



Highlights:

Updated Guide for Rail Tank Car Emergencies

Proposed Tactical Video Systems Standards

Arson Prevention at Houses of Worship

GIS Webinars for Public Safety

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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.

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Updated Guide for Rail Tank Car Emergencies

The Association of American Railroads (AAR) recently released the updated Third Edition of “[Field Guide to Tank Cars](#),” (PDF, 6.3 Mb), also located at the bottom of the [AAR Bureau of Explosives](#) resource page. This guide was written to assist emergency responders in planning for and responding to emergencies involving train tank cars. Interest in these incidents has increased in recent years due in part to the Bakken oil boom.

The guide is divided into eight sections covering guidelines for initial emergency response; tank car classification and specifications; safety systems; markings; non-pressure tank cars; pressure tank cars; cryogenic liquids; and a glossary of terms. The AAR loaded the guide with pictures and diagrams of different fittings, valves, tank cars, markings, and schematics of systems to assist first responders who likely are not very familiar with tank cars.

The emergency response section lists emergency phone numbers for nine major rail companies operating in the United States and Canada. Departments who have plans or are developing them should ensure pertinent emergency numbers are included prominently in those plans. The guide also reviews assessing damage to tank cars and provides techniques used by trained and experienced professionals when responding to tank car emergencies.

(Source: [AAR](#))

Proposed Tactical Video Systems Standards

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) is developing “Performance Standard for Tactical Operation Video Cameras,” a standard to cover video systems used by firefighters and other public safety personnel. UL is requesting input to gather information from personnel in the field and is particularly interested in comments from the fire service, but those in law enforcement and the military can also help by answering this [short one-page survey](#).

Video systems, especially body-worn cameras, are more in demand in today’s environment as a way to document situations and protect both the public and officers. The fire service doesn’t use them as often as law enforcement, but that may be changing. An article in FireRescue1.com discusses [video’s usefulness with documentation and reports](#) instead of relying on memory of EMS personnel.

UL 3802 will define a way to evaluate a video system's features including image and audio quality, ruggedness of cameras and monitoring devices, battery life, and remote control capabilities. It will cover hand-deployed, robot-mounted, body-worn, and covert placement systems. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is also in the very beginning stages of developing an [accompanying standard](#) in partnership with UL, which will cover selection, care, and maintenance of these systems.

(Source: [FireRescue1.com](#))

Arson Prevention at Houses of Worship

2017 Arson Awareness Week is scheduled for May 7-13 and this year the theme is [Arson Prevention at Houses of Worship](#). One might think this year's theme is quite narrow, but between 1996 and 2015, about half of all reported fire incidents at houses of worship were arson, which makes this very important for them and their communities.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has available numerous resources focusing on this topic to help communities and faith leaders address this problem:

- Examples of quick and inexpensive interior and exterior security practices;
- Community awareness tools and outreach materials;
- Incident spotlights from a variety of states;
- Reports detailing the problem and resources to help manage it.

USFA has a collection of brochures, handouts, and posters to spread the word about arson prevention, and suggest hosting a Safety Day and organizing an Arson Watch Program to get congregations and communities involved.

(Source: [USFA](#))

GIS Webinars for Public Safety

Esri, a global GIS provider, is hosting four upcoming webinars featuring various GIS trends and technical advancements significant to public safety. The webinars will target the fields of law enforcement, emergency management, dispatching, and the fire service. Topics and dates:

- **Law Enforcement Series:** [Deploy New Law Enforcement Solutions with ArcGIS Pro](#), April 6, 2017, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Eastern;
- **Emergency Call Taking & Dispatching Series:** [Address Maps and Apps for State and Local Governments](#), April 19, 2017, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Eastern;
- **Emergency Management Series:** [WebEOC ArcGIS Integration Update](#), May 4, 2017, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Eastern;
- **Fire & Emergency Services Series:** [Configuring a Briefing Book for your Chief using the Story Map Journal](#), May 17, 2017 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Eastern.

Registration is required. Full descriptions of the webinars are on each registration page. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar. Past webinars in these series are also available on [Esri's Public Safety Webinar Series website](#).

(Source: [Esri](#))

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