



The InfoGram

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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.

UL Offers New Online Firefighter Training

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is introducing [four new eLearning modules](#) for fire service personnel. The courses were designed to help fire service personnel rethink tactics and response plans. Training modules were developed to address changes in construction and technology that were identified through collaborative fire research and burn tests.

Modern home construction now uses more lightweight engineering and synthetic furnishings, for example. These trends drastically affect the modern day firefighting environment. The new courses include:

- Firefighter Safety and Photovoltaic (PV) Systems – electrical shock and other hazards related to these energy systems.
- Horizontal Ventilation in Legacy and Contemporary Residential Construction – the fire environment of larger homes and open floor plans.
- Structural Stability of Engineered Lumber – engineered lumber and lightweight construction roofing.
- Basement Fires: Collapse Hazards and Fire Dynamics – burn response hazards of residential flooring systems.

The 2- or 3-hour courses are available online. Courses are either free with no Continuing Education Unit (CEU) option or students can choose to earn .2 or .3 CEUs for a fee.

(Source: [UL Online Firefighter Training](#))

Brief Trainings: NIOSH Acronyms/National Grid

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently published several 1-page [Coffee Break Training bulletins](#) that can be of great use to first responders:

[Commonly Used Abbreviations](#) (PDF, 456 Kb) lists National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) hazardous materials reference codes used in the NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. The list includes abbreviations for physical and chemical properties such as flash point (FI.P), ionization potential (IP), freezing point (FRZ), and molecular weight (MW).

Knowing these and other acronyms help first responders understand the potential dangers at the scene of a spill or accident. The [November 5, 2012 Coffee Break](#)

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

[Training](#) (PDF, 458 Kb) discusses why the properties of vapor pressure (VP), boiling point (BP), and vapor density (VD) are important to understanding risk.

[United States National Grid](#) (PDF, 152 Kb) summarizes how this standard mapping system can be helpful in any response when landmarks have been totally destroyed or when responders are deploying to an unfamiliar area of the country. It also includes examples of how the USNG is being used in different states and links to sample maps.

(Source: [United States Fire Administration](#))

Building Construction and Pre-fire Planning

One of the most dangerous things that can happen on the fireground is failing to identify a building's construction for what it really is. Planning fire attack on assumption and first impressions instead of doing proper pre-fire planning is a deadly practice.

A recent article [in Fire Engineering on concealed combustibles](#) discusses specific problems such as brick façades and flexible gymnasium flooring. As the author indicates, response to either of these with full knowledge of and planning for the construction properties can keep injury or loss of life from occurring.

The late Francis Brannigan wrote a column for Fire Rescue Magazine featuring hidden construction hazards and how to better understand building construction of all kinds. Some hazards discussed in his articles include [carpeting and acrylic sheets](#), [structural loads](#), and "party walls."

(Source: [Fire Engineering Magazine](#))

Countering Misinformation in Social Media

Both the [American Red Cross](#) (ARC) and the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) started using social media as an outreach mechanism more in the past few years. Both organizations agree that it has been an overall positive move, but like any method of communication it still has its drawbacks.

Hundreds of thousands of people follow the official Twitter feeds and Facebook pages of both FEMA and ARC, and thousands more follow feeds for regional ARC chapters or other federal entities or individuals. Each follower has the potential to republish or otherwise pass on safety and hazard information, making social media a far-reaching communication mechanism.

Individuals [starting rumors or passing along misinformation](#) is one downfall. While stopping inaccuracies completely is unlikely in any type of media, controlling them online is especially complicated. Two good ways to start:

- Encourage people to follow your organization's official social media sites and make links to those feeds easily available. This encourages people to get accurate information directly from the source.
- Search [Kurrently](#) to see how people are discussing your organization or passing on the information you are publishing. This can help you find misinformation and correct it quickly during a major event.

(Source: [Phys.org](#))

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