



Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council Newsletter October 2024

WRHSAC and partner agency projects and trainings Fall 2024

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- ASHER Ballistic PPE for local Fire, EMS and Police
- Funds for security details at voting locations on Tuesday, November 5
- Franklin County Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise with EOTSS and
- Deadly White Powder Symposium

ASHER Ballistic PPE - Apply NOW!

The Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council is purchasing essential ballistic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to comply with Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response (ASHER) standards for municipal first responder agencies – fire, EMS and police. This program will provide ballistic vests, plates, helmets, and individual first aid kits.

Departments can apply for this equipment by completing the following application. A multidisciplinary panel will review the applications and make award decisions based on applicant needs and available funding. The panel reserves the right to deny, reduce, or increase awards based on the information provided and the funds available. In addition to collecting applications for the ballistic PPE the form also asks for details on other ASHER equipment needs and capabilities.

Applications will be accepted through **Friday, November 22, 2024**. Award determinations will be shared in January 2025 when procurement is conducted. Depending on the demonstrated need, WRHSAC may allocate additional funds to meet the region's ASHER equipment requirements.

[Click here to apply for ASHER Ballistic PPE](#)

Presidential Election Security Details Funding

WRHSAC is offering limited financial assistance to municipalities for security costs at voting locations during the Presidential Elections on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. A total of approximately \$17,000 is available, with up to \$1,000 allocated per town. Funding will be granted to the first 17 towns that submit the required form. Awards are distributed on a

first-come, first-served basis. Security details may be private security or municipal police. Please only apply if your municipality requires this funding, as submitting unnecessary applications may prevent another town from receiving support.

If you are interested, please complete the application form no later than Friday, October 18, 2024. All funds will be awarded via reimbursement after expenses are made. Click below for more information and to apply.

[Click here to learn more and apply for Election Security Detail Funds](#)

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month! Franklin County Municipal and School Officials Join us for a Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise

When: Thursday, October 17, 2024 9:00am to 12:00pm

Where: Franklin Regional Council of Governments, 12 Olive St, Greenfield

Hosted by Ken Wedge, Susan Noyes from the Office of Municipal & School Technology, Raine Brown from FRCOG/WRHSAC, and our partners from the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Program, we will use the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Working Group (CRMWG) "Defend the Network" Card Game developed with the Fusion Center to facilitate this TTX. The card deck is a fun interactive way to promote a cyber-aware culture through collaboration and discussion on strategies to identify, protect, respond, and recover from attacks to create cyber resiliency in your municipality.

How it works: There are up to 8 roles that may be assigned; each participant will be assigned a role and engage in real-world cyber scenarios with multiple technical and non-technical inverts (situations) for each role. This is a fun way to promote conversation about promoting and advancing cybersecurity posture.

We recommend that both the Municipal/School Leadership and the IT/Tech Director or an equivalent key position from each organization attend, as their combined expertise and leadership are crucial for effective decision-making and implementation of cybersecurity measures. Their presence will ensure a comprehensive understanding of the strategies discussed and facilitate seamless coordination within their organizations.

Every participating organization in this session will be provided with a Card Deck to bring back to their municipality or school for conducting an internal tabletop exercise (TTX).

OMST is available and eager to assist you with this effort.

BONUS: Organizations who subscribe to MIIA for Cybersecurity Insurance, will be granted MIIA Reward Points for their participation!

[Click here to register for Cybersecurity Tabletop - Seats are limited!](#)

A SYMPOSIUM ON ILLICIT NARCOTICS



Deadly White Powder

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!



Friday, November 15, 2024
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Gillette Stadium

TOPICS

CURRENT THREAT
ENVIRONMENT & TRENDS

CLANDESTINE LAB
ENFORCEMENT TEAM

HANDLING WHITE POWDER
AND TESTING FOR XYLAZINE &
FENTANYL

PHYSIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

COMMUNITY RESPONSE
EMERGENCY DRUG OVERDOSE
TEAMS

For questions:

angela.f.davis@mass.gov

FEATURED SPEAKERS

STATE FIRE MARSHAL JON DAVINE,
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. RONEET LEV, MD,
FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF MEDICAL
OFFICER OF NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

SPECIAL AGENT JOSHUA CANTER,
WMD COORDINATOR, FBI BOSTON

SERGEANT WILLIAM QUALLS,
STATE POLICE BOMB SQUAD COMMANDER

PAULA YOUNG,
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, ACHIEVE GREATNESS

DAVID DIGREGORIO,
D2 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

TRAVIS REBELLO,
EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

PROGRAM DIRECTOR STEPHEN WOOD ,
EXTREME MEDICINE PROGRAM,
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

You are invited to attend this upcoming symposium on illicit narcotics hosted by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.

To register please use the Eventbrite QR Code above or [click here](#). All questions to [Angela Davis](#) at EOPSS.

Attendees from Fire, EMT, Paramedics, will receive course credit and completion of the class will appear on each law enforcement officer's training portal in ACADIS. EMS Credits are pending approval.

This event is open and free of charge to any Massachusetts law enforcement, fire, EMS, paramedics, health departments and community service providers.

For more information about the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council, its projects and this newsletter, please contact Raine Brown, Homeland Security Program Manager. raine@frcog.org, 413.774.3167 x138

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues, departments and discipline associations

Funded by the Office of Grants and Research, the Massachusetts state administrative agency for FEMA grant funds.

WRHSAC
Western Region Homeland
Security Advisory Council



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