



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for January 16, 2020

Cops: FL Woman Was Building a Bomb in Walmart - with a kid!

(Newser) A Florida woman is facing charges of attempted arson and firebombing after police say she tried to build a bomb inside a Walmart. Emily Stallard, 37, "had all the supplies she needed to cause mass destruction" when she was arrested at the Tampa store around 6pm Saturday, Hillsborough Sheriff Chad Chronister said in a statement, per the Tampa Bay Times. "Had it not been for an alert off-duty law enforcement officer and a watchful security staff at Walmart, she may have followed through with her plans to cause an explosion inside the store." A security guard first noticed Stallard—accompanied *by a child*—opening items on shelves, including what the sheriff's office said were "flammable materials, projectiles and matches." **Read full story with links to more:** <https://www.newser.com/story/285665/cops-woman-was-building-a-bomb-in-walmart.html>

Warning of 'serious threats' Virginia governor bans weapons at gun-rights rally

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam on Wednesday said he would ban all firearms and other weapons around the state capitol building this weekend, ahead of a major gun-rights demonstration expected to draw thousands of people. Gun-rights advocates, including militia groups and ultraconservative activists, are planning a "Lobby Day" rally on Monday (which is also Martin Luther King Day).

Full story: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-guns-rally/virginia-plans-emergency-gun-ban-at-capitol-ahead-of-protest-ap-idUSKBN1ZE1RM>

Record number of guns seized at US airports last year

(CNN) More guns were seized at airports across the United States last year than ever before in the Transportation Security Administration's 18-year history, the agency reported Wednesday. The 4,432 firearms detected in carry-on and checked bags at TSA airport checkpoints represent an approximately 5% increase over the 4,239 found in 2018 -- and 87% of the firearms found last year were loaded.

The TSA detected the most firearms -- 323 -- at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, followed by Dallas/Fort Worth International (217); Denver International (140); George Bush Intercontinental in Houston (138); and Phoenix Sky Harbor International (132). Firearms were found at 278 airport checkpoints nationwide.

While travelers, even with permits, cannot carry guns onto an airplane, properly permitted gun owners can travel with their firearms in checked luggage if they follow TSA and airline guidelines. Even if they fly legally with their firearms, they are still subject to local and state gun laws wherever they land.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/tsa-seizes-record-number-of-firearms-2019/index.html>

NSA finds major security flaw in Windows 10, free fix issued

(AP) The National Security Agency has discovered a major security flaw in Microsoft's Windows 10 operating system that could let hackers intercept seemingly secure communications. But rather than exploit the flaw for its own intelligence needs, the NSA tipped off Microsoft so that it can fix the system for everyone.

Microsoft released a free software patch to fix the flaw Tuesday and credited the intelligence agency for discovering it. The company said it has not seen any evidence that hackers have used the technique.

Full AP story: <https://apnews.com/4e57a0cff03de2198a0cf7b12665132f>

How to Upgrade to Windows 10 For 'Free' In 2020

<https://news360.com/article/517945896>

Microsoft ends Windows 7 support

<https://news360.com/article/517866240>

HHS urges health care entities to patch new Windows vulnerabilities

(AHA Today) The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response strongly recommends that all health care and public health entities consider patching as soon as possible several new critical vulnerabilities affecting Microsoft Windows operating systems. "This recommendation is based on the likelihood of the vulnerabilities being weaponized,

combined with the widespread use of the affected software across the sector and high potential for a compromise of integrity and confidentiality of information," ASPR's Division of Critical Infrastructure Protection said yesterday in a bulletin to the sector. For more on the vulnerabilities and recommended actions, see the [alert](#) from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. For more information on this or other cybersecurity issues, contact John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk, at jriggi@aha.org.

Link to CISA Alert: <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/current-activity/2020/01/14/cisa-releases-emergency-directive-and-activity-alert-critical>

Aviation experts puzzled after airliner dumps fuel over city

(ABC) Some aviation experts said Wednesday that they were puzzled after the crew of a commercial airliner decided to dump fuel at low altitude during an emergency landing, causing a vapor to fall on schoolyards and neighborhoods east of Los Angeles International Airport. Los Angeles County firefighters were called to schools where nearly 60 children and adults were examined for minor skin and lung irritations, but none required hospitalization. Fire Inspector Sky Cornell also said monitoring showed the vapor wasn't flammable.

Little is known about the health effects of exposure to kerosene-type jet fuel, according to the federal Health and Human Services Department. Studies using military personnel suggest it can affect the nervous system, but that research involved people who work around jet fuel all the time. Rats that were fed kerosene showed no increase in tumors, the agency said in a 2017 summary.

The Los Angeles County Public Health Department said students that were exposed to the fuel vapor were sent home with instructions on how to clean themselves with soap and water and to thoroughly wash their clothes and to discard them if the odor remained.

Read more: <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/us-investigating-jet-dumped-fuel-doused-schoolkids-68307022>

Wave of "struck-by" deaths prompts traffic incident safety message

([USFA EMR-ISAC](#)) The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) joins eight other North American fire service organizations in a "[Joint North American Firefighter Survival Message](#)," bringing increased attention to safety at roadway operations following [several struck-by incidents this year resulting in the deaths and injuries of firefighters, law enforcement officers and other responders](#).

According to USFA, 10 percent of firefighter fatalities in 2019 were from struck-by incidents. These kinds of incidents are preventable, but solving the problem will take increased awareness and education – for both the public and first responder personnel.



In the joint message, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) shares "[10 Tips For Responding and Operating on Roadway and Highway Incidents](#)" first responders should use to minimize risks. In addition, the organizations involved provide scene safety resources and training for first responders. Links to these resources are at the bottom of the [joint message](#).

It should come as no surprise that distracted driving is increasing, partly due to the use of smartphones and other devices. Departments should strongly consider pushing safety messaging to drivers through social media and regular media. USFA has a [social media graphic available for both Facebook and Twitter](#).

ResponderSafety.com offers both [videos and public service announcements](#). See a list of move

over [laws for each state and Canadian province](#) on the Automobile Association of America website.

First responder agencies and others who work roadway operations need to be proactive on this issue in order to prevent future struck-by injuries and deaths. Train on known best practices for better scene safety at every roadway incident. (Source: [IAFC](#))

[In Australia, the Air Poses a Threat:
People are Rushing to Hospital in Cities Choked by Smoke](#)

(The Washington Post) Australia's bush fires have blanketed parts of the continent with pollution, affecting hundreds of thousands of people who are not in immediate danger from the flames. Government agencies and medical officials say distress calls, ambulance runs, and hospital emergency room visits have surged. Even some federal departments in the capital had to temporarily shutter offices and tell nonessential staff to stay away. [Article](#)

Hottest decade was the hottest on record

(PBS/AP) The decade that just ended was by far the hottest ever measured on Earth, capped off by the second-warmest year on record, two U.S. agencies reported on Wednesday. Scientists said they see no end to the way man-made climate change keeps shattering records.

"This is real. This is happening," Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said at the close of a decade plagued by raging wildfires, melting ice and extreme weather that researchers have repeatedly tied to human activity.

The 2010s averaged 58.4 degrees Fahrenheit (14.7 degrees Celsius) worldwide, or 1.4 degrees (0.8 C) higher than the 20th century average and more than one-third of a degree (one-fifth of a degree C) warmer than the previous decade, which had been the hottest on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The decade had eight of the 10 hottest years on record. The only other years in the top 10 were 2005 and 1998.

NASA and NOAA also calculated that 2019 was the second-hottest year in the 140 years of record-keeping.

Full story: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/the-last-decade-was-the-hottest-on-record>

KyTC calls Real ID "Complicated"

(WKYT) Secretary of Transportation Jim Gray is calling the changes needed to make Kentuckians Real ID compliant, "complicated." His cabinet's goal is to create 12 regional offices, places where drivers can get REAL IDs, by the end of the year. Eventually, he'd like to have 28 to 30 statewide. He says the state has budgeted four million dollars for changes, but if it costs more than that, Gray will take money from the road fund. Gray promised the House Committee on Transportation that by October, when federal law changes the way travelers board planes and enter federal buildings, Kentuckians will be ready.

Read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Jim-Gray-outlines-challenges-of-Kentucky-REAL-IDs-567019271.html>

Louisville Files Federal Lawsuit Against JUUL

Joins more than 200 other cases

Read more: <https://wfpl.org/louisville-files-federal-lawsuit-against-juul/>

New Texting Service Aims to Help Kentucky Youth Quit Vaping

(WFPL) Kentucky has partnered with a national texting service in order to help young people quit vaping. The free service, "This Is Quitting," started nationwide last year and launched a partnership with Kentucky's Department for Public Health this December. It targets youth between the ages of 13 and 24 and provides up to nine weeks of coaching and supportive texts to quit vaping. Those who are not within the age range will be directed to other services.

DPH Supervisor of Health Promotion Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland said the service is meant to help young people who aren't comfortable using some of the more traditional supports meant to help people quit using tobacco. To enroll in the texting service, youth must send "KENTUCKY" to the number 88709. Anderson-Hoagland said the texting service will be available as long as people use it.

Full story: <https://wfpl.org/new-texting-service-aims-to-help-kentucky-youth-quit-vaping/>

November story from WTVQ on "My Life, My Quit" program: <https://www.wtvq.com/2019/11/18/ky-health-department-launches-free-service-help-teens-stop-vaping/>

Johns Hopkins: Health Security Headlines
Extracts from [January 16, 2020](#)

[Second family cluster found in Wuhan novel coronavirus outbreak](#) (CIDRAP) A few more details emerged from the probe into a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak linked to a market in Wuhan, China, including

news of another family cluster—who may have been exposed to the same source—and more information on positive environmental specimens taken from the market.

[Health authorities confirm novel virus case tied to Chinese outbreak in Japan](#) (STAT) Japanese health officials have confirmed a pneumonia case caused by a previously unknown virus that started an outbreak in China, becoming the third country to identify the virus and raising additional questions about how it is spread.

New study reveals increase in alcohol-related deaths

(Everyday Health) People dying annually from alcohol-related illnesses or accidents more than doubled from 1999 to 2017, due in large part to the rise in drinking among women, the study found.

Indeed, the deaths associated with alcohol use among women rose 85 percent, from 7,662 in 1999 to 18,072 in 2017. Researchers, who published their results in January 2020 in *Alcoholism Clinical & Experimental Research*, accounted for population growth when drawing their results.

Although more men die from alcohol-related causes, the overall increase after factoring in population growth was about 35 percent, climbing from 35,914 in 1999 to 72,558 in 2017. There was about a 10 percent increase of women who drink and about a 23 percent increase in the prevalence of binge drinking in women, according to a meta-analysis cited by the authors that was [published in October 2018 in *Alcohol, Clinical, and Experimental Research*](#). Emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to alcohol have risen for women as well.

Full story: <https://www.everydayhealth.com/diet-nutrition/alcohol-related-deaths-are-on-the-rise-new-study-shows/>
(ABC GMA Video Report) <https://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Wellness/video/study-reveals-increase-alcohol-related-deaths-68265233>

Multiple Ky. schools close for rest of week due to widespread illness

(WLEX18) School officials in Owsley, Lewis, and Wolfe counties have canceled classes for the rest of the week, citing widespread illness in the communities. Lewis County also canceled for the rest of the week and will be utilizing NTI days as well.

Full story: <https://www.lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/wolfe-owsley-schools-close-for-rest-of-week-due-to-widespread-illness>

Related stories:

[UK HealthCare restricting visitors during flu season](#)

(WKYT) UK HealthCare is putting some visitor restrictions into place to be proactive during flu season. The measures are temporary and are meant to protect other patients' health.

The restrictions are in effect at all UK HealthCare inpatient units, including University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital, Kentucky Children's Hospital, UK Good Samaritan Hospital, and Eastern State Hospital.

The restrictions include no visitors under the age of 12, no visitors with any flu-like symptoms, and only two visitors in a patient's room at a time. Some visitors may be given masks or other protective clothing when they visit one of the hospitals.

See and read more: <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/UK-HealthCare-restricting-visitors-during-flu-season-567018491.html>

[Flu leaves a 4-year-old girl blind in Iowa](#)

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/11/health/flu-blinds-iowa-girl-erprise/index.html>

New FEMA Administrator Confirmed

(US DHS) Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad F. Wolf issued the following statement this morning: "Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed Pete Gaynor to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)."

He went on to say, "As Acting Administrator of FEMA throughout 2019 and into 2020, Gaynor led the agency's recovery efforts for many devastating disasters, including the California wildfires, tornado outbreaks, severe storms, flooding in the Midwest, and the Puerto Rico earthquakes. And as Deputy Administrator for the 2018 hurricane season, Pete guided FEMA through some tremendous challenges to provide much needed assistance to disaster survivors across the country. Pete's experience as both a state and local emergency manager, combined with more than two decades of service in the U.S. Marine Corps, have made him an invaluable leader of the agency."

KY lawmakers considering bill demanding state's public agencies cooperate with ICE

Learn more: <https://www.kyforward.com/kentucky-lawmakers-considering-bill-demanding-states-public-agencies-cooperate-with-ice/>

***FDA - Statement on quality issues with certain
Cardinal Health surgical gowns and packs***

On Jan. 11 and again on Jan. 15, 2020, medical device manufacturer Cardinal Health alerted its customers to potential quality issues affecting some of its Level 3 surgical gowns and PreSource procedural packs that contain these gowns. Cardinal Health recommends, and the FDA agrees, that customers should immediately discontinue use of all affected surgical gowns and PreSource procedural packs that include these surgical gowns because the manufacturer cannot provide assurance the products are sterile. The FDA is working to assess the cause and full impact of these concerns. [01/16/2020]

(Statement from Jeffrey Shuren, M.D., J.D., Director of the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health)

Link to full statement: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/statement-quality-issues-certain-cardinal-health-surgical-gowns-and-packs>

***Applications being Accepted
CDC Public Health Associate Program***

CDC looking for college recent graduates, and those graduating college this semester, for their Public Health Associate program. Applications will be taken the week of January 22-28. PHAP is a two year, competitive, paid training program for early-career public health professionals. Associates are employed and paid by CDC and work at state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments; nongovernmental organizations; public health institutes and associations; academic institutions; and CDC quarantine stations.

Prospective candidates can learn more about the PHAP application process, explore PHAP's BEST FIT model to find out if the program is a good fit for them, find answers to frequently asked questions, and learn about associate experiences by visiting the [Become an Associate](#) section of the [PHAP website](#). Applicants must apply through the federal hiring website: www.usajobs.gov. Those with further questions about PHAP or the application process can email phap@cdc.gov or call 404-498-0030.

***DHS Announces Proposed Rule Regarding Equal Treatment of
Faith-Based Organizations in DHS-Supported Social Service Programs***

(US DHS) The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today is proposing a rule that would implement President Trump's Executive Order No. 13831 (May 3, 2018) to remove regulatory burdens on religious organizations and ensure that religious and non-religious organizations are treated equally in DHS-supported programs. The proposed rule would ensure that DHS-supported social service programs are implemented in a manner consistent with the Constitution and other applicable federal law.

Specifically, the proposed rule provides instructions on religious liberty protections to the organizations that participate in DHS supported social service programs, including the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Citizenship and Integration Program Grant, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Food and Shelter Program, FEMA Crisis Counseling, and FEMA Disaster Case Management.

The proposed rule also would foreclose other unequal treatment of religious organizations by ensuring that they are not required to provide assurances or notices that are not required of secular organizations. By compelling religious organizations, but not secular organizations, to post special notices and make referrals, the alternative-provider requirements unequally placed burdens on religious organizations and cast unwarranted suspicion on them.

Read full press release for more: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/bulletins/2769003>

***FEMA NIMS Alert 01-20: PrepTalk on
Harnessing the Power of Disaster Insurance***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bz30k9uBnfo&feature=youtu.be>

***CDC Clinician's Call
HHS Guide for Clinicians on the Appropriate Dosage Reduction
or Discontinuation of Long-Term Opioid Analgesics***

Thursday, Jan 30, 2020 @2 PM ET
Connect to: <https://zoom.us/j/316891067>

Or join by iPhone one-tap:
US: +16468769923,, 316891067# or +16699006833,, 316891067#

Or join by Telephone:
US: +1 6468769923 or +16699006833
Webinar ID: 316 891 067

More info, presentation slides when posted, and CE Info:
https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2020/callinfo_013020.asp?deliveryName=DM17162

Link to HHS Guide: https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/sites/default/files/2019-10/Dosage_Reduction_Discontinuation.pdf?deliveryName=DM17162

Cutting the Red Tape:

Changes to CMS Emergency Preparedness Requirements

(RPA Informational Article) On September 30, 2019, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule (regulation) regarding burden reduction for healthcare. This was in direct action to President Trump's direction to agencies across the Federal Government to "cut the red tape," by reducing unnecessary burden for healthcare providers, allowing them to focus on their priority: *patients*.

As a reminder, the rule addresses seventeen provider types including Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals, Long Term Care, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Home Healthcare Agencies, Dialysis Centers and others.

The final rule focuses on the following:

- Regulatory Provisions to Promote Program Efficiency, Transparency, and Burden Reduction (cost savings)
- Hospital & Critical Access Hospital changes to promote innovation, flexibility, and improvement in patient care
- Fire Safety Requirements for Certain Dialysis Facilities. The final rule finalizes requirements for dialysis facilities that do not provide one or more exits to the outside at grade level from the patient treatment area level, by incorporating references to the 2012 edition of NFPA 101 and NFPA 99.
- Emergency Preparedness Programs

Full article: <http://www.phillipsllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CMS-Burden-Reduction-1-2020.pdf>

Read the CMS Fact Sheet online: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/omnibus-burden-reduction-conditions-participation-final-rule-cms-3346-f>

Read the Final Rule online: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/09/30/2019-20736/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-regulatory-provisions-to-promote-program-efficiency-transparency-and>

KY Hospital Association Webinars on CMS COP

Throughout the year, KHA will host a series of webinars with featured speaker Sue Dill Calloway on updates to CMS standards. These programs ensure your hospital is prepared to meet all new requirements and is in compliance. **Click HERE for a schedule:** <http://www.new-kyha.com/NewsBlog/tabid/550/EntryId/1716/2020-CMS-Conditions-of-Participation-CoP-Webinars.aspx>

CDC Webinar: Communication Partnerships for Public Health Emergencies

January 29, 2020, at 1 p.m. ET - Webinar on [communication partnerships for public health emergencies](#). In an emergency, how do you share potentially life-saving information with people who are hardest to reach? The answer – sometimes the only answer – is by working with partners who can reach those hard-to-reach populations. The webinar link, dial-in numbers and other connecting information are available on the CDC website: https://emergency.cdc.gov/epic/learn/webinar_20200129.asp?deliveryName=DM17055

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.