

JULY
2016



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Planning & Preparedness

Zika May Grow as We Enter Summer Season

As weather warms up in the Northern Hemisphere, the potential exists for the Zika virus to spread further into the United States by way of its primary vector, the mosquito. Though many states have active mosquito control measures in places where they are a consistent problem, they cannot stop all mosquitoes and many officials feel it is just a matter of time before we see local transmissions.



Many southern cities and states had the potential to see Zika cases as early as April, according to this [study in PLOS Current Outbreaks](#). Most of the 50 cities in the study had the potential for low-to-moderate Zika activity by June. No locally-acquired cases of Zika have been found in the United States as of March 30th, though various localities have reported imported cases.

Public health departments, hospitals, local government officials, and first responders interested in learning more about Zika and monitoring the virus in the United States can sign up for email updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Zika Virus page](#).

In addition, Health and Human Services' Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange ([TRACIE](#)) has "[Zika: Resources at Your Fingertips](#)" (PDF, 454.7 Kb). Updated since its first iteration, the sheet lists the basics about the virus such as symptoms and treatment as well as key resources for emergency managers and public health workers, testing, monitoring, and reporting. Click [here](#) for more details.

It is unknown how Zika might progress in the United States or even if it will be a problem over and above the cases imported in by people traveling to affected areas. However, preparing for possibilities is the basis of emergency management and it is crucial to always keep plans and procedures up-to-date.

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles

Emergency Planning for People with Disabilities

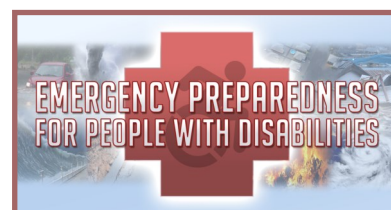
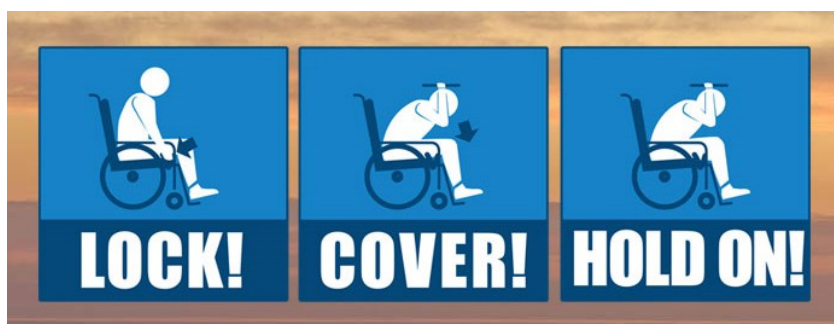


One in five people in the United States were reported to have a disability in the 2010 census. Those with mobility restrictions often must rely on others for assistance during emergencies, placing them in an uncomfortably vulnerable position during an evacuation, for example. There is a fear that no one will be there to help, but also that there may be a situation making it impossible to escape successfully, with or without help. People are also more likely to disregard disaster evacuation orders if they have a disability.

Major disasters in recent years show the high costs when plans fail to address these issues and the legal ramifications. Cities and states are addressing this issue more fully to better protect their citizens. Phoenix is one example, revamping its emergency operations plans while focusing on those with “access and functional needs” and contacting community organizations and local families for help to make sure they cover as many contingencies as possible.

There are a number of resources available for governments interested in doing the same. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) updated their guide “Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities” and have a number of other resources for this population.

Emergency management planners can review the American Red Cross and Ready.gov resources and use them during outreach efforts. The Department of Health and Human Services has training available focusing on federal civil rights laws. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention site houses resources for both individuals and emergency responders.



Source: NFPA

Hurricane Season



It only takes one storm to change your life and community. Tropical cyclones are among nature's most powerful and destructive phenomena. If you live in an area prone to tropical cyclones, you need to be prepared. Even areas well away from the coastline can be threatened by dangerous flooding, destructive winds and tornadoes from these storms. The National Hurricane Center and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center issue watches, warnings, forecasts, and analyses of hazardous tropical weather.

Hurricanes are also destructive. On average, twelve tropical storms, six of which become hurricanes form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season running from June 1 to November 30 each year.

The best time to prepare for a hurricane is before hurricane season begins. It is vital to understand your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding, and wind. Here is your checklist of things to do BEFORE hurricanes strike.

- **Know your zone:** Do you live near the Gulf or Atlantic Coasts? Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting your local government/emergency management office or by checking the [evacuation site website](#).
- **Write or review your Family Emergency Plan:** Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Start at the Ready.Gov emergency plan webpage.
- **Put Together an Emergency Supplies Kit:** Put together a basic disaster supplies kit and consider storage locations for different situations. Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and storm shutters.
- **Review Your Home Owners Insurance:** Review your insurance policy to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home.
- **Understand NWS forecast products,** especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings.
- **View:** [Unleashing Nature's Fury booklet](#) for more information about hurricanes.

Source: NWS/NOAA



Summer Brings Number of Significant Anniversaries

Domestic terrorism acts can happen at any time and during any month. All first responders should remain vigilant throughout these months and the whole year while also keeping citizens constitutionally-protected rights of assembly and freedom of speech in mind.

If you see something, say something!

July

July 7, 2005 - London bombings, leaving 56 dead and about 700 injured

July 22, 1946 - Irgun carries out King David Hotel bombing, resulting in 91 deaths and 46 injuries

July 22, 2004 - Full 9/11 Commission Report issued by 9/11 Commission

July 27, 1996 - Centennial Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta, Georgia, leaving 2 dead and 111 injured

August

August 4, 2009 - Holsworthy Barracks terror plot uncovered, alleged attempt Islamist terrorist plot targeting Holsworthy Barracks

August 6, 2001 - U.S. President George W. Bush receives brief Bin Ladin determined to strike in US

August 7, 1998 - 1998 United States embassy bombings, hundreds of people were killed in simultaneous truck bomb explosions at the United States embassies in the major East African cities of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya

August 9, 2007 - Authorization of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal

Source: FBI

Religious and Cultural Literacy in Emergencies

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is offering a new self-paced independent study course for anyone who may respond to disasters. “[Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster](#)” explores how religions and cultural communities react to emergencies and disasters, how their diversity can strengthen emergency management capabilities, and protective laws regarding these groups.

Developed to support partnerships between first responder and faith-based organizations, the course will enable disaster workers to more effectively meet the needs of their community.

This web-based course requires approximately 5 hours to complete. There is a test at the end, and it carries 0.5 Continuing Education Unit credits. The course is one of nearly 200 courses available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Independent Study program.

Source: EMI



Ransomware Still Targeting Law Enforcement

Ransomware computer attacks against various sectors are still increasing and law enforcement agencies are among the top targets. A Ransomware virus is one that is inadvertently downloaded onto departmental networks,



locking the system and encrypting files. Hackers hold the files hostage until the victim pay the ransom using digital currency which can be in the hundreds or thousands of dollars. If the ransom is not paid, hackers may delete the files. This has happened to several police departments effecting open cases and destroying collected and stored evidence.

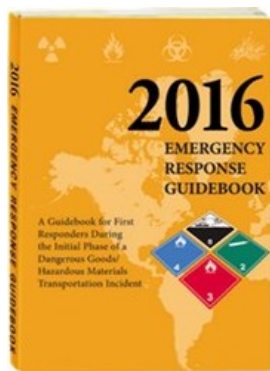
The good news is most of the time simply educating employees and officers on what to look for in suspicious emails will keep ransomware off of your systems. Ransomware infects computers when someone clicks on a link or an attachment in an email that looks legitimate – such as a digital fax or invoice. Opening the attachment or link infects the computer and spreads to the network.

The key to avoiding Ransomware is teaching and reminding employees to be sure the email is from a legitimate source and the attachment or link is what it claims to be. If there is any question at all, don't open the link or attachment and double-check with the sender, or simply delete the message. If it is a legitimate and important email, the sender will email it again or call if they didn't hear from you.

It is also important to back up files and data on a regular basis. Be sure not to store the backup on the main network which would defeat the original purpose of the backup. Up-to-date virus protection is also a must. Both of these protections can be accomplished for a reasonable fee and time investment and will pay off if and when your department turns out to be the next ransomware target.

(Source: [Government Technology](#))

2016 Emergency Response Guidebook Released



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has announced the release of the 2016 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG). The ERG is updated every four years and gives first responders detailed information on hazardous materials to better manage accident or spill response during the critical early stages of an incident.

Jointly developed with the governments of Canada and Mexico, the Department of Transportation wants to have a copy in every public emergency service vehicle in the country. The 2016 ERG has a table of initial isolation and protective action distances, added guide pages for absorbed gases, and other things as listed on this [Summary of Changes \(PDF, 1 Mb\)](#).

The ERG is available through many outlets for purchase; however, PHMSA will be distributing over 1.5 million free copies directly to fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies and departments around the country. A copy is also available [free online](#), and will be developed as a [free smartphone app](#) to replace the ERG2012 version currently available.



Carbon Monoxide Still a Risk in Summer



Closed doors and windows in the winter make it easier for carbon monoxide (CO) to build up, potentially poisoning anyone nearby. But there are many ways CO can build up to dangerous levels that have nothing to do with heating season. Summer months have their own unique set of dangers, both for the citizens in the community and the first responders called to help.

CO is odorless, tasteless, and invisible, and causes symptoms similar to flu or heat stroke: nausea, dizziness, blurred vision, headaches, sleepiness, weakness, and eventually death if not properly and quickly treated. Sometimes it takes as little as 10-15 minutes of exposure before symptoms occur.

Summertime causes include being around any gas, charcoal, or wood combustion in an enclosed area or one where airflow is blocked somehow (i.e. dense vegetation or awnings). This can be sitting at the back of a powerboat, use of a grill in a tent, use of gas-powered equipment indoors, or sitting in a parked vehicle, or even sitting too near a campfire.

What are the symptoms? Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Headache.
- Dizziness.
- Nausea.

As carbon monoxide builds up in your blood , symptoms get worse and may include:

- Confusion and drowsiness.
- Fast breathing, fast heartbeat, or chest pain..
- Vision problems.
- Seizures.

What can you do if you suspect CO poisoning? Immediately move to fresh air and dial 9-1-1!

NEWSLETTER COMPLIMENTS OF:

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