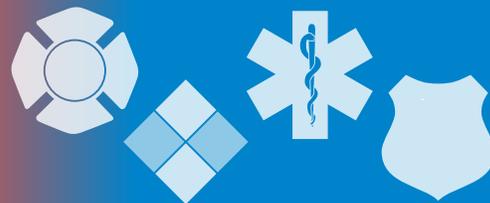


# The InfoGram



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## Possible chemical suicides endanger first responders

Last week, [three law enforcement officers in Georgia](#) were hospitalized after being exposed to toxic fumes at the scene of a possible chemical suicide.

Chemical suicides involve people mixing easily-attainable chemicals to produce a toxic gas, which can kill rather quickly. Often this is done in an enclosed space such as a car; occasionally people use “exit bags”: plastic bags placed over the head, connected to a gas supply. Instructions are unfortunately readily available on the internet.

In many but not all chemical suicide incidents, the victim leaves a written warning for whomever will find them. Typically, the first instinct when faced with an unconscious person in a car is to open a door or break a window; in a home or hotel, rushing in after gaining access is also the norm. Though well intended, these actions also endanger first responders or anyone else attempting to render aid.

It is important to gain situational awareness and take time to perform a quick evaluation of the scene for responder safety – even if time is critical:

- Look for signs taped to doors or windows warning of any danger.
- Look in the windows for chemical containers or chemical fog.
- Take notice of any faint chemical odors.
- Look for tape sealing the edges of doors, windows or vents.

For more information, see the [Chemical Suicide Case Study](#) and [training for first responders](#) offered by HazMatNation.com. The International Association of Fire Chiefs also offers [resources and a webinar on chemical suicide response](#).

(Source: [IAFC](#))

## Emergency management planning for schools

The United States Department of Education released [12 self-paced training packages for school emergency managers](#). The materials are ideal for in-house training for all staff.

This training package supports high-quality emergency management processes across a range of special topics, including:

- Large Event Planning.
- Responding to Bereavement and Loss.
- Infectious Disease Planning.
- Family Reunification Planning.
- Developing a Food Contamination Annex.
- Integrating the Needs of Students and Staff with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs.

## Highlights

Possible chemical suicides endanger first responders

Emergency management planning for schools

Coordination between emergency management and water utilities

EMS Week: Stronger Together



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.

## 🔗 Overview of the Six Step Planning Process.

Each package is comprised of training instructions, a PowerPoint presentation and supplemental resources. Tabletop exercises are also included with some packages. Materials are also provided for those who might want to print and assemble the materials into a binder.

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

## Coordination between emergency management and water utilities

During an emergency, protection and restoration of the water supply and wastewater management is vital to health and safety. Through joint exercises, coordinated planning, and other activities, water utilities and emergency management agencies can more effectively respond to emergencies and improve their communication with the public.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published "[Connecting Water Utilities and Emergency Management Agencies](#)" (PDF, 4 MB), summarizing best practices on how water utilities and emergency management agencies can increase coordination. This document also includes examples of cross-sector coordination.

Several years ago, EPA worked with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrator to develop "[Bridging the Gap: Coordination between State Primacy Agencies and State Emergency Management Agencies](#)" (PDF, 549 KB). Focusing on collaborative opportunities between public water and emergency management when an incident requires state involvement, the document includes information on the types of support each agency can provide before and during an emergency as well as a checklist for areas of coordination.

(Source: [EPA](#))

## EMS Week: Stronger Together

Across the country this week EMS departments are hosting open houses, CPR training events, and being recognized for the hard work they do.

The changing face of EMS – both the nature of the calls and the way the job is done – required an extreme evolution in the industry over the decades. That evolution continues through training and technology as new issues arise that must be addressed.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) offers training in EMS leadership, management, incident operations, community risk reduction and multi-alarm incidents. Courses are available online, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and around the country. USFA training is free; see the full [training schedule](#) for more information and prerequisites.

More information on EMS programs, outreach, and digital media for social media outreach is available on both the [EMS Strong website](#) and the [U.S. Fire Administration website](#).

(Source: [National EMS Week](#))

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).

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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](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov)**.