Zombies, Trekkies and other superfans prompt mass gathering readiness

The Wizard World Comic Con Convention series will be holding one of their popular conventions in Indianapolis this weekend, February 13-15. The traveling series, making its first stop in Indiana, is expected to bring together thousands of television, film, comic book, sci-fi, and fantasy fans at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Scheduled celebrity participants include William Shatner of Star Trek fame and James and Oliver Phelps, better known as Fred and George Weasley of the Harry Potter film series. (Sources: Ink Free News, The Indianapolis Star)

Similar conventions, while normally safe affairs, have sometimes led to safety incidents. Last summer at San Diego's Comic Con, a bystander was struck by a car trying to avoid a crowd of "zombie walkers" that surrounded and attacked the vehicle. At the same event, a 17-year-old girl was severely injured after falling off of a fence. (Sources: The Times of San Diego, Associated Press)

All large urban events create special public safety concerns and have the potential for mass casualty incidents. Healthcare providers should stay abreast of mass gatherings in their area as such events can result in admission surges. (Source: PLoS Currents Disasters)
Stay aware of mass gatherings in your area through the Daily Situational Awareness Brief.

While attending large events, be aware of your surroundings and report any criminal or suspicious activity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY

| 12 | Dark Star Orchestra  
Old National Centre |
|---|-------------------|
|  | The Expendables: Winter Blackout 2015  
Old National Centre |
|  | HASTI Annual Conference  
Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium |
|  | Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.  
IAR National Sales Meeting & Mac Tool Fair  
Indiana Convention Center & Lucas Oil Stadium |

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