



Highlights:

Ensuring Safe Roadside
Crash Scene Response

NIST Video Shows Dangers
of Wind-Driven Fires

A Look at 9-1-1 Response in
San Bernardino

Proposed Fatigue Guidelines
for EMS Workers

Disclaimer of Endorsement:

The EMR-ISAC does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and does not endorse the views they express or the products/services they offer.



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.

The InfoGram

Volume 16 – Issue 10

March 10, 2016

Ensuring Safe Roadside Crash Scene Response

Responding to traffic crashes is an incredibly dangerous task, as shown by yet another [incident claiming the life of a state trooper](#) in New Jersey when he was struck and killed while responding to a car fire. This sad event is just the latest reminder of the risks fire, EMS, and law enforcement face at these scenes.

[“Struck-by” incidents](#) are unfortunately common. Departments and agencies who want better roadside incident safety should take a look at ResponderSafety.com. The website lists and reports roadside safety incidents involving first responders, stores several public service announcement videos that could be featured on departmental websites or as part of an outreach message, and a list of [links](#) and [resources](#) centering on different aspects of traffic incident management.

The focus of the site is the training hosted on the [Responder Safety Learning Network](#). The 21 modules here cover a variety of traffic scene management issues, including:

- Blocking Procedures at Roadway Incidents;
- High Visibility Innovations;
- Intro to Fire Service Traffic Control;
- Scene Control;
- Special Hazards (HAZMAT, medical helicopters, extrication).

The modules are available through a free membership and many offer continuing education credit hours.

(Source: [Responder Safety Learning Network](#))

NIST Video Shows Dangers of Wind-Driven Fires

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released a [video studying the dynamics of a fire that injured seven Prince George’s County, Maryland, firefighters in 2012](#). At the request of the fire department, NIST studied the effects the day’s Red Flag Warning high winds on the residential fire to determine its effects.

Two firefighters opened the front door, allowing the interior stairwell to act as a chimney and bring superheated air from the basement fire up to the first floor. The wind and heat slammed the front door shut, trapping the firefighters. One got out by breaking a window, but the other could not get through the window and was exposed to enough extreme heat before being rescued to leave him in the burn unit for 45 days.

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

NIST found opening the door caused very fast heat increase and when the firefighter broke out windows, it caused even more heated air to flow into the first floor. NIST recommends paying close attention to heat flow path during size-up and when deciding tactics, and to re-evaluate regularly as things progress, as they can change.

(Source: [Modern Fire Behavior](#))

A Look at 9-1-1 Response in San Bernardino

9-1-1 Magazine took a look at the [dispatching response during the December terrorist shooting incident in San Bernardino, California](#). The magazine interviewed the police dispatch supervisor who was on duty at the time, one of only 4 people initially on the shift. She talks about the event, how they ramped up to meet the challenge, and a few challenges they faced.

Though short staffed for a while, the team fell into a routine quickly to handle the influx of 9-1-1 calls as well as the movements of the local police department, eventually including the FBI and mutual aid agencies as they became involved. The supervisory dispatcher worked to create a visual board with a details about the incident and response and kept them updated so everyone was working from the same set of data.

Although some of the dispatchers were part of a tactical dispatch team, that team was never truly enacted, and San Bernardino dispatchers had not received active shooter training before the incident. Though their response got the job done, they feel better training and a set plan would have been helpful in the heat of the moment.

Statter911.com has a link to some of the [radio traffic](#) from the incident which could be used as a training tool. The [Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials](#) (APCO) has resources available for 9-1-1 agencies interested in better active shooter response, including online and live training. The [International Academies of Emergency Dispatch](#) has downloadable information cards that can be printed and kept at each workstation. These go over what dispatchers should ask people calling in and what they should advise people in active shooter situations to do.

(Source: [APCO](#))

Proposed Fatigue Guidelines for EMS Workers

Through shift work, long hours, disrupted sleep, and tough calls, [EMS personnel handle their fair share of fatigue](#) on the job. Statistics show fatigued drivers have more accidents, tired shift workers are more likely to be killed or injured on the way home, and drowsy EMS workers are more likely to be injured or commit clinical errors.

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are working together to develop a set of [fatigue risk management guidelines and resources for EMS workers](#). These guidelines will be voluntary. Anyone interested in providing comments or questions to be considered in the guidelines can [contact the Expert Panel](#).

For more information on mitigating the effects of fatigue in EMS, see this [three-part article series on work-related fatigue in EMS](#) from the National Association of EMS Physicians.

(Source: [NASEMSO](#))

Fair Use Notice:

This InfoGram may contain copyrighted material that was not specifically authorized by the copyright owner.

The EMR-ISAC believes this constitutes "fair use" of copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law.

If you wish to use copyrighted material contained within this document for your own purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

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**.