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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.

The InfoGram

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Preparing for Unseasonal Disasters

The [Midwest flooding reached near-record levels](#) in some areas this week and is responsible for at least 28 deaths. More than 18 million people are under flood warnings in 13 states, and critical infrastructure is heavily affected, with water/wastewater, dams, and transportation being most heavily affected. Fire, EMS, and other departments will find their ability to respond to fires or medical emergencies complicated at best and completely blocked at worst.

It's undeniable that Mother Nature threw the Midwest a curveball when this year's spring flooding arrived three months early. Floods of this magnitude are unheard of in December and January, and colder temperatures complicate response and recovery efforts. More rain is expected this week. Other parts of the country saw December tornados, also unseasonable.

Emergency response agencies who may have thought they had time to prepare and plan for the anticipated spring weather emergencies had a rude awakening. These weather events serve as a reminder to all of us that putting off or "scheduling" preparedness to coincide with expected events such as spring flooding is never a good idea, either in our professional lives or homes.

As it is an El Nino year, some are predicting 2016 will bring more extreme weather such as flooding, heat, wildfires, and tornados. Emergency responders must take these variables into account and expect the unexpected in terms of weather. As these current weather events demonstrate, we can't rely on past patterns.

(Source: [FEMA](#))

2015 Human Trafficking Arrests by ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reports they arrested nearly 1,500 people for human trafficking offences in 2015 and approximately 400 victims were identified and received services. These numbers are only the tip of the iceberg in terms of the true scope of the problem. The [National Human Trafficking Resource Center \(NHTRC\) reports its hotline has received over 96,000 calls since 2007](#).

Also, it is a myth that this issue affects urban areas only. [Rural areas have their share of human trafficking](#). If you are in a rural area with farming or ranches, logging, tourist destinations, or affluent retirement communities, you may have human trafficking in your community. In short, any industry having a demand for low-skill manual labor, especially industries with sudden growth, may encourage or attract human trafficking.

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

There are many resources available for training employees on key warning signs and indicators. The [NHTRC](#) has resources available targeting first responders and public health employees, as does [FirstResponder.gov](#) and the [Department of Homeland Security](#). There is also a [guide from the International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) (PDF, 630 Kb). The Department of Justice also has a guide for jurisdictions looking to [create a human trafficking task force](#). The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has a sheet with [indicators EMS personnel should be on the lookout for](#) (PDF, 113 Kb).

Fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel remain a key partner in the fight against human trafficking because they may come into contact with victims through medical assistance calls or routine traffic stops. Many of the resources listed above could be worked into staff training or even exercises.

(Source: [DHS](#))

Fire Service - Needs Assessment Survey

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) is conducting their 2015 U.S. Needs Assessment Survey and is [asking fire chiefs across the United States for their assistance](#). The confidential survey is used by the United States Congress and the U.S. Fire Administration to allocate funding based on noticeable gaps in the nation's fire service. This is why it is critical to get as much participation as possible.

This is the first year [the survey is available online](#), making it much easier for fire chiefs to access and complete it. [Printable copies](#) (PDF, 118 Kb) are still available for mailing.

This is the fourth time this survey has been completed since its introduction in 2001. Requested information includes resource and staffing levels and how they are affecting department performance, and specifics on things like communications; training; wellness and fitness; facilities; apparatus; and PPE. This year they add on questions about WUI fires, community risk reduction, technical rescue, and more.

The deadline for completing this assessment is January 15, 2016. One response per fire department is required, and it will be determined by using the FDID number assigned by the NFPA. More information on the survey, including how to find your FDID number if you do not have it, can be found on the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#).

(Source: [NFPA](#))

Upcoming Cyber-Focused Webinars and Training

The Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community (C3 or "C Cubed") Voluntary Program was created to "assist the enhancement of critical infrastructure cybersecurity and to encourage the adoption of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework." C3 continues its webinar series in 2016 with a focus on individual critical infrastructure sectors, as well as its regionally-offered events. For more information on their programs, [visit their website and sign up for their updates](#).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) Series is holding a [cyber-focused event](#) (PDF, 409 Kb) on February 9th and 10th. The 4-hour exercise is targeted to organizations interested in raising their awareness and management of cyber risks. See the event flyer for more information on the exercise's details and how to apply. See EMI's VTTX website for more information on the rest of [2016's VTTX schedule](#).

(Source: [C3 Voluntary Program](#))

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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.