



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for July 6, 2019

New 7.1 earthquake hits Southern California -- 1 day after largest temblor in decades

(Fox) A magnitude 7.1 [earthquake](#) hit Kern County in [California](#) on Friday evening -- just a day after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake that was the largest temblor in the region in two decades, the U.S. Geological Survey confirmed.

Shaking on Friday evening was felt as far away as Las Vegas and Los Angeles and into northern Mexico. The USGS said there was a 5 percent chance a larger quake could still follow.

The newest earthquake's epicenter was about 10 miles north-northeast of Ridgecrest, Calif., about 150 miles northeast of [Los Angeles](#), in the same area where Thursday's quake occurred. The Ridgecrest area has had more than 100 aftershocks since Thursday's earthquake and experts warn there could be more to come.

Full story: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/magnitude-6-9-earthquake-hits-southern-california-1-day-after-largest-in-decades>

Mercy Health Medical Pavilion temporarily evacuated due to Smoke from faulty fan

<https://www.wpsdlocal6.com/2019/07/05/mercy-health-paducah-medical-pavilion-evacuated/>

Facebook Wants to Limit the Reach of Bogus Medical 'Cures' by Treating Them Like Spam

(*Washington Post*) In private Facebook groups devoted to natural treatments for cancer and other ailments, hundreds of thousands of members tell each other that baking soda, apple cider vinegar and frankincense are cures that doctors don't want you to know about. Parents of children with autism have their own groups devoted to unscientific treatments — like swallowing bleach — that they believe will "heal" their children. Facebook on Tuesday announced that it is taking steps to limit the reach of these false and sometimes dangerous claims by treating them as similar to clickbait or spam.

AT&T suffers nationwide 911 service outage

(Fiercewireless) AT&T suffered a nationwide service outage for about two hours early Tuesday that prevented AT&T cellphone customers from calling 911 or sending text messages. Service was restored later in the morning.

"Earlier this morning some wireless customers may have been unable to connect to 911," read a statement issued AT&T at 8:20 a.m Central Time. "This has been resolved, and we apologize to anyone who was affected." AT&T did not disclose the cause of the outage.

Source: <https://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/at-t-suffers-nationwide-911-service-outage>

New Developments Shaping the Public Safety Communications

(Forbes) Unlike the commercial sector driven by market demand, the public safety communication market is exclusively guided by safety codes set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the International Code Council (ICC), specifically their International Fire Codes ([IFC](#)). These codes are interpreted and enforced by various authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs) in their respective regions and are usually revisited every two to three years with new mandates for compliance. As these codes evolve, so do mandated purchase decisions for building owners, including specially designed public safety distributed antenna systems (DAS), repeaters and passive components for enhanced in-building wireless communications.

How commercially available cellular technology impacts the safety of the public is tied to both public networks and those reserved for government use. [FirstNet](#) was created as an exclusive nationwide network for first responders and other public safety officials with hard lessons learned in the aftermath of 9/11.

On the private citizen side, E911 (“Enhanced 911”) has been a mandate from the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) for carriers to provide infrastructure that transmits cellular caller locations to 911 response centers and use that same geolocation to route the call to the most appropriate dispatch center.

The next generation of 911, called NG911, is already in progress. The [vision](#) for it is a "nationwide, standards-based, all-IP emergency communications infrastructure enabling voice and multimedia communications between a 911 caller, the 911 center, and on to responders in the field." This could include individuals sending photos and streaming videos of accidents or crimes in progress or perhaps sharing medical information to assist emergency personnel.

Read full story: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2019/07/03/new-developments-shaping-the-public-safety-communications-market/#264a68284726>

**Memphis’ Methodist Hospitals Suspend Debt Collection Suits,
Including Suits Against Employees**

(NPR) After an investigation by journalists found the Methodist hospital system had filed 8,300 lawsuits in five years, the hospital announced it will be "reviewing" its policies in the next 30 days.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare, the largest hospital system in Memphis, Tenn., said it has suspended "court collection activities" over unpaid medical bills — just days after [an investigation by MLK50 and ProPublica](#) (which [also appeared on NPR](#)) detailed its relentless pursuit of debts held by poor people and even its own employees.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/07/03/738638055/memphis-hospitals-suspend-debt-collection-suits-including-suits-against-employee>

Study: Air ambulance charges rising, much more than what Medicare pays

(AHA Today) Air ambulances charged an average four to 10 times what Medicare paid for their services in 2016, according to a [study](#) reported this week in Health Affairs. The national median charge was \$39,000 in 2016, about 60% more than in 2012, the study found. "Our results suggest that without congressional or regulatory effort to address air ambulance billing practices, patients — who in emergencies have few options and little bargaining power — are at risk of exposure to excessive charges," the authors said. The Lower Health Care Costs Act, [approved](#) last week by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, would pay air ambulance providers a benchmark rate and limit patients' cost sharing for out-of-network services to the in-network requirement. The AHA supports addressing air ambulances in a federal solution to end surprise medical bills, but has serious concerns with using a benchmark rate to resolve payments between health plans and out-of-network providers.

**FEMA NIMS Alert 22-19: RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION: NIMS JOB TITLES/POSITION
QUALIFICATIONS AND RESOURCE TYPING DEFINITIONS AND NQS JOB TITLES/POSITION
QUALIFICATIONS AND POSITION TASK BOOKS**

FEMA’s National Integration Center today released 13 Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Resource Typing Definitions documents related to the following core capabilities of the National Preparedness Goal:

- Fire Management and Suppression
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Mass Care Services
- Public Information and Warning

Additionally, the National Integration Center is releasing supporting tools for the National Qualification System, including:

- NQS Job Titles/Position Qualifications for Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and an Incident/Exercise Evaluator that define minimum qualifications criteria for personnel serving in these positions; and

- NQS Position Task Books (PTB) for EHP and an Incident/Exercise Evaluator that identify the competencies, behaviors, and tasks that personnel should demonstrate to become qualified for these positions.

NIMS is a key component of U.S. incident management efforts and enables organizations from across the country to work together during incidents of all kinds and sizes. Implementing NIMS across the nation is a fundamental part of building our national preparedness. NIMS Job Titles/Position Qualifications and Resource Typing Definitions define minimum qualifications and capabilities for personnel and their equipment within their assigned teams to manage all threats and hazards, regardless of the incident's cause or size.

To view the NIMS Resource Typing documents visit the [Resource Typing Library Tool](#) (RTLTL).

To view the NQS Supporting Tools, visit <https://www.fema.gov/national-qualification-system>.

For any question regarding NIMS or related products please contact fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA seeks feedback on HSEEP refresh

([InfoGram](#)) The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began an open review of the 2013 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) doctrine this week. FEMA seeks to incorporate lessons learned and best practices from the past six years of HSEEP's use among the whole community's exercise practitioners.

Initial outreach and engagement runs July 1 through August 15, 2019. Feedback/suggestion will be accepted through August 15 at: HSEEP@fema.dhs.gov. Secondary outreach and engagement based on initial inputs is slated for October 1-21, 2019.

A critical element of the HSEEP review process is direct engagement with state, local, tribal, territorial and Federal partners and stakeholders. FEMA will conduct a series of one-hour webinars open to all stakeholders. Webinars currently scheduled:

- Monday, July 8, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern.
- Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern.
- Friday, July 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern.
- Monday, July 22, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern.
- Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern.
- Friday, July 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Eastern.

No pre-registration is necessary. Webinars are held through Adobe Connect. The call-in number is 1-800-320-4330; PIN 504024#.

Through HSEEP, exercise program managers can develop, execute and evaluate exercises addressing priorities established by an organizations' leaders. The use of HSEEP – in line with the National Preparedness Goal and the National Preparedness System – supports efforts across the whole community, improving our national capacity to build, sustain and deliver core capabilities.

Learn more: <https://www.fema.gov/hseep>

US-CERT: NCSC Releases Advisory on Ryuk Ransomware

[DHS is reporting](#) that the United Kingdom (UK) National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has released an advisory, [Ryuk Ransomware Targeting Organisations Globally](#), on their ongoing investigation into global Ryuk ransomware campaigns and associated Emotet and TrickBot malware.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) encourages administrators to review the NCSC advisory and the following for more information:

- Alert [TA18-201A: Emotet Malware](#)
- Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) [White Paper: Security Primer – TrickBot](#)
- [Protecting Against Ransomware](#)

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.