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

Highlights:

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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Violence Against Officers Not Limited to Cities

Last week, an officer of the Thurmont (Maryland) Police Department parked a departmental SUV outside his home and went inside. Shortly after, someone placed a pipe bomb on the vehicle. The bomb exploded a few minutes later, damaging the car and sending shrapnel and debris across the street and through the officer's front window, lodging in the drywall. Federal agencies were called in to assist with the investigation, and a suspect is in custody. No one was hurt.

Thurmont is a small town of about 6,500 people. Though officials and residents alike are surprised by this act of violence, it is just one example of an increase in violent crime in towns with populations of 10,000 or less. There are many differences between city and rural policing, but unfortunately this isn't one of them. All uniformed personnel should maintain awareness and caution always as events like this can happen at any time.

(Source: FBI)

August Terror Threat Snapshot

The August 2016 Terror Snapshot (PDF, 616 Kb), produced by the House Homeland Security Committee, says the FBI estimates 80 percent of the bureau's active homegrown terror investigations are linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). There have been at least 103 plots against Western targets since 2014; 30 of those were against the United States.

The report goes on to say the National Counterterrorism Center has identified "individuals with ties to terrorist groups in Syria attempting to gain entry to the U.S. through the U.S. refugee program." A number of the attacks in Europe in the past year were connected to Syrian refugees or as operatives posing as refugees. European nations and the United States are attempting to address this issue.

We have seen the types of complex attacks ISIS is responsible for in Europe and know they could happen here. It is vital to maintain a ready state, keep up-to-date with new training and improved response procedures, and work with soft target locations and event planners in your jurisdiction to improve their security and suspicious activity reporting.

(Source: House Homeland Security Committee)

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

Project Looks at Chemical Explosive Precursors

One of the key ways an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) plot can be stopped is during the planning phase, specifically during the acquisition of the materials, such as chemical precursors. Teaching those who routinely sell or handle chemicals to identify and report suspicious activity is vital to preventing an attack.

The National Academy of Science Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology is currently seeking nominations for the project "Reducing the Threat of Improvised Explosive Device Attacks by Restricting Access to Chemical Explosive Precursors" (PDF, 74 Kb). The project, sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, will create a list of chemicals commonly used in IEDs, look at how they are handled in commercial supply chains, assess control measures, and suggest improved controls and regulations.

The project is currently looking for people interested and eligible to serve on the committee. These include experts from the industrial, national labs, and academic sectors who work in the fields of security, law enforcement, chemistry, energetic materials, and commercial supply chain operations.

Those interested in submitting a nomination should send the person's name, affiliation, contact information, area of expertise, and a brief statement describing why the person is relevant to the study topic to ied@nas.edu. Please submit your nominations no later than Monday, August 22nd, 2016.

(Source: DHS)

Webinar: Doxing Threat to Public Safety Workers

The FBI warned law enforcement officers last year to mindfully limit the amount and types of information they share online about themselves and their families. This warning is in response to the release of personal information online by hackers.

Known as "doxing," hacker collectives such as Anonymous search online and collect personal information on officers, then release it online. Information can include pictures of officers, their families, and homes; phone numbers; addresses; social security numbers; credit card numbers; and other identifying information. In one case, someone posted the school location of an officer's children.

There are ways to limit the type and amount of information about you online. Rein in your security settings on social media, and be sure your other family members are doing so as well. Keep computers up to date with security software and patches. Don't use the same password for multiple accounts. Request certain sites remove your information.

The International Public Safety Association (IPSA) is hosting the webinar "Doxxing – The New Threat to Those Working in Public Safety" on Monday, August 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern. Interested parties must register. The free webinar will go over doxing in more detail, the danger it puts you in, and how you can protect yourself, your family, and your coworkers.

(Source: IPSA)

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**.