Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC)

The InfoGram

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Newly released 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook now available

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) released the newly updated 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) last week.

The ERG is updated every four years and gives first responders detailed information on hazardous materials to better manage accident or spill response during the critical early stages of an incident.

The Department of Transportation wants to have a copy in every public emergency service vehicle in the country. PHMSA will be distributing over 1.5 million free copies directly to fire, EMS and law enforcement agencies and departments. First responders may request copies from your state's ERG distribution coordinator. You also have access to the full online version and the ERG app is available for download.

Jointly developed with the governments of Canada and Mexico, the ERG is available in English, French and Spanish. PHMSA is always looking for feedback and comments from first responders. Submit your name, organization, contact information and comments to ERGComments@dot.gov.

(Source: PHMSA)

NTAC publishes report Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2019

The United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) released Mass Attacks in Public Spaces - 2019 the end of July. Based on open source information and established criteria, the NTAC reports 34 targeted attacks in public or semi-public areas in 2019.

Information from the 2019 report builds on data collected in the previous two reports. From 2017-2019, NTAC reports 89 such attacks across the United States.

Recent findings from a study on mass attacks in public places strongly suggest the best chance of stopping such attacks is through suspicious activity reporting and follow-up investigation by law enforcement. Of the 37 attackers:

- Most attackers made threats or had otherwise concerning communications eliciting concern from others.
- The majority had significant stressors within five years and more than half had financial instability.
- About half had histories of criminal charges, substance abuse and/or violence toward others (including domestic violence).
- Just under half of the attackers had threatened someone in the past, had an unstable home life at the time and exhibited behavior changes.

This information suggest that these kinds of mass attacks could be prevented if people felt more comfortable reporting suspicious activity to authorities.

Things like fear of retaliation or of being wrong keep people from reporting potentially concerning behavior. Building strong relationships between the community and first responders can break through these social barriers and

Highlights

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TRACIE adds resources to COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit

TRANSCAER Seconds Count video series tackles rail hazmat incidents

Cyber Threats

U.S. Fire Administration

The U.S. Fire Administration operates 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.

Subscribe here

give citizens the option of talking to someone they feel they know. Providing an anonymous reporting mechanism is another possibility.

The See Something, Say Something campaign and other Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) mechanisms are available for reference and training. For more information, see this guide from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on improving community awareness and reporting.

(Source: NTAC)

TRACIE adds resources to COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit

The Technical Resources, Assistance Center, Information Exchange (TRACIE) updated COVID-19 Workforce Virtual Toolkit: Resources for Healthcare Decision-Makers Responding to COVID-19 Workforce Concerns, a curated set of resources and tools for those managing healthcare workforce challenges in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Parts of this collection include resources from state, local and tribal governments, hospitals, EMS departments and other related entities. If you are a decision-maker and have COVID-19 promising practices, plans, tools or templates to share with your peers, please visit the TRACIE Information Exchange COVID-19 Information Sharing Page (registration required) and place your resources under the relevant topic area.

(Source: TRACIE)

TRANSCAER Seconds Count video series tackles rail hazmat incidents

The TRANSCAER Seconds Count – Are You Prepared? video training series helps first responders manage train-related hazardous materials incidents without needing an advanced chemistry degree.

This is a series of 30 short (1-5 minutes each), fast-paced videos created with the idea that responders may only have seconds to react safely to a train-related hazmat incident. TRANSCAER offers details to help you understand the dangers and safety considerations of variety of commonly transported chemicals. A few of the topics:

- Hazmat Incident: What Are the First Things I Do?
- LNG Properties and Safety Considerations for First Responders.
- What is IDLH?
- In 10 Seconds How Can You Tell if a Tank Car is Fully Loaded?
- The Basics of Steel Drums and Fusible Plugs.

There are also several "walkaround" videos of a variety of tank cars such as anhydrous ammonia, ethanol and chlorine. These videos go over the physical characteristics of the tank cars, the alphanumerical markings on the car and what they mean, pressure relief devices, valves and other considerations such as next generation technology seen more often as newer cars replace older cars.

TRANSCAER offers in-person training but many are currently on hold due to the pandemic. Be sure to check out the scheduled webinars and on-location offerings and refer to their schedule for future opportunities.

(Source: TRANSCAER)

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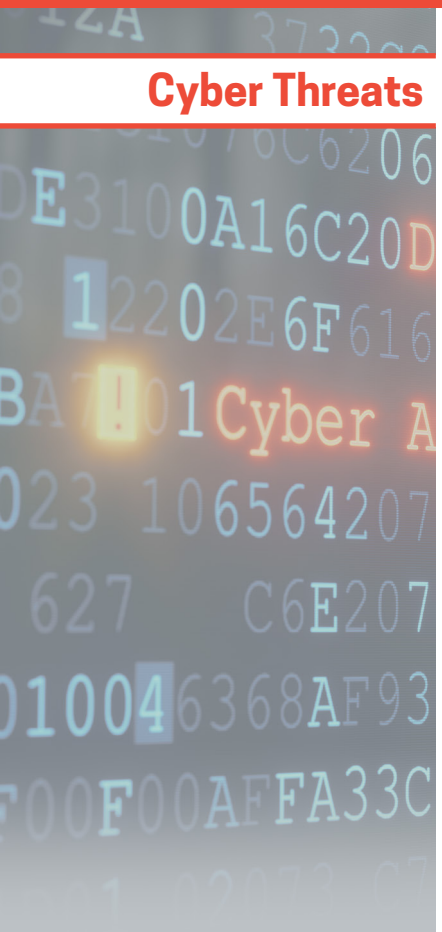
Cyber Threats



Cyber Resiliency Resources for Public Safety fact sheet

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is pleased to announce the publication of the Cyber Resiliency Resources for Public Safety fact sheet highlighting cyber resiliency resources provided by the federal government, industry and trade associations.

Despite every effort, cyber incidents will occur. Advanced planning is a key component of an agency's cybersecurity program – by developing and maintaining cybersecurity risk management and evolving security requirements, public safety agencies are better prepared to prevent and mitigate the effects of a cyber incident.

The fact sheet is intended to assist agencies in determining strategies to increase the resiliency of public safety networks and help prevent the loss of critical communications.

For more information and to access the fact sheet, visit the SAFECOM blog. For questions regarding the fact sheet, please email PublicSafetyComms@cisa.dhs.gov.

(Source: CISA)

The Cybersecurity Risks Of Improper Employee Offboarding

The COVID-19 pandemic is triggering layoffs in nearly every business sector. More than 1 million Americans continue to apply for jobless benefits every week. Call it realism or pessimism, but many businesses won't survive, and not just because of the mass shutdowns.

As companies lay off thousands of people, they put themselves at risk of losing critical data because former employees can walk out the door with sensitive customer information and private records.

Tough times require tough measures. Yet many companies make matters even worse by handling layoffs poorly. Take a look at what companies risk with improper offboarding and how your organization can make proper employee offboarding a priority.

(Source: Forbes)

Hacked government, college sites push malware via fake hacking tools

A large scale hacking campaign is targeting governments and university websites to host articles on hacking social network accounts that lead to malware and scams.

Clicking on the embedded link brought you to a website pretending to be an Instagram hacking tool that can hack into user's accounts.

If you try to use this tool, it goes through a series of fake steps and ultimately tells you to download a file to finish the hack. Clicking the download link redirects you to sites pushing malware, scams and adware bundles.

(Source: Bleeping Computer)

Cyber Information and Incident Assistance Links

MS-ISAC
SOC@cisecurity.org
1-866-787-4722

IdentityTheft.gov

IC3

Cybercrime Support Network

General Information Links

FTC scam list

CISA alerts

Law Enforcement Cyber Center

TLP Information

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