EMR-ISAC
Emergency Management & Response-Information Sharing & Analysis Center

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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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OPSEC Program Assists Local Agencies

Operations Security (OPSEC) is the process of:

- Identifying information critical to an organization or agency operations;
- Determining if the information is accessible by and useful to the enemy;
- Executing measures to eliminate access and exploitation of that information.

Not just for military anymore, OPSEC is a process used by many government agencies as well as businesses now in the age of corporate espionage. Fire, EMS, emergency management, and law enforcement agencies should also be aware of and actively limit the information they make publicly available, and look at ways to keep plans and operations procedures secure.

The National OPSEC Program was created under the Reagan administration to promote the use of Operational Security among government agencies and contractors who support government contracts. This includes state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.

The program offers a number of resources to help entities begin OPSEC programs. Online training, a newsletter, posters and other awareness products are available free. A library of resources offers a variety of military and governmental publications on OPSEC and other training. The Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS) also offers a few services for a fee, such as on-site training, OPSEC briefings, consultation, and assistance in program development.

Those interested in accessing the numerous resources the program offers can register for an IOSS account.

(Source: IOSS)

Intelligence Guide for First Responders In Print

The "2015 Intelligence Guide for First Responders" (PDF, 25 Mb) released last fall by The Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) is now available in print. Within the next few weeks, copies of the guide will be mailed to all fusion centers and FBI field offices. Please contact your local fusion center, JTTF, or field office for copies.

The guide assists public safety personnel in accessing and understanding Federal intelligence reporting and learning how local agencies can assist with counterterrorism and criminal suspicious activity reporting (SAR).

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

One key thing local first responders can do is learn about SAR. Because of the nature of their work and the sheer volume of calls they receive every year, the 2 million law enforcement officers and firefighters in the United States are in a unique position to report suspicious behavior that may indicate such things within the terrorism planning cycle.

The JCAT is part of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and is made up of members of state, local, tribal and territorial first responders and federal partners who work together to bring relevant counterterrorism intelligence to local agencies. These products are For Official Use Only (FOUO) and can be accessed through three online portals: the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the Domestic Security Alliance Council. Visit each site for their membership criteria and to apply for access.

(Source: JCAT)

Arson Awareness Week 2016: Wildfire Arson

Wildfire season is heating up early on the East Coast this year. A North Carolina fire has burned about 14,000 acres already, and 30 miles of an interstate is closed, while a brush fire fueled by high winds in New Jersey shut down some rail services. Another wildfire in Virginia is burning in the Shenandoah National Park closing parts of the Skyline Drive and Appalachian Trail. The Virginia fire is believed to be caused by humans.

The National Fire Protection Association states that one in 5 reported wildland fires between 2007-2011 were intentionally set. Investigators see increasing numbers of wildfire arson, which can be caused either intentionally or by reckless fire setting. Many cases have resulted in people being charged with felony arson and in some cases, murder, among other charges.

This year, Arson Awareness Week is May 1-7, 2016, and focuses on wildfire arson. The U.S. Fire Administration offers educational resources on their page "Prevent Wildfire Arson – Spread the Facts Not the Fire" to include a list of several court cases, how they were investigated, and their outcome; training and prevention resources available to fire departments and communities; and successful arson reward programs around the country.

(Source: USFA)

EMS Webcast – Got Questions?

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) is hosting the free webcast "Special EMS Webcast – Got Questions? We Got Answers!" which will turn the topic matter over to the callers.

The hour-long webcast will answer questions on issues and concerns seen in the field. Participants are being asked to submit questions when they register. Answers and discussion will be applicable to everyone in public safety.

The webcast is scheduled for Monday, May 9th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern. Those interested must register. The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend and will be available for viewing just in time for National EMS week.

(Source: IPSA)