



## Highlights:

Handling Death Notifications at a Distance

National Cyber Incident Response Plan

Chemical Facility Safety and Security Webinar

## 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/emr-isac) or contact the EMR-ISAC office at: (301) 447-1325 and/or [emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@fema.dhs.gov).

# The InfoGram

Volume 16 – Issue 41

October 13, 2016

## Handling Death Notifications at a Distance

Hopefully your department will never have to suffer a line of duty death, but they do happen and you should have some policies and procedures written on how to handle it. There is plenty of information online that you can base yours on, including resources from the [National Fallen Firefighter Foundation](#), the [City of Madison \(Wisconsin\) Police](#), and the [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) (PDF, 300 Kb). The FBI also offers [death notification training](#).

But what if the deceased's family does not live in the area? Death notification to families should happen quickly, especially now in the age of social media. Some-time geographical distance makes it impossible for the department to handle the notification. The [Wildland Firefighter Foundation](#) produced a [video focusing on this circumstance](#). In 2004, a hotshot crew was working to drop a hazard tree on a prescribed burn when it struck a member of the crew, killing him.

The firefighter's mother lived in New Hampshire, so it was impossible for the crew to handle the notification. Instead, they contacted local agencies. The local fire chief and other authorities informed her and stayed with her until family could arrive. Another family member living in Florida required more logistical planning. The fire chief in New Hampshire contacted a fire department in Florida to act as his support network.

All remaining members of the crew were flown to New Hampshire for the funeral, which was a traditional structural firefighter funeral jointly handled between his crew and the local fire department. After all this time, the family still is in contact with members of that hotshot crew. Not all families get the kind of support that this one did, which is unfortunate but avoidable with proper planning. This video shows one way to do it right.

Departments should look at how they handle death notifications and what happens over the next few hours, days, and longer, especially when family is a considerable distance away. If your agency is one whose duty it might be to handle death notifications, review regularly with personnel what to say – and what not to say. With an event as solemn as this, you don't get a second chance to get it right.

(Source: [Wildland Firefighter Foundation](#))

## National Cyber Incident Response Plan

Cybersecurity is a growing concern around the country as attacks on hospitals, [nuclear power plants](#), and data breaches of businesses cause damage. As attacks become more frequent and possibly more damaging, authorities at all levels of government still struggle with how to respond to them.

Last week, another [police department was hit with a ransomware attack](#). In this case the offending email looked like a legitimate message from FedEx wanting to reschedule a delivery. The department was not protected by a backup system. Once the employee opened the message, their files were locked.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and the Department of Homeland Security is requesting your assistance for public comment on the [National Cyber Incident Response Plan](#) (NCIRP) through 5:00 p.m. Eastern on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The NCIRP is part of the recent Presidential Policy Directive outlining how the federal government responds to cyber incidents.

All comments and questions can be submitted to [FEMA-NCIRP-engagement@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NCIRP-engagement@fema.dhs.gov). DHS is also hosting two informational webinars, one on [Thursday, October 13th](#) at 11 a.m. Eastern, and another on [Thursday, October 20th](#) at 1 p.m. eastern. There will be a question and answer session in each webinar.

(Source: [NCIRP](#))

## Chemical Facility Safety and Security Webinar

The Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Labor are hosting a joint webinar on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Eastern to provide updates on actions items since the June 6, 2014 release of "[Executive Order 13650: Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security – A Shared Commitment](#)." The webinar will discuss:

- Progress on strengthening community planning and preparedness;
- Enhancing Federal operational coordination;
- Improving data management;
- Modernizing policies and regulations;
- Incorporating stakeholder feedback and developing best practices.

All stakeholders who have an interest in chemical facility safety and security are encouraged to participate in the webinar, such as first responders, chemical producers and storage companies, agricultural supply companies, state and local regulators, chemical critical infrastructure owners and operators, labor organizations representing affected workers, environmental and community groups, and consensus standards organizations. Additionally, we will provide information on next steps.

There will be a question and answer period as time permits. Should time run out, participants may submit questions to [eo.chemical@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:eo.chemical@hq.dhs.gov).

Those interested should email a registration request to [eo.chemical@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:eo.chemical@hq.dhs.gov). Detailed information about how to access the call will be emailed separately.

(Source: [OSHA](#))

### 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](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov).