



Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin



Are You Prepared for Inclement Weather?



From fierce Nor'easter storms along the coast to the intense snow in upstate New York, winter weather is often harsh and somewhat unpredictable. A smart choice is to have a plan and involve your family.

- Battery-operated flashlight, clock, and radio;
- Extra batteries;
- First Aid kit;
- Fire extinguisher;
- Blanket(s) or Mylar Blanket(s);
- Cash in small denominations; and
- Fuel for generators.

Preparedness: Start by having an emergency supply kit readily available and make sure everyone in the family knows where it is located.

- Whole wheat crackers;
- Nuts and trail mix;
- Cereal;
- Power bars and granola bars;
- Dried fruit;
- Canned meat and fish such as tuna, salmon, chicken and turkey;
- Canned vegetables such as beans, carrots and peas;
- Canned soups and chili;
- Sports drinks;
- Sugar, salt, and pepper;
- Powdered milk; and
- Multivitamins.

Food and Water: It is important to have nutritionally dense food on hand that does not require refrigeration/cooking, and one gallon of water per person per day. A seven-day supply of medication is also recommended. Get your refills early...DO NOT RUN OUT DURING A STORM.



Check On the Elderly: Something as simple as a phone call or a visit to an elderly neighbor can literally save a life. It only takes a moment to make sure that they are doing well. Do not be bashful! Check in on them and say "hi." They will love the company and it will also give you the opportunity to check if

there home is warm and have ample food. If you feel that an elderly neighbor may be in danger if they remain alone, ask them to come over and spend some time at your place until the temperature rises a little. Addition information can be found at: <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>.

Coming Soon to Region II

Virtual Workshop for Active Shooters in Houses of Worship

For House of Worship **Communities**

January 22, 2018

630pm-930pm EST

For details email devin.kerins@fema.dhs.gov



Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Passenger Train Derailment

Exercise Date & Location: **January 23, 2018**, 201 Varick Street, 9th floor; New York, NY 10014

Exercise Length: 4 Hours. Start time is 12:00 P.M. Eastern and end time is 4:00 P.M. Eastern. Please arrive 15 minutes early. (If you can only stay for module-1 or a couple of hours that is fine)

Exercise Description: This exercise will simulate a passenger train derailment based upon real-world events such as the 2011 Bay Area Rapid Transit subway, the 2013 Metro-North Railroad, and the 2015 Amtrak Philadelphia Northeast Regional incidents that caused property damage, injuries, and fatalities.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology** (not a web-based program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise.

Exercise Goals: This virtual exercise will enable the participants to apply the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to effectively prevent, protect, and respond to emergency management incidents of varying complexity. Overall objectives include:

- Assist in the preparation for a passenger train derailment and recognize how it will affect their communities' responders.
- Enable participants to better coordinate response operations with counterparts from local governments, other State governments, Federal agencies, tribal, private sector organizations, and non-governmental agencies.
- Provide a virtual, experiential education environment to exercise and enhance critical response and recovery tasks.

This delivery method will allow participating communities to share real-time, hazardous material focused, incident related preparation, response, and recovery concerns, and solutions with all participants.

Target Audience: The VTTX program is designed for a “community-based” group (not individual participation) of at least five or more personnel from local or State emergency management organizations with representation from all emergency management disciplines - public safety, public works, public health, health care, government, administrative, communications, military, private sector, non-governmental, rail line operators, critical stress professionals, and other whole-community partners involved in a rail incident.

Other organizations invited include National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, Information Technology, Corporate and Public Safety, Legal, Communications, and other personnel involved in incident response.

Exercise Design: This VTTX is designed to engage the participants in a no fault, hazard-specific exercise discussion. Facilitation will occur via VTC from the EMI campus and will be complimented by a dedicated local agency facilitator at each VTC site. The VTTX will be supported by an Exercise and Coordination Facilitation Guide, which will include all required logistical information (room layout, connection instructions, etc.), as well as facilitation and hot wash instructions.

The VTTX will consist of:

- Three discussion modules.
- Local discussion with guided questions led by an on-site facilitator.
- Back briefs from each participating location after each module.

Registration: If you are interested in attending the VTTX please contact Stephen Allyn via email stephen.allyn@hq.dhs.gov

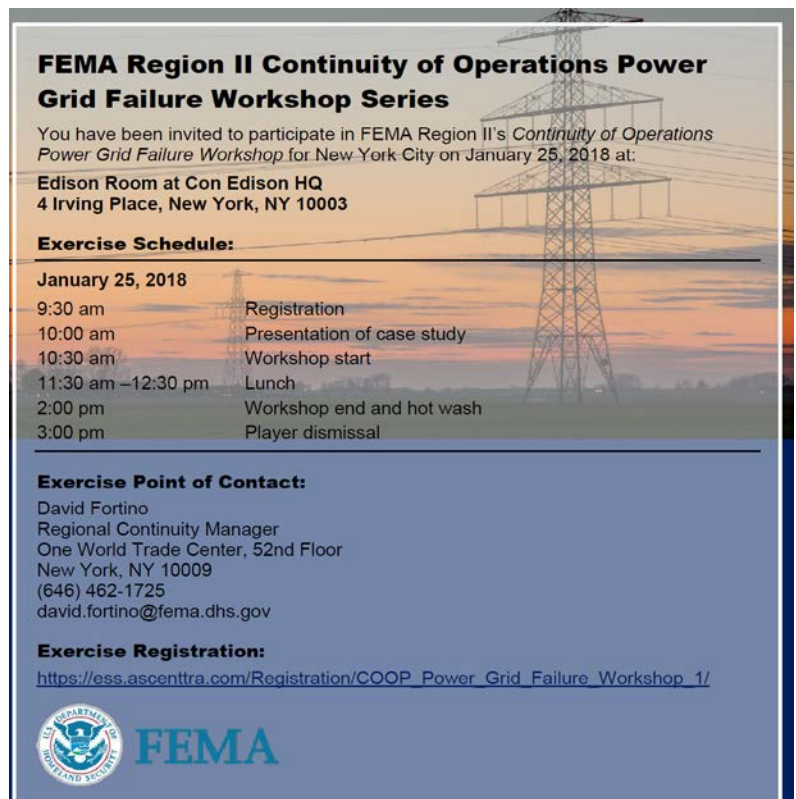
Continuity of Operations Power Grid Failure Workshop Series

FEMA Region II is sponsoring a Long-Term Power Outage Continuity of Operations Workshop on **Thursday, January 25, 2018 from 9:30 – 3:00 EST** for our partner agencies to promote preparedness among public and private entities when faced with a long-term power outage caused by a cyber-attack.

The National Preparedness goal describes what it means for the U.S. to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies, including the possibility of a cyber-attack aimed at our Nation’s infrastructure. In May, the President signed an executive order on cybersecurity designed to protect critical infrastructure, including the national power grid. Large-scale power outages are not a new concern for emergency managers. A December 2016 power outage in the Ukraine linked to a cyber-attack.

Please Register Here:

https://ess.ascentra.com/Registration/COOP_Power_Grid_Failure_Workshop_1/

A flyer for the FEMA Region II Continuity of Operations Power Grid Failure Workshop Series. The background features a power transmission tower against a sunset sky. The text is white and blue on a dark background.

FEMA Region II Continuity of Operations Power Grid Failure Workshop Series

You have been invited to participate in FEMA Region II's *Continuity of Operations Power Grid Failure Workshop* for New York City on January 25, 2018 at:

Edison Room at Con Edison HQ
4 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003

Exercise Schedule:


January 25, 2018	
9:30 am	Registration
10:00 am	Presentation of case study
10:30 am	Workshop start
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Workshop end and hot wash
3:00 pm	Player dismissal

Exercise Point of Contact:

David Fortino
Regional Continuity Manager
One World Trade Center, 52nd Floor
New York, NY 10009
(646) 462-1725
david.fortino@fema.dhs.gov

Exercise Registration:

https://ess.ascentra.com/Registration/COOP_Power_Grid_Failure_Workshop_1/





Mayors and community leaders across New Jersey have taken up the challenge of addressing climate change and implementing sustainability practices at a local level. Please join them to discuss what we must achieve locally, and understand the specific steps we can take today to succeed. It is vital for our mayors and communities to take a leading role in preserving the environment and protecting the public health of our citizens. The day will consist of three panels of experts, resource organizations, and local leaders discussing a pathway forward to enable New Jersey to succeed in meeting the challenges presented by climate change. This event is hosted by Mayor Phil Kramer of Franklin Township, Mayor Bruce A. Harris of Chatham Borough, and brought to you by NJ League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, and Sustainable Jersey.

Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:30am - 1:30pm EST

Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy

33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

[REGISTER](#) - Early Bird: \$10 before January 29

Exercise Design Course

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region II will be conducting training for emergency exercise design and evaluation (a combination of FEMA Courses I-120 and L-146). The course is a 4 day program which focuses on the design phase of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Course details:

Emergency managers, emergency services personnel, and other individuals who are part of the emergency preparedness and response or continuity of operations need to be able to use the fundamentals of exercise simulation and design as an integrated system of resources and capabilities. Skills learned during this program will enable jurisdictions to conduct NIMS required exercises.

The course will develop emergency response and continuity exercise skills in the following areas:

- Exercise programs
- Exercise process
- Exercise design steps
- Tabletop, functional and full scale exercises
- Exercise evaluation
- Exercise enhancements
- Designing a functional exercise

The course will conclude with students conducting and evaluating actual tabletop and functional exercises in a group/team environment.

Target Audience:

The target audience is any official having direct responsibility for developing and conducting emergency response or continuity exercises.

Dates/Location/Registration

March 5-8, 2018	Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center 53 Academy Dr, Westampton, NJ 08060	Contact Charles Coleman to register, Charles.coleman@njcourts.gov
March 26-29, 2018	Center for Simulation Learning, Holy Name Hospital 718 Teaneck Rd, Teaneck, NJ	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2hsept_eaneck/event/registration.html <i>Note: Adobe Connect is only being used for registration, this is an in-person course.</i>

Important Deadlines

Register Today for 2018 National CERT Conference!

Registration is now open for the 2018 National CERT Conference being held in Naples, FL on **August 23-25, 2018**. Register for the conference and reserve your hotel room today! Need additional info on the conference? Visit www.flacertassociation.org to learn more.



FEMA Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for Assistance to Firefighter Grants

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Jan. 8 announced that the annual funding opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is now open, and the application period will close on **Friday, February 2, 2018, 5:00 p.m. EST**. The Fiscal Year 2017 AFG program will award \$310.5 million to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters against fire-related deaths and hazards. Since 2002, FEMA has awarded \$7.1 billion in fire grants. Historically, 84% of awards go toward purchasing personal protective equipment, vehicles and other operational equipment. Applicant tools will be available at www.grants.gov and on the FEMA website. The [Get Ready Guide](#) also may be useful for potential applicants. For fire departments/applicants requiring assistance please visit www.fema.gov/grants, or contact the AFG Help Desk at firegrants@fema.gov or 1-866-274-0960.



IAEM Annual Conference Call for Speakers Opens January 15



The Call for Speakers for the IAEM 66th Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 19-24, 2018, will open on Monday, Jan. 15, and close on **Friday, February 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. EST.** Download the [IAEM Speaker Guidance](#) for all the requirements. For more information or to discuss this issue, contact [John Walsh](#) or [Dennis Jones](#), who represent IAEM on the committee.

NFPA 3000 Standard for Preparedness and Response to Active Shooter Events Available for Public Comment



The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Standards Council, which recently voted to develop a standard for emergency preparedness and response to active shoot events, is seeking public comments by **February 23, 2018**. The provisional standard is designated as NFPA 3000, *Standard for Preparedness and Response to Active Shooter and/or Hostile Events*. The [fact sheet](#) and [NFPA 3000 decision](#) can be accessed from the [NFPA 3000 web page](#). To review the preliminary standard and submit online comments, click on "Submit Public Input Online." You will be asked to log in or set up a profile, and then you will be routed to the provisional standard and the link for posting online comments.

CDC Investigating Multistate *E. coli* Outbreak

CDC, several states, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are investigating a **multistate outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O157:H7** infections. Seventeen illnesses have been reported from 13 states. Preliminary laboratory results show that the *E. coli* that made people sick in the United States is closely related genetically to the *E. coli* making people sick in an outbreak in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada has identified romaine lettuce as the source of the **outbreak in Canada**. CDC is still collecting information to determine whether there is a food item in common among sick people, including leafy greens and romaine.



The **symptoms of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* infections** vary for each person but often include very bad stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. If there is fever, it usually is less than 101° F. Most people get better within 5–7 days. Some infections can be very mild, but others can be life threatening. Contact your healthcare provider if you have diarrhea that lasts for more than 3 days or is accompanied by high fever, blood in the stool, or so much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down and you pass very little urine.

FEMA Expands PA Eligibility to Include Houses of Worship

FEMA on January 8 announced that private nonprofit houses of worship are eligible for disaster assistance as community centers without regard to their secular or religious nature. These changes are effective for disasters declared on or after Aug. 23, 2017 and for applications for assistance that were pending with FEMA as of Aug. 23, 2017, including applications on first- or second-level appeal, that as of today have not yet been resolved by FEMA. As with other non-critical PNPs under the Stafford Act, FEMA financial assistance for the repair or replacement of a PNP house of worship facility is limited to costs that a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will not cover. PNP houses of worship must apply to the SBA for a loan, as required by the Stafford Act. FEMA will provide financial assistance if the PNP house of worship is denied a loan or if the loan authorized is insufficient to cover repair costs. This change will be reflected in the third edition of the Public Assistance Program Policy Guide, which will be available [online](#).

FEMA Reflects on an Historic Year



Looking back at 2017, [the men and women of FEMA are reflecting on this historic year](#). Unprecedented disasters affected more than 25 million Americans, which is nearly 8 percent of the U.S. population. FEMA worked with partners across all levels of government, non-profit agencies and the private sector and will continue to help survivors recover in 2018 and beyond.

FEMA Announces Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report and the National Mitigation Investment Strategy's Public Comment Period

Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report

For our nation to become more resilient, we must develop a more effective and efficient way to invest in mitigation. Earlier today, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) Multi-Hazard Mitigation Council (MMC) released an updated and expanded [Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report](#).

In this new report, NIBS MMC examined 23 years of federal grants data to determine the benefits we derive from avoiding damages through activities funded with federal grants, and examined an expanded set of mitigation actions to determine the Benefit Cost Ratios (BCR) of building new structures beyond code requirements. The hazard categories covered in this report include: Riverine Flood, Hurricane Surge, Wind, Earthquake, and Wildland-Urban Interface Fire (WUI).

The new report uses two high-level Benefit Cost Ratios (BCRs) representing the benefits of mitigation. The report results indicate mitigation grants funded through select federal government agencies, on average, can save the nation \$6 in future disaster costs, for every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation. The

report also demonstrates that, on average, investments in hazard mitigation measures that exceed provisions of the 2015 model building code can save the nation \$4 for every \$1 spent.

The report suggests a savings of \$15.5 Billion from one year of building new construction beyond code requirements and a total of \$158 Billion in savings from federally funded mitigation grant programs funded from 1993-2016. The report has been vetted by a large group of public and private-sector experts.

This Independent Study is directed by the National Institute of Building Sciences with funding support from the FEMA and other governmental and non-governmental sponsors. The authors of this study do not speak for or on behalf of FEMA. Findings presented in this Interim Report should not be taken as reflecting the opinions or policies of FEMA or its staff.

Additional information is available in the attached Frequently Asked Questions about the [Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report](#).

National Mitigation Investment Strategy Public Comment

The release the 2017 Interim Report coincides with another initiative that FEMA and other federal agencies are launching today. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) tasked the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) to develop a National Mitigation Investment Strategy (Investment Strategy) and seek public comment.

The draft Mitigation Investment Strategy makes a series of recommendations, organized by six desired outcomes which – if met – could result in a nation better equipped for, and less vulnerable to, natural hazards. The Draft Investment Strategy provides a national approach to investments in mitigation activities and risk management across federal, state, local, and territorial and tribal government and the private and non-profit sectors.

The MitFLG invites ideas about investment from all levels of government and key stakeholders, including private businesses, citizens, vulnerable and at-risk populations, critical infrastructure sectors, and non-profit, academic, and philanthropic organizations. This feedback on the draft strategy’s proposed outcomes--and how as a nation we can deliver those outcomes—is vital.

The Draft Investment Strategy is available on the National Mitigation Framework website at <https://www.fema.gov/national-mitigation-framework>. Comments on the draft Investment Strategy will be accepted from January 11 through March 11, 2018 either through email to fema-nmis@fema.dhs.gov or through the IdeaScale site at <https://fema.ideascale.com/a/ideas/recent/campaign-filter/byids/campaigns/60968>.

To learn more about FEMA’s commitment to the National Mitigation Investment Strategy and building a true culture of preparedness across all communities, visit [FEMA’s Blog](#) and review Acting Deputy Administrator, Dr. Daniel Kaniewski’s thoughts on “Investing in Mitigation to Build a More Resilient Nation.”

Additional information is available in the attached Frequently Asked Questions about the [Draft National Mitigation Investment Strategy](#).

Emergency Preparedness Tips



FEMA Region II Preparedness Tip Staying Safe During a Winter Storm

- Stay indoors and wear warm clothes.
- Listen to a battery-powered radio or NOAA Weather Radio for updates.
- Bring your companion animals inside before the storm begins.
- Move other animals to sheltered areas with a supply of non-frozen water.
- Eat regularly.
- Keep the body replenished with fluids.
- Conserve fuel.
- Check on relatives, neighbors, and friends, particularly if they are elderly or live alone.

For more info go to www.redcross.org

FEMA Region II Preparedness Tip Safe Travel During Winter Weather

- ❄ Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away.
- ❄ If you stay inside your car, keep moving your arms and legs to improve your circulation and stay warmer.
- ❄ Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running), and raising the hood when snow stops falling.
- ❄ Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour.
- ❄ Keep a downwind window open.
- ❄ Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked.



EDUCATIONAL / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency Management Institute Emmitsburg, MD

Fiscal Year 2019 Community-Specific

Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC)
Application Process



Purpose: To provide an overview of the Community-Specific Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) Application Process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. The deadline for applying to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) for a community-specific IEMC in FY2019 is **February 1, 2018**. Applications must be submitted to your respective FEMA Region by this date. [Read more in Training Bulletin 1368.](#)

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Airport Ebola

Exercise Description: This exercise will simulate an inbound aircraft with passengers suspected of being exposed to Ebola. This will be based upon real-world events at Newark-Liberty (EWR), Los Angeles International (LAX), John F. Kennedy International (JFK), Las Vegas International (LAS), and other airports worldwide. Those incidents severely tested those airports' quarantine plans and responding agency capacity.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology** (not a web-based program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1373.](#)

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Passenger Train Derailment

Exercise Description: This exercise will simulate a passenger train derailment based upon real-world events such as the 2011 Bay Area Rapid Transit subway, the 2013 Metro-North Railroad, and the 2015 Amtrak Philadelphia Northeast Regional incidents that caused property damage, injuries, and fatalities.

The VTTX involves key personnel discussing simulated scenarios in an informal setting, and can be used to assess plans, policies, training, and procedures. This VTTX differs from other tabletop exercises in that it will be conducted using **Video-Teleconference (VTC) technology** (not a web-based program), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by EMI, with local facilitation provided by the participating agency. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1374.](#)

E0209 State Recovery Planning and Coordination

Course Description: This course provides participants with knowledge and skills that will support States in pre- and post-disaster recovery planning, management, and coordination. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1376.](#)

E0210 Recovery from Disaster: The Local Community Role

Course Description: This 4-day course covers foundational concepts in disaster recovery and the latest guidance on recovery planning. Participants will either assess their own recovery plan or a sample against this national planning guidance. Following that, participants will discuss how a disaster recovery effort can be organized, managed, and led along with the types of challenges faced by recovery managers. Scenario activities throughout the course give participants the opportunity to target information strategies, address local capabilities and challenges, and analyze experiences from Joplin, Missouri. The capstone activity is meant to apply all of the knowledge acquired in the course, through further examination of all of the elements of a pre-disaster recovery planning document in the context of a realistic recovery scenario. [Read more in Training Opportunity 1377.](#)

Webinars



Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (CAUSE) V

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

On **January 18, 2018 from 1:00 – 2:00 EST**, the National Information Sharing Consortium (NISC) will host a webinar with the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate First Responders Group** (DHS S&T FRG) and the **Defence Research and Development Canada's Centre for Security Science** (DRDC CSS) to discuss the November Canada-U.S. Enhanced Resiliency Experiment (**CAUSE V**). CAUSE V was the fifth experiment in the [CAUSE series](#) that took place in the Pacific Northwest region in the U.S. and the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The experiment provided participants with access to enhanced interoperable communications and response technologies to better plan for and respond to incidents affecting both sides of the border. The webinar will provide an overview of the experiment's objectives and scenario; continuing education units (CEUs) will be awarded for those interested.

The CAUSE V webinar is the fifth webinar in the NISC's Mission-Focused Job Aids Webinar Series that reviews tools, techniques, and standard operating procedures that NISC partners in the homeland security, emergency management, public safety, first responder, and healthcare preparedness communities use to facilitate and manage information sharing.

For more information about the webinar series and the NISC, visit the NISC website at www.nisconsortium.org. To become a member of the NISC, click [here](#) - membership is free for all users.

Winter Preparedness Promising Practices: Tools and Resources for Organizations and Families

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual and Community Preparedness Division is holding a winter weather preparedness webinar on **Wednesday, January 24, 2014 from 2:00 – 3:00 EST**. Webinar speakers will outline effective preparedness practices and programs for organizations to prepare for extreme cold and winter storms. The webinar will also offer safety tips for communities and families. Plus, the webinar will have a resource sharing session to access various winter weather preparedness materials available for download.



This webinar will feature presenters from the following organizations:

- National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Georgia Power
- Scituate Alliance for Natural Disaster Services (SANDS)
- Individual and Community Preparedness Division, FEMA

How to Join the Webinar:

- Please register for the event using the [Adobe Connect registration](#) web link.
- Be sure to [test your Adobe Connect connection](#) prior to the meeting.
- This webinar will offer captioning.

FEMA Emergency Management Institute Weekly EMI e-Forums

EMI e-Forums are 1-hour, moderated, webinar discussion forums that provide an opportunity for EMI and the emergency management community to discuss matters of interest on national preparedness training. EMI e-Forums facilitate a discussion of whole community-presented best practices. The panel members are whole community, with topics relevant to whole community. These exchange of ideas are free of charge and available to anyone who wishes to participate.

Wednesday, January 24 from 3:00 – 4:00 EST “Incident Management Teams: Innovation and Evolution to Build Community Capability”

[Read more in Training Bulletin 1371.](#)

Higher Education Program Webinars

The Next EM Higher Education Community Conference Call is Friday, January 19th, from 2:00-3:00 PM ET. 800-320-4330, PIN: 376368. Please join us.

Iodine Deficiency May Reduce Pregnancy Chances

Iodine deficiency may reduce pregnancy chances, NIH study suggests. Women with moderate to severe iodine deficiency may take longer to achieve a pregnancy, compared to women with normal iodine levels, according to a study by researchers at the National Institutes of Health. You can read the full article [here](#).

Cognitive Behavioral Science Insights and the Future of Risk Management

In November, **Sweta Chakraborty, Ph.D., former Associate Director at the Institute on Science for Global Policy** led a discussion titled Cognitive Behavioral Science Insights and the Future of Risk Management. Among the topics included were: new challenges and the new risk normal, public perceptions of risk, and the role of cognitive behavioral science in informing risk communication. You can read a summary of the web forum [here](#). You can listen to the web forum recording [here](#).

Biological Threat Agent (BTA) Detection, Response, and Remediation

In October, **Colin Stimmler, Director of the Biodetection Preparedness and Response Unit at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**, discussed bioterrorism and the ways New York City addresses biological agent threats through detection, response and remediation planning and preparedness. You can read summary of the web forum [here](#).

Latest on Ransomware and Other Escalating Cyber Threats

In September, **Jason Fricke, Senior Cybersecurity Engineer at Carnegie Mellon SEI CERT**, and **Jay Braun, Manager, Incident Control and Response, United States Postal Service (USPS)**, discussed the latest on Ransomware and Other Escalating Cyber Threats, with a special focus on preparedness and response to ransomware attacks to the USPS. You can read a summary of the web forum [here](#). You can access a recording of the entire web forum [here](#).

January is National Slavery/Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Americans can take a stand against human trafficking by committing themselves to the fight to end human trafficking in the United States and participating in the Blue Campaign, the goal of which is to raise awareness about human trafficking and to make awareness-raising resources available to the public. Learn more about the Blue Campaign resources [here](#).

