



CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN



## Alerts & Announcements

### CISA Shares Resources on COVID-19 and Elections

Across the Nation, thousands of election officials are working to manage the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on election administration. As the Nation's risk advisor, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is coordinating with government and industry partners to address these challenges to election security.

CISA has compiled an up-to-date [library of resources](#) to help election officials adapt to the current environment.

Learn more on the CISA COVID-19 and Elections website: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPD>.

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### CISA Releases SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants

CISA recently released the *Fiscal Year 2020 SAFECOM Guidance on Emergency Communications Grants (SAFECOM Guidance)*. This guide is updated annually to provide current information on emergency communications policies, eligible costs, best practices, and technical standards for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial grant recipients investing federal funds in emergency communications projects.

The *SAFECOM Guidance* aligns with the updated 2019 National Emergency Communications Plan, which emphasizes the need to enhance governance structures, plans, and protocols that enable emergency responders to communicate under any circumstance. It aims to maximize the use of all communications capabilities available to public safety officials — voice, video, and data — and to ensure those communications are secure.

To access and to learn more about the *SAFECOM Guidance*, visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGmX>.

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## SchoolSafety.gov Publishes COVID-19 Updates

Since the launch of [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) in February, the website has had significant success, including more than 144,000 page views, and over 55,000 site visits.

SchoolSafety.gov has most recently been updated with a [COVID-19 section](#) that links users to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Education's COVID-related pages with school-specific guidance. CISA will update this section of the homepage as new COVID-19 resources and guidance become available.

In addition, the homepage now includes an "opportunities and events" section highlighting upcoming grant deadlines, trainings, webinars, and other timely information. During the month of March, the School Safety team successfully trained 215 stakeholders on the tools and functionality of SchoolSafety.gov.

To access the SchoolSafety.gov homepage, visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGmm>.

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## CISA Supports Rural Communities in Delivery of Medical Care

CISA released the closeout report for the [2016 Rural Emergency Medical Communications Demonstration Project \(REMCDP\)](#). The report highlights grant recipient University of Mississippi Medical Center's accomplishments and lessons learned throughout the period of performance, which ended April 30, 2019.

The report includes several lessons learned identified by the University of Mississippi Medical Center, as well as recommendations for future action. Lessons learned include implementing flexible data gathering techniques, adjusting course materials to meet participant familiarity, and leveraging the project champion to identify training partners. CISA will continue to develop tools, templates, and training materials to assist other rural communities, mitigate challenges, apply lessons learned, and ultimately enable communities to replicate REMCDP's successes.

The REMCDP closeout report is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPk>. For questions on the REMCDP or this report, please contact [ECD@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:ECD@cisa.dhs.gov).

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## Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Authorization is Extended

On March 27, the President and Congress extended authorization for the [Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards \(CFATS\) program](#) from April 17, 2020 to July 23, 2020, as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This extension will provide additional time for Congress to take action on the CFATS program.

CISA is committed to working with Congress on a long-term solution to the consistent threat of chemical terrorism.

Read the standards in full on the CISA website: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPN>.

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## Events

### Chemical Sector Security Summit

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, the in-person [2020 Chemical Sector Security Summit](#) originally planned for July 2020 will likely be postponed. CISA is currently developing a plan for an alternative event and will release details and updates as soon as possible.

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### **Partner Webinar: How to Avoid COVID-19 Scams**

Cyber criminals take advantage of national and global crises, creating scams that prey upon the generosity and confusion of the public. But scammers aren't just online – they work over the phone, through mailers, and even in person.

During this webinar, the [National Cyber Security Alliance](#) (NCSA) and partners will break down some of the most common COVID-19 scams, along with tips and resources on how to avoid them.

- **Date & Time:** May 26, 2020, 2:00 p.m. ET
  - **Registration:** Register on the [NCSA Events page](#).
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## **Featured Resources**

### **Priority Services Available to State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Officials**

Natural disasters, power outages, and even software problems can cripple an entire region's telephone services. To mitigate connectivity issues during such scenarios, CISA provisions and manages priority telecommunications services over commercial networks which enable National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) personnel to communicate across the country.

CISA offers the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS), Wireless Priority Service (WPS), and Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) programs to Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial officials.

- [GETS](#): Nationwide landline telephone service that provides priority NS/EP telecommunications
- [WPS](#): Nationwide wireless NS/EP telephone service that interoperates with GETS to provide Priority Services via selected commercial wireless service providers
- [TSP](#): Priority provisioning and restoration of critical NS/EP circuits.

These critical services are more important than ever as NS/EP communities work to mitigate the impacts of the worldwide COVID-19 crisis.

Any individual who has a NS/EP role, such as key personnel with crisis-management responsibilities or senior managers required to communicate during emergencies, is eligible to subscribe to both GETS and WPS. In addition, many State, Local, Tribal, Territorial, and private sector agencies have a GETS/WPS point of contact who can enroll their organization's authorized GETS and WPS users.

To learn more, please visit the [CISA Priority Services website](#) or contact the Priority Telecommunications Service Center toll free at [866-627-2255](tel:866-627-2255), [703-676-2255](tel:703-676-2255), or via email at [support@priority-info.com](mailto:support@priority-info.com).

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### **Active Shooter Preparedness Resources Available 24/7 Online at CISA.gov**

The Active Shooter Preparedness Program remains focused on assisting critical infrastructure partners and stakeholders through a "whole of community" approach, providing a wide variety of training, products, and resources

for soft target and crowded places security preparedness. The increase in domestic and international incidents indicates an evolving threat environment.

During this extended social-distancing period, CISA encourages you to visit the active shooter preparedness websites for a variety of active shooter resources, including:

- IS-907 “Active Shooter: What You Can Do” training. This online course is hosted on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute website and provides information on how to mitigate the impacts of an incident: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGmw>
- The Active Shooter Emergency Action Plan video, which guides viewers through important considerations of preparedness planning, uses the first-hand perspectives of active shooter survivors, first responders, and other subject matter experts who share their unique insights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Pjlr2rrEZc&list=PLYTgR4PDHXBnnl7dd-MyGV3oqq6GalOlb&index=7&t=0s>
- Resources focused on how to develop an emergency action plan, behavioral indicators, potential attack methods, actions that may be taken during an incident, and how to quickly and effectively recover: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPm>
- Posters, pocket guides, booklets, and fact sheets in nine different languages identified as the most commonly spoken foreign languages in the United States: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPP>

For more information on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Active Shooter Program, please visit the CISA active shooter preparedness webpage: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPd>.

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## **CISA Releases New Bomb Prevention Videos**

CISA has launched three new [videos](#) that provide guidance to security officials, the general public, and many other stakeholders about the steps they should take to protect themselves and others from bomb incidents.

The free videos, which are approximately six to eight minutes long, are available on YouTube. They include:

- “What to Do: Bomb Searches” – Describes basic bomb search procedures to use once a search is deemed warranted and authorities have been notified. The video demonstrates in detail the room, route, and area search techniques that can be applied to any type of facility. Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQWEfq7Z6u8>
- “What to Do: Surviving a Bombing Attack” – Describes what happens when a bomb detonates and demonstrates the procedures you should follow to survive a bombing attack. Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sa6Lk2H9sYQ>
- “What to Do: Suspicious or Unattended Item” – Demonstrates how you can determine whether an item is suspicious (i.e., a potential bomb) or simply unattended and will help you prepare and react appropriately. Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjcaksGQ6HU>

CISA developed the short videos to meet public and private sector needs for an easy-to-understand way to communicate basic bombing prevention concepts. Applicable across a broad audience, they inform viewers how they can save lives by taking appropriate action if they see a suspicious package or, in the worst case, they fall victim to an explosion.

CISA provides many counter-IED and risk mitigation training courses that include in-person mobile trainings, and web-based Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) and Independent Study Training (IST) courses that underscore some of the same lessons found in the videos. CISA offers its VILT and IST courses for free at <https://go.usa.gov/xvGdH>.

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## Social Media

Help CISA spread the word about upcoming events and new resources by sharing the following posts on social media. Thank you for your support!

- .@CISAgov has compiled a library of resources to support and assist election officials as they work to adapt their processes to the COVID-19 environment. Check them out here: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPD>
- .@CISAgov released a report detailing lessons and plans to improve rural emergency medical communications. Read the full report: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPK>
- The emergency response community needs to be able to communicate and share info under any circumstance. That's why @CISAgov just released new SAFECOM guidance. <https://go.usa.gov/xvGmX>
- SchoolSafety.gov is updated to link users to the @CDCgov and Department of Education's COVID-related pages with guidance specifically designed for schools. Find out more here: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGmm>
- Do you know how to avoid COVID-19 scams? @StaySafeOnline is hosting a webinar on May 26 to help you defend against cyber criminals. <https://staysafeonline.org/event/how-to-avoid-covid-19-scams-may-26-2020/>
- The increasing frequency of domestic and international active shooter incidents indicates that the threat environment is evolving. Be prepared by visiting the @CISAgov active shooter preparedness webpage: <https://go.usa.gov/xvGPd>
- Would you know how to survive a bombing attack? Or what to do with a suspicious package? The @CISAgov Office for Bombing Prevention has launched three new videos to help answer your questions. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxyq9roe-npgzrVwbpoAy0A/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf\\_id=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxyq9roe-npgzrVwbpoAy0A/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=1)

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*The CISA Community Bulletin is a monthly newsletter featuring cybersecurity and infrastructure security resources, events, and updates from CISA and its partners. Learn more at <https://www.cisa.gov>.*

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