



Region II Individual and Community Preparedness Bulletin



National Picnic Month: Food Safety

Pack a cooler, fire up the grill, and pull out your “Kiss the Chef” apron: July is National Picnic Month! Picnics are a great way to enjoy time with family and friends in the summertime while feasting on a variety of local fresh foods. However, due to the warm weather and other factors, foodborne illness increases during the summer months. Keep your food safe by following a few easy tips to keep it fresh and to prevent bacteria from crashing your picnic.



If you have perishable foods, be sure to pack them in an ice chest and do not leave them un-chilled for more than 1-2 hours. Foods that need to be kept in a cooler in the shade are raw meats, seafood, vegetables, and dairy products. If you have more than one of these food products in your cooler, be sure to rinse all produce (even the skin that nobody eats) and tightly wrap all meat to ensure no juices escape and no cross-contamination occurs.

When preparing to grill, prepare raw meat on a separate cutting board than other foods and be sure to wash all surfaces and hands before and after handling. If you won't have

access to running water, pack a container of water and some soap for materials and moist towelettes for cleaning hands. Bring a food thermometer to make sure all meats are thoroughly cooked, as different kinds of meat have different minimum safe internal temperatures. Once the meat is cooked and you settle down to eat, do not reuse utensils or plates that touched raw meat unless they have been washed thoroughly.



For more information, please visit:

<https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/events/summervacations/index.html> or
<https://www.fda.gov/food/resourcesforyou/Consumers/ucm109899.htm>

FEMA RII Student Internships

Prerequisites for intern positions now available at the Region II office.

- Work Schedule: Part Time/Flexible
- Time Limit: 3-6 Months
- Salary: Unpaid/College Credit

Individual and Community Preparedness

The Community Preparedness Intern will work under the supervision of the Community Preparedness Officer and/or the Integration Branch Chief, the intern will provide research, planning, and development of a series of preparedness programs. This graduate or undergraduate level internship will provide the student with an opportunity to gain experience in the Federal Government, Emergency Management, Community Development, and Partnership Coordination. The Community Preparedness Intern will also support the Community Preparedness Officer to plan, initiate, coordinate and execute the development of a Higher Education Preparedness Network, which will meet the needs of Region II states New Jersey and New York to build and support successful preparedness efforts.

Continuity of Operations

The Intern will support the Continuity Manager to help coordinate and manage the continuity of operations program for Federal, State level (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands) and tribal, local governments within Region II states. The intern will help the Continuity Specialists build continuity programming between FEMA and the Continuity of Operations Working Groups (CWG) and will help organize, manage and facilitate training and exercise events, write policy papers, evaluate programs, develop plans, conduct outreach, instruct classes help identify gaps or weaknesses in pandemic and cyber security planning policies procedures and attend meetings.

Requirements

- (1) Interns **MUST** be enrolled in a Graduate School or Undergraduate School in their Junior/Senior year.
- (2) Previous work or ongoing study at bachelor's level in public health, liberal arts, business, public administration, communications, training, economics, emergency management or public relations.
- (3) Interns must be United States Citizens only (green card holders or those with student visas/work permits are not allowed).
- (4) Accepted Interns must complete a background investigation and suitability of employment prior to start date (this process can take 4-6 weeks or longer).

If interested please contact:

Russell Fox, Regional Branch Chief, Analysis and Integration
FEMA Region II
Russell.Fox@fema.dhs.gov

Region II Individual and Community Preparedness *Then and Now*



FEMA Region II National Preparedness Division and the Individual Assistance Branch jointly delivered a Continuity of Operations Overview Workshop for members of the Staten Island COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster).

Coming Soon in R2

Resilient Workplace COOP Workshop

In light of recent events around the world, preparing for an active shooter incident is more important now than ever before. While we have all spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the response to an active shooter incident, FEMA and the Buffalo FEB would like to invite you to participate in a workshop to examine how, not only how we would respond to such an event, but also what challenges you may encounter recovering from it.

On **September 7, 2017**, the Buffalo FEB in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will be hosting the Resilient Workplace COOP Workshop. The workshop will be held from 0830 to 1530 in Room 423, 130 South Elmwood Avenue. We invite your agency to attend this facilitated discussion on topics such as initial response actions, communication, human resources, continuity of operations, and public relations.

The workshop will consist of three modules:

1. Initial Actions
2. Continuity of Operations
3. Long-term Recovery Challenges

The format will be consist of informational presentations, case studies, and a scenario-based discussion.

To reserve a seat for this workshop please email director@buffalofeb.org

Exercise Design Course

The New Jersey Courts and 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 design steps
- Exercise evaluation
- Designing a functional exercise
- Exercise process
- Tabletop, functional and full scale exercises
- Exercise enhancements

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

August 28-31, 2017 Daily: 0900-1530

At American Red Cross, Greater NY 520 W. 49th St. NY, NY

October 30-November 3, 2017 Daily: 0900-1530

Burlington County Fire Academy, 53 Academy Dr., Westampton, NJ

November 7-10, 2017 Daily: 0900-1530

Holy Name Medical Center, 718 Teaneck Rd., Teaneck, NJ

Registration:

Dates	Partner Agency	How to Register
August 28-31, 2017	American Red Cross	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2hseepaug2017/event/registration.html
October 30-November 3, 2017	NJ Courts	Email Charles Coleman, Charles.colemand@njcourts.gov
November 7-November 10, 2017	Holy Name Medical Center Institute for Simulation Learning	https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2hseepnov17/event/registration.html

Volunteers Needed: Virtual Workshop for Houses of Worship

In an attempt to broaden our reach with preparedness workshops and training, FEMA Region II is seeking your help with rolling out a Virtual Workshop series. It is envisioned that the virtual workshop approach will link various communities together from around the Region to learn, exchange lessons learned and best practices, and to strengthen their abilities to respond to and recover from various disasters.

The first virtual workshop topic will be **Active Shooter Incident for Houses of Worship**, and we are seeking organizations to volunteer to be a part of the first delivery to provide us with feedback.

What is a “House of Worship”?: For the purposes of these discussions, we would define a House of Worship as any public or private facility used for religiously-sponsored activities at the time of an incident. This includes commercial properties used as houses of worship at the time of the incident. Examples include, but are not limited to, churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, and related religious gathering and retreat facilities.

Agenda:

- Presentation: Case studies in Houses of Worship Incidents
- Presentation: Initial Actions – “Run... Hide... Fight”
- Discussion Module on Initial Actions
- Presentation: The Aftermath, What Happens Now?
- Discussion Module on Recovering from an Active Shooter Incident

Dates: September 5, 0900-1200 and September 25, 1800-2100

Location: Seeking volunteer Houses of Worship to host your community team either from you House of Worship or a suitable alternative location

Who: We encourage you to invite participation from within your House of Worship, such as religious leaders, ushers, teachers, counselors, community outreach coordinators, security, etc.; as well as your local police department. Participation is envisioned of perhaps 4 or 5 people, or even more if your organization is motivated.

What You Need: Only a computer with a microphone, preferably with a webcam, and an internet connection.

If interested, email Devin Kerins, Individual and Community Preparedness Officer, at devin.kerins@fema.dhs.gov and let him know what date above you would like to participate in. He will provide you with more details on technological and logistical matters.

FEMA Region II Preparedness Webinar: Preparedness Planning for Senior Citizen Communities

Description: The senior citizen population faces several unique challenges, coupled with the fact that many are often dependent upon others for basic necessities and psychosocial support. This dependency often increases their vulnerability to the impacts of major disasters, when not only are the seniors themselves impacted, but these critical services are also disrupted. Currently, 46.2 million people in the United States are 65 years old or older, with that number expected to increase each year. This population demographic made up 13.3% of the population in the 2011 Census. The ability to recover from an emergency tomorrow often depends on planning and preparation done today. This webinar will provide to older individuals and their caregivers, as well as to the local agencies who serve them, tools and information to assist them in assessing their needs and vulnerabilities so they can be better prepared to cope with emergencies.

Speakers: Ms. Kathleen Otte is the Regional Administrator for HHS Regions I and II for the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL). In this capacity, she represents the Administration and the Assistant Secretary on Aging on all matters related to the implementation of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging related issues within the 8 states and 2 territories she oversees. Prior to joining AoA, Kathleen served as the Director of the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services for the State of New Hampshire. Kathleen and the New Hampshire team designed and implemented a caregiver support program that received national distinction by winning the Regional Innovation Award from The Council of State Governments and developed the nation's first statewide 'Structured Decision Making' process for Adult Protective Services.

Kathleen has over 30 years' experience in the field of aging, having served or volunteered in various human service delivery programs. In 2014, Kathleen received the Spirit of Jane Addams Award for Outstanding Performance in Social Justice from Be the Evidence, International for her work with Elder Justice Initiatives.

Rhonda Schwartz is an Aging Services Program Specialist within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Community Living. Rhonda is assigned to the Regional Office located in Boston, MA, where she works with federal, state and tribal organizations in the region, with particular attention to oversight of the Older Americans Act state and tribal grant programs. Prior to joining ACL in July 2016, Rhonda spent more than seven years managing Older Americans Act and other ACL programs at the Rhode Island Division of Elderly Affairs. Rhonda previously practiced law for sixteen years, specializing in commercial real estate transactions, before pursuing a Masters Degree in Social Work, focusing on older adults.

Date / Time: September 26 2017, 12:00 – 1:00pm EDT

Registration Link: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/r2seniorwebinar/event/registration.html>

FEMA News

Get Ready for National Preparedness Month

The Ready Campaign recently released the September 2017 National Preparedness Month (NPM) theme and [social media toolkit](#), which includes graphics, hashtags, and social media content to share.

This year's theme is "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." In addition to the overarching theme for the month, each week has a theme highlighting different preparedness actions.

The NPM 2017 Weekly Themes are as follows:

- Week 1: September 1-9 - Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends.
- Week 2: September 10-16 - Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community.
- Week 3: September 17-23 - Practice and Build Out Your Plans.
- Week 4: September 24-30 - Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger.

FEMA Hosts Voluntary Organization Partnership Day

On July 26, FEMA hosted more than 30 non-profit organizations at its headquarters, for Voluntary Organization Partnership Day, to promote and recognize the services voluntary, community and faith-based organizations provide to disaster survivors. Throughout the day, dozens of voluntary organizations from across the country and groups from within FEMA participated in an exhibit showcase, open to the public, to provide a forum for FEMA and its whole community partners, enhancing mutual understanding of disaster assistance resources and capabilities.

“FEMA works closely with states, tribes and local agencies to ensure disaster survivors have timely access to a full range of programs and services after a disaster, but voluntary agencies serve an essential role in meeting the needs that FEMA and the states can’t,” said FEMA Administrator Brock Long. “Voluntary agencies provide critical support and resources in the days following a disaster, from food and shelter, to mental health and crisis counseling. Simply put, we could not do it without them.”

FEMA Tribal Outreach and Consultation Period on FEMA Tribal Consultation Policy

FEMA will initiate a 90-day outreach and consultation period from **June 1 to August 29, 2017**, to seek input from federally recognized Indian tribal governments on the update of the agency’s Tribal Consultation Policy. The [FEMA Tribal Consultation Policy](#), first issued in 2014, acknowledges the agency’s nation-to-nation relationship with tribal governments. The policy also guides how FEMA engages tribal governments in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration on policy and actions that have tribal implications.

This consultation period aims to update the policy to reflect current authorities and best practices, as well as follow FEMA’s new policy document format requirements. FEMA seeks input and feedback from tribal leaders, or their designees, during the consultation period to help inform the development of an updated policy.

Visit FEMA’s [Tribal Affairs](#) web page for more information on the tribal consultation period for this policy.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS

What Are You Making?

Here are some food safety tips for preparing a few signature summer dishes.

BARBECUE

Cook all meat and poultry to recommended internal temperatures.

Burgers: 160°F.

Chicken and Turkey: 165°F.

Sausage: 160°F.

Steaks: 145°F
with a 3-minute rest time.

FRUIT SALAD

Rinse all produce before peeling or chopping.

Chop all produce with clean knives on cutting boards not used with raw meat to avoid cross-contamination.

DEVILED EGGS

Refrigerate prepared eggs until they're ready to be served and once out, keep them nestled in ice to keep them cool.

ADDITIONAL SOURCE CDC

USDA

Ad Council

For more summer food safety tips, go to **FoodSafety.gov**

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

FEMA RII Food Safety Tips

- Do not reuse utensils that handled raw meat
- Do not leave perishables out for more than 1-2 hours
- Keep cooler closed, in the shade
- Pack water, soap, and moist towelettes

Four Quick Tips

- Clean** - always wash your fruits and vegetables, hands, counters, and cooking utensils.
- Separate** - keep raw foods to themselves to prevent cross-contamination
- Cook** - Cook raw meat to appropriate safe temperature using food thermometer
- Chill** - keep perishable foods in cooler until ready to eat



Important Deadlines

Apply for the 2018 National Emergency Management Executive Academy

FEMA's EMI is now accepting application packages for the 2018 National Emergency Management Executive Academy. Ideally, candidates will have experience as senior executives of major emergency management organizations, served on major commissions and task forces, or be responsible for decisions that have a significant effect on homeland security and emergency management policies.

Applications will be accepted through **August 15, 2017**. There are a limited number of seats and enrollment is competitive. For more information on the Executive Academy and the application and selection process, visit www.training.fema.gov/EMPP/executive.asp.

Comments Needed for Draft Policy on Floodplain Development

FEMA prepared a draft policy for FEMA staff and communities participating in the NFIP to update guidance for participating communities on satisfying National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain development permit requirements, and to address questions about floodplain permitting of development activities occurring in the FEMA designated Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Through this policy, a community can ensure compliance with NFIP and local floodplain management regulations, while potentially reducing the administrative burden associated with permitting certain types of low-to-no impact development in the floodplain.

This guidance does not intend to address other permits associated with building codes, or other federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial permits, and only applies to floodplain development permitting requirements to enroll in, and maintain eligibility for, the NFIP. The draft policy is available for review on FEMA's website at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/131010>, and the public is invited to provide comment and input via FEMA-Floodplain-Management-Division@fema.dhs.gov until **August 23, 2017**.

EDUCATIONAL / TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NIH to Hold Summit on Caregiving

On August 7-8, 2017, the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) and partners will convene a Summit, The Science of Caregiving: Bringing Voices Together, on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

The summit will provide perspectives across the spectrum of caregiving, including the importance of caregiving across the lifespan as well as current and future directions for research to improve the health of patients and caregivers.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. On-site registration will be available. [Click here](#) to view a list of speakers and the agenda. To schedule interviews or press attendance, please contact Edmond Byrnes at (301) 496-0235, edmond.byrnes@nih.gov.

Date: August 7 12 p.m. - 5p.m. ET, August 8 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Ruth Kirschstein Auditorium, Natcher Building (Building 45) – NIH campus, Bethesda, Maryland

This event will be live streamed and archived at: <https://videocast.nih.gov/>

FEMA EMI Training Opportunity Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series- Earthquake

September 19, 20 & 21 2017, Virtual Exercise – Multiple Locations

Exercise Description:

This Virtual Tabletop Exercises (VTTX) will focus on an earthquake occurring in your community, using historical events and Hazus simulations.

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.

Read more in [Training Opportunity 1314](#).

National Emergency Management Executive Academy Training Opportunity

Course Description: The National Emergency Management Executive Academy is a component of the Emergency Management Professional Program (EMPP).

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) created the National Emergency Management Executive Academy to produce a comprehensive and cutting-edge curriculum that provides the setting for senior emergency management executives to come together to explore and confront contemporary and emerging 21st century challenges. The program hones strategic leadership and critical thinking for senior executives involved with multi-jurisdictional, national, and international homeland security and emergency management policy development and decision making responsibilities.

The program is a competency-based graduate-level executive education experience. That requires working collaboratively on projects and participating in activities with a capstone team to address some of the wicked problems in the emergency management field. Suggestions for a specific emergency management challenge to be addressed by an executive cohort as an Executive Academy capstone project may be submitted to <https://training.fema.gov/empp/executive.aspx>.

NEMEA 2017 Schedule

E0686, Executive EM Leaders Core Competencies III 4 days

Facilitating Community Risk Ownership, Civics/Governance Considerations, Political Skills, Influence Skills

Dates: September 18 – 21, 2017

Location: Emmitsburg, MD

Delivering High Impact Presentations

All FEMA full-time, temporary full-time, and CORE employees in the Washington, D.C. area, are invited to attend a two-day, skill building training session, Creating and Delivering High Impact Presentations. Participants will learn techniques for developing effective presentations applicable to any setting within FEMA.

Dates: August 2-3, 20, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

Registration is required. All classes will be held in the Office of the Chief Component Human Capital Officer (OCCHCO) Training Suite, 500 C Street, 7 SW. For more information, please email: edu@fema.dhs.gov or visit the OCCHCO training page

All-Hazards Position Specific Train-the-Trainer Classes Course Vacancy Announcement:

Please be advised that openings remain in upcoming All-Hazards Position Specific train-the-trainer (TtT) classes for the 2nd Semester of FY 2017. The classes for which openings remain are below:

E-949 – Communication Unit Leader TtT

Aug. 14-16, 2017

E-974 – Finance/Administration Section Chief TtT

Sept. 11-13, 2017

E-953 – Public Information Officer TtT

Sept. 25-29, 2017

Read more in [Training Bulletin1318](#).

Small Business Development Center at Kean University: Cybersecurity classes

Every day the media reports new cybersecurity attacks on large, well-known companies. What is not reported are the growing number of small businesses that are being targeted. It's a common misconception that hackers primarily target organizations and business. The reality is the risky behavior of individuals, whether intentional or not, is what often leads to security breaches.

Keep your business safe from cyber threats. We offer two free interactive courses and a downloadable cybersecurity workbook.

Go to <https://www.sbdckean.com/training/cybersecurity-readiness/> for online courses

OTHER NEWS

Improve Your Cyber Posture: Beware of “SMiSHing” Social Engineering Attacks

In the information security context, social engineering is the use of deception to manipulate individuals into divulging confidential or personal information for fraudulent purposes. Last month, we warned against the dangers of “phishing” (social engineering via email), and this month we are focusing on “SMiSHing,” which is conducted through SMS (Short Message Service), also known as text messaging.

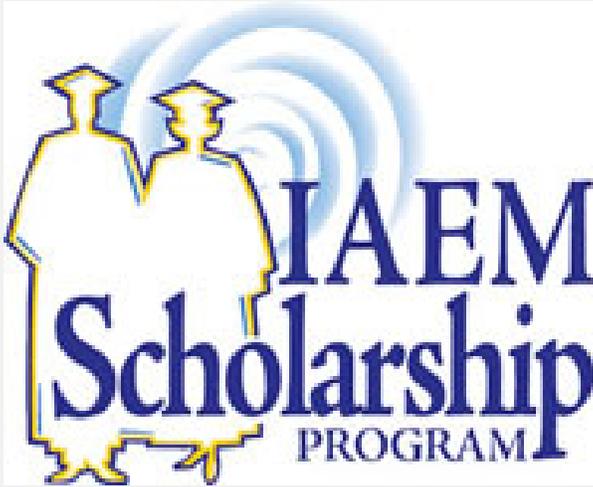
SMiSHing attacks use text messages containing a link to a fraudulent website or a phone number to attempt to access your sensitive information. SMiSh messages usually convey a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly without much thought. For instance, there may be an offer of something for free if you act now, or you may be urged to respond right away to keep something bad from happening. Criminals like SMiSHing because users tend to trust text messages more than email and are more likely to fall for this scam. Many people store their personal and financial data on their smartphone, and once a phone is compromised, the criminal can steal your data, use your location to track you, access personal pictures, or even launch other cyber-attacks.



Please take the following measures to protect yourself and DHS from SMiSHing attacks:

- Avoid clicking links within text messages, especially if they are from someone you do not know. Be aware, however, that SMiSHing messages can also appear to come from someone you know. If a text message from someone you know seems suspicious, call the contact – dial from your phone’s contacts list rather than clicking any links – and confirm that the message is legitimate before proceeding.
- Do not respond to text messages that request private or financial information from you.
- If a text message is urging you to act or respond quickly, stop and think about it. Criminals use this as a tactic to get you to do what they want.
- Never reply to a suspicious text message without doing your research and verifying the source.
- Never call a phone number from an unknown texter.
- Remember: if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is

IAEM Launches Scholarships for Part-Time Grad Students



The IAEM Scholarship Commission announces a part-time student scholarship for graduate students also involved in emergency management or disaster management through employment or volunteer activities. This program is a trial program and will be evaluated prior to continuance in future years. The goal of the program is to assist hard-working deserving students who are working on an advanced degree in emergency management, disaster management, or closely related program of study. The [application and instructions](#) are available now on the IAEM website. Completed applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted via email to shiley@iaem.com by **11:59 p.m. EDT on Aug. 31, 2017**.



EMI Flood Virtual TTX

September 18 – 21, 2017

E0686, Executive EM Leaders Core Competencies III 4 days

Facilitating Community Risk Ownership, Civics/Governance Considerations, Political Skills, Influence Skills

Location: Emmitsburg, MD

EMI Training Opportunity Virtual TTX Series

September 5, 6 & 7, 2017

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Chlorine Release Virtual Exercise – Multiple Locations

September 19, 20 & 21 2017

V-0001 - Virtual Tabletop Exercise Series (VTTX) – Earthquake Virtual Exercise – Multiple Locations.

For more information contact **Douglas M. Kahn**, douglas.kahn@fema.dhs.gov

EMI Training E-Forums: Wednesdays in August

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) will host e-forms entitled: "One Link, One Bridge, Many Voices." In August, EMI is offering e-forms every Wednesday. 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 exchanges of ideas are free of charge and available to anyone who wishes to participate.

August 9, 2017 at 3-4pm Eastern Time

The Emergency Management Professional Program: Bringing the Whole Community Together

August 16, 2017 at 3-4pm Eastern Time

Public Information Officers: Training Builds Capability We are Proud of

August 23, 2017 at 3-4pm Eastern Time

Improving Local Recovery: Training as a Success Maker

August 30, 2017 at 3-4pm Eastern Time

State Training Officer and State Admin Agent TPOC: Working Together Achieves Better Outcomes

Participants can sign into the August webinars via [Adobe Connect](#) or dial in via conference call at 800-320-4330, PIN 107622 For questions, [contact EMI](#).

This Week's Must Reads

BBR (Building a Better Response) Field Perspectives

Disaster Information Management Research Center, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

This two-season web series explores complex topics in humanitarian response. Season 1 has 12 videos; Season 2 has four videos. Through exclusive interviews, senior humanitarian practitioners give unique insights about their experiences working within the humanitarian sector. *For more information, please click on the title link or [click here](#).*



The Health Watch: Keeping Your Neighborhood Secure

Public Health Emergency

Looking for a way to improve health security in your community? Consider starting a neighborhood health watch! Creating a neighborhood health watch is one way you can start helping those in need and protect our nation's health security. Get started with these 7 steps! *For more information, please click on the title link or [click here](#).*