



February 27, 2026

Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Updated Core Competencies for Disaster Medicine and Public Health

“Effective national disaster preparedness integrates competencies across health specialties and professions. Diverse teams are required to address all aspects of the disaster management cycle, and competencies form the foundation from which a field can create additional, more specialized training or a professional can enhance their current skills.”

The National Pediatric Prehospital Readiness Project: First Comprehensive Assessment of United States Emergency Medical Services Agencies

“The National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project aims to optimize pediatric out-of-hospital care by emergency medical services (EMS). The current report details the findings of the first national assessment of pediatric readiness among US EMS agencies.”

Access to Dialysis Facilities in Socioeconomically Advantaged and Disadvantaged Communities

“Despite universal Medicare coverage for ESKD treatment, patients with lower socioeconomic status (SES) receiving dialysis experience worse outcomes than more advantaged counterparts.”

Wildfires and Climate Change

“Extreme wildfire activity has more than doubled worldwide. Scientists studied this data over a 21-year span and found that extreme wildfires have become more frequent, more intense, and larger. The largest increase in extreme fire behavior was in the temperate conifer forests of the Western U.S. and the boreal forests of northern North America and Russia. Warmer nighttime temperatures are a major contributing factor, allowing fire activity to persist overnight.”

Deadly fungus that will 'eat you from the inside out' is quickly spreading around the world

“Imagine inhaling hundreds of invisible spores every day. Most float in and out of our airways without leaving a trace. Yet some of those spores belong to molds that don't respect boundaries. Many fungus species will infect lungs, spoil crops, and disrupt ecosystems all at the same time. In short, they can wreak massive havoc and leave death in their wake.”

As US Overdose Deaths Drop, Researchers Search for Explanations

“Opioid overdose deaths in the US rose through the 2000s and skyrocketed with the introduction of fentanyl starting in 2013. The crisis continued to worsen during the COVID-19 pandemic. But drug overdose deaths across the country are now on a 2-year decline, the longest observed since the start of the opioid epidemic about 25 years ago.”

Doctors Say Shoveling Snow Over This Age May Be Dangerous

“When a snowstorm dumps a wintry mix on your doorstep, someone has to get rid of it. With that, it only makes sense to shovel snow to clear a path. But there's a hidden health risk of shoveling snow over a certain age, doctors warn.”

Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings

Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Coach

It doesn't take a hurricane to disrupt a life. When resources are already limited, even small disruptions can have big consequences. This course helps you understand where real needs begin—with everyday vulnerabilities—and how to meet them through simple, powerful steps. **This isn't just disaster training. It's people training—practical, human-centered, & real.**

Cohorts open in April, & June 2026 | 4-week program | One 3-hour session per week | Virtual via Zoom | Free, Grant Funded

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Talk Saves Lives TM: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention

Because starting the conversation can save a life.

March 11, 2026 | 3-4pm EST | Virtual via Zoom | Free

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Naloxone Administration Opioid Overdose Death Prevention Training

You can learn how to save a life in just one hour!

March 26, 2026 | 11 am or 1 pm EST | Live, In-Person | Free

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MESH Grand Rounds Quarter 2 Bruised, but Better: A Cyberattack Survival Story with Justin Mast, MA, BSN, RN, NREMT, CEM, CFN, FAWM, and Eric W. Schmidt, MST

This presentation will:

- Highlight the critical role of collaboration with the FBI and third-party experts in accelerating cyberattack response and recovery.
- Examine the communication barriers faced during a cyber incident and explore strategies to maintain effective internal messaging.
- Identify operational and organizational challenges in transitioning from crisis response to a new normal post-cyberattack.

April 7, 2026 | 1 pm EST | Live via Zoom | Free

[Visit our Website](#)

Upcoming MESH Conference Presentations

International Association of Police Chaplains - Region 4 Conference

Dr. Jim Floyd is presenting "The Chaplain's Toolkit for Grief Group Leadership."

March 9-11, 2026

Events

[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)

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MESH serves as the designated Medical Multi-Agency Coordination Center for Marion County, Indiana. The MESH Intelligence Program is a joint-effort between the City of Indianapolis Emergency Management Agency and the Marion County Public Health Department designed to provide real-time information and support to the healthcare sector in the Indianapolis area. Assistance with info or questions at: MESHintel@meshcoalition.org

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