The InfoGram
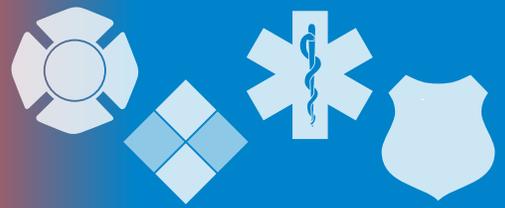
Two firefighters shot, one killed during fire at nursing home

One firefighter was killed and another wounded this week responding to a fire and explosion at a nursing home. One resident apparently set off an explosive to kill another resident, with whom he was feuding, then shot at first responders.

This is not the first ambush shooting to target firefighters. While these instances are rare, the possibility of targeted violence adds one more layer to an already dangerous profession. Reminders of situational awareness only do so much as many of the past shootings had no warning or indicators until the first shots rang out.

After a similar shooting incident in Los Angeles in April, FireRescue1 discussed safety in the changing response environment and how "nothing can be assumed an accident, coincidence or routine call" today. New hazards and risks require new techniques, procedures and plans, and a trained workforce to handle it.

Fire and EMS training in active shooter situations - whether it is the public being targeted or first responders - is lacking. Departments should conduct exercises with state and local law enforcement in a variety of violence-related scenarios. Another option is EDGE training, available free through the Department of Homeland Security.

Law enforcement agencies should also take the initiative to train their personnel in fire and EMS operations, working active shooter incidents on the fireground and cultivate a team approach regardless of uniform.

Remember: no call is routine, and unfortunately we have to assume a constant threat of deliberate harm.

(Source: FireRescue1)

Office of Bombing Prevention schedule of virtual training

This spring saw three high-profile bombing cases in California and Texas, including a serial bomber in Austin. We've also seen consistent use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by terrorists overseas. There is increased need in effective IED training for first responders.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Bombing Prevention (OBP) offers free Virtual Instructor Led Training (VILT) on a variety of IED topics:

- Introduction to the Terrorist Attack Cycle.
- Homemade Explosives Awareness and Precursor Awareness.
- IED Construction and Classification.
- IED Explosive Effects Mitigation.
- Protective Measures Awareness.
- Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items.

OBP updates the VILT training schedule regularly. Simply hit the "Apply" button associated with the offering you are interested in taking to register.

Registration must be completed two business days prior to the class start date.

Highlights

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JTIC expands public safety UAS resources

NG9-1-1 Interstate Playbook Chapter 2 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.

The website also lists technology requirements for access. All users must have a Student ID Number (SID) through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In addition to their virtual training, OBP offers computer-based training and on-site training around the country. These are on-demand courses focusing on IEDs and bomb-making awareness. Those interested in scheduling training or finding out what is being offered regionally should contact their local Protective Security Advisor or email the OBP (OBP@hq.dhs.gov) for more information.

(Source: OBP)

JTIC expands public safety UAS resources

The Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC) added a range of information on first responder use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to justnet.org, the website of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System.

The site lists uses of UAS in public safety, best practices and presents several success stories from different parts of the country. There is also a step-by-step information on starting a UAS unit which discusses identifying need, defining mission, community engagement, implementation, and creating policy and SOPs.

If your department is considering creating a UAS unit, visit the site to review more information on costs, types of units, training and certification, and legalities involved. If you have further question, there is Ask an Expert contact information listed under the Frequently Asked Questions section.

(Source: JTIC)

NG9-1-1 Interstate Playbook Chapter 2 now available

The second chapter of the Next Generation 911 (NG9-1-1) Interstate Playbook (PDF, 2.7 MB) shares firsthand experiences and best practices from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota as they transition to NG9-1-1 and interconnect 911 systems. This chapter addresses helpful information for states and regions:

- ❯ What NG9-1-1 is and is not.

- ❯ NG9-1-1 standards to consult when planning a transition.

- ❯ Call transfer requirements between states using different providers.

- ❯ GIS integration in the NG9-1-1 ecosystem.

- ❯ Interim SMS text-to-911 test scenarios and lessons learned.

As more states progress through the implementation of NG9-1-1, the Playbook offers a recounting of lessons learned and a collection of templates and samples of useful documents.

The first chapter discusses issues to consider for successful interconnectivity and serves as a model for best practices. To download chapters one and two of the NG9-1-1 Interstate Playbook initiative, visit 911.gov

(Source: 911.gov)