2016-2017. This report supplements two previous publications. The FBI defines an active shooter as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. For comparison, 2016-2017 saw:

- 50 incidents in 21 states. There were 40 incidents in 26 states in 2014-2015.
- 221 people killed and 722 wounded. There were 92 killed and 139 wounded in 2014-2015.
- 13 law enforcement officers were killed and 20 wounded. There were 4 killed and 10 wounded in 2014-2015. 2016 saw the highest number of law enforcement casualties since 2000.
- 20 incidents met the “mass killing” definition, unchanged from 2014-2015. The federal definition of “mass killings” is “three or more killings in a single incident.”

The enhanced threat posed by active shooters and the swiftness in which these types of incidents unfold supports the importance of preparedness by first responders and citizens alike. [Please see the full report for more statistics and details on citizen engagement, casualties, locations, and shooters](#) (PDF, 1 MB).

(Source: [FBI](#))

Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments

An important tool for fire departments in areas prone to Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) is the risk assessment. This is often a lengthy process of walking around property making notes before moving on to the next, and then the next, and so on.

Some departments are now using Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments, quick curb-side evaluations of homes and surrounding areas. This approach benefits fire departments because they are cost-effective and take only minutes to complete.

The West Region Wildfire Council briefly discusses the benefits of [Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments](#), then goes into a detailed description of the eleven criteria evaluated. Each category is rated numerically; the tallied score is the property’s overall risk rating. A brief run-down of the categories:

- Background Risk Factors: fuels, topography, slope.
- Home Hardening: roof assembly; exterior; decks and fencing.
- Defensible Space: area around home modified to reduce fire hazard.
- Emergency Access: ingress/egress; visibility; driveway clearance.

In one community within the Western Regional Wildfire Council’s jurisdiction, [homeowners can access their risk assessment information](#). Authorities intended this project to both assist homeowners manage their risk and provide the local fire district with a better idea of the community’s needs should a wildfire strike.

United States Forest Service research from a similar project shows [strong discrepancies](#)

Highlights

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Social capital key to better disaster resilience

Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessments

Partnering See Something, Say Something with academic institutions



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 risk estimates](#) (PDF, 2.8 MB) between homeowner opinion and Rapid Wildfire Risk Assessment scores. This suggests community education programs and better risk communication could help homeowners realize their true risk.

(Source: [West Region Wildfire Council](#))

Social capital key to better disaster resilience

Communities having a strong social bond are able to withstand disasters better and recover faster. This is the basis of social capital.

A recent PrepTalk speaks to this topic. Post-disaster studies in the United States and overseas repeatedly show [strong social ties directly correspond to lower death rates, better mental health, and more stable and active communities post-disaster](#).

Often, communities develop these bonds on their own and can then be strengthened. Creating social capital where it doesn't exist is difficult but not impossible. The PrepTalk offers ways to build social capital including some innovative community-building programs at the town or neighborhood level. Homeland Security Affairs offers general [suggestions of some things community leaders can do to help cultivate social capital](#):

- Involve community organizations in planning activities.
- Include existing behaviors as the foundation of emergency response.
- Use existing structure in the community instead of trying to create new ones.
- Expand on existing communications methods instead of restricting them

Overall, working with a community's existing structure to cultivate a stronger bond improves social capital and, therefore, improves disaster resilience.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

Partnering See Something, Say Something with academic institutions

In an effort to strengthen campus and community security, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Academic Engagement invites institutions of higher education (IHEs) to join the "[If You See Something, Say Something](#)" campaign.

State and local law enforcement offices can use this invitation as an outreach opportunity with local colleges and universities. [These institutions are targets](#) and have experienced numerous shootings and terrorist incidents. Giving students and staff a way to spot suspicious activity may keep the next one from happening.

Colleges and universities interested in launching an "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign can email AcademicEngagement@hq.dhs.gov. You will receive outreach material for both print and digital communications such as posters, website banners, social media graphics and a trifold brochure.

Over 300 IHEs have partnered with the campaign as a way to empower students to identify indicators of suspicious activity. DHS has also produced three [student-focused "Take the Challenge" videos](#) where viewers can test their powers of observation.

(Source: [DHS](#))

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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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**.