THE HOOSIER RESPONDER FEBRUARY 2019

NCED

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DRONES PROVE VALUABLE RESOURCE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE

A missing Vanderburgh County ATV driver lost in the Warrick County Interlake State Recreation Area received a swift rescue thanks to the innovative search and rescue techniques of local first responders.

At approximately 3 a.m. on Dec. 29, 2018, a Vanderburgh County woman called 911 and explained that her 65-year-old husband left at approximately noon that day for an ATV ride but never returned.

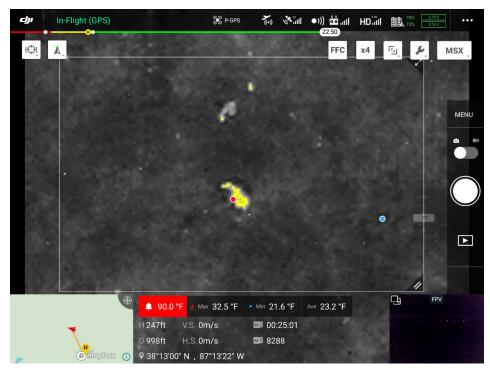
The missing ATV driver's cellphone coordinates last placed him in the Warrick County Interlake State Recreation Area, a 3,550-acre, off-road vehicle recreational area with nearly 100 miles of trails. A ground search and rescue comprised of seven different first responder agencies was initiated.

With no light and temperatures dropping to a chilly 31 degrees Fahrenheit, finding the missing ATV driver was urgent. As part of their standard operations, search and rescue members dispatched an unmanned aircraft, or a "drone," to assist them from above. This "technology from above" has revolutionized search techniques and, in this instance, helped locate the ATV driver safe and sound.

Cliff Weaver, the emergency management director for

(continued on next page)





Thermal imaging of the missing ATV rider, taken from the drone's FLIR camera (photo provided courtesy of Cliff Weaver).

the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, was the drone operator. Weaver has been Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified to fly drones for more than three years and has served in search and rescue for 26 years.

"We've been using drones for about six or seven years now," Weaver said. "In the last five or six years, we've been called close to 100 times to help in search and rescue, and it seems most of those end up being at night."

Drones used for search and rescue purposes are built to fly in the rain and can withstand winds up to 30 mph. Weaver's drone is equipped with a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) camera, which utilizes thermal imaging. The FLIR camera alone is roughly \$10,000, while the entire drone system is roughly \$25,000. The Vanderburgh County EMA and Ohio River Valley Search and Rescue currently share ownership of five different drone units.

"The risk of flying a small unmanned aircraft is very low, and the benefit is very high."

"The risk of flying a small unmanned aircraft is very low, and the benefit is very high," Weaver said. "The cost is almost nothing compared to a manned aircraft like a helicopter or airplane." It took only 20 minutes for the drone's FLIR thermal imaging to detect what appeared to be a person laying on the ground. Following the drone to the location, ground search and response members found the missing ATV driver walking toward them. His ATV was stuck in the mud, and he wasn't able to locate his truck in the dark without a flashlight. Despite his extended time out in the cold, he only sustained mild hypothermia.

"He wasn't prepared to stay out overnight," Weaver said. "Had he been asleep or unconscious, we may have not found him at all."

Therein lies one of the many advantages drones provide search and rescue teams. Having a view from above and being able to search a large area guickly are vitally important, but drones also inform first responders of what resources (stretcher, vehicles, etc.) may be necessary for the rescue, and some can even carry equipment to the location (life jackets during a flood, for example). The GPS functionality takes out the guesswork when time is of the essence, and some drones also can light an area from above.

An April 2018 report from DJI, a leader in civilian drones and aerial imaging, indicated 65 lives were saved in the previous year due to the use of drones.

WAYNE COUNTY MASS CASUALTY GRANT

The Wayne County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) recently distributed **25** mass casualty trauma kits to local agencies. Volunteer fire departments in the area, emergency medical service (EMS) providers and the Richmond Fire Department all received at least one kit, which were purchased with a \$25,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) in September 2018.



The trauma kit contains enough resources to treat eight victims and allows first responders to treat victims as quickly as possible.

"Wayne County EMA decided on the kits after two years of training with first responders," said Matthew Cain, Wayne County EMA director. "Wayne County EMA wanted kits large enough to handle additional victims but didn't want them to be too big where the kits would need to be deployed separately."

Law enforcement in the area already carry tourniquets, but fire and EMS had a need to handle victims when they arrive first on the scene. "We will be putting a kit on all fire engines who are first out to assist the firefighters and EMS personnel that accompany those vehicles," said Ben Simmons, deputy chief of EMS.

IDHS works with local organizations like Wayne County EMA to deliver train-the-trainer classes to teach the Stop the Bleed bleeding control courses. IDHS also maintains bleeding control training kits to assist with the Bleeding Control Basic course. Organizations interested in learning more can request training kits at the <u>IDHS website</u>. Mass Casualty Trauma kits are more than 14 pound bags with backpack straps that contain three "Go Bags." Each "Go Bag" contains:

- tourniquets
- bandages
- wraps
- gauze
- shears
- and more

Outside of the "Go Bags," the kits also contain:

- a CPR mask
- splint
- blanket





CURRENT LEGISLATION UPDATE

Please note: The information on legislation is current as of Feb. 6, 2019. Bills may change at any time before the legislative session is scheduled to adjourn in April. Once the session concludes for the year, the *Hoosier Responder* will provide an overview of bills that passed and their anticipated impact on first responders in Indiana.

Senate Bill 498 - Mobile Integration Healthcare

The proposed legislation would create a mobile integrated healthcare program operated under the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Commission and authorizes payments from the office of the secretary of the Family and Social Services Administration to EMS provider agencies for services provided in the program to Medicaid patients.

Senate Bill 510 - EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact

The proposed legislation would enter Indiana into a national EMS compact that permits and creates a system for management of cross-state EMS certifications.

Senate Bill 531 - EMT Seizure of Drugs and Paraphernalia

EMT Seizure of Drugs and Paraphernalia The proposed legislation would require the EMS Commission in conjunction with Indiana State Police to develop a protocol for seizure, transportation and temporary storage of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia observed during certain medical emergencies.

House Bill 1063 - School Safety Equipment

The proposed legislation would require schools to develop a Stop the Bleed program. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and Indiana Department of Education would be tasked with developing and providing training on the proper use of bleeding control kits. Once a school building has trained personnel willing to render aid during an emergency, the school may request up to three Stop the Bleed kits, which would be provided to the school free of charge (dependent on inventory and donations).

House Bill 1064 - Ivy Tech Community College

The proposed legislation would establish a scholarship program to help cover tuition and fees for public safety officers who wish to further their education at Ivy Tech Community College.

House Bill 1069 - Yellow Dot Emergency Medical Information Program

The proposed legislation would create a program in which individuals can voluntarily place a yellow dot on the driver's side window to alert emergency responders to medical information in the vehicle's glove compartment.

House Bill 1258 - Department of Homeland Security

The proposed legislation would allow IDHS fire investigators and emergency management workers to pay into the public safety officer line of duty death benefit fund administered through INPRS. The bill would also allow members of a municipal fire department to live within 50 miles of their fire department—including outside the state of Indiana. The bill would also require insurance coverage for boiler and pressure vessels which may be regulated and currently do not have an insurance policy for the vessel.

Track Bills with the Online Bill Tracker

ONE AGENCY'S QUEST TO KEEP SLEEPING BABIES SAFE

Responding to an incident in the emergency medical services (EMS) profession can be emotionally and mentally taxing, but certain calls can be especially challenging for some emergency medical technicians (EMT).

"You have to make sure you don't think about your personal life and connect it with the job," said EMT Amanda Wisley. "I have a 3-year-old daughter and any time we have a pediatric patient, my mind starts thinking about my daughter, so it can be difficult some times."

After Owen County EMS responded to three incidents in 2016 when sleeping infants died, EMS Director Cris Lunsford said that was three too many. Lunsford decided the agency should take a more proactive approach to educate parents about safe sleeping habits for children.

"I researched different programs and contacted EMS agencies in other states to see how they addressed the issue," Lunsford said. "The other agencies sent me copies of their education material, and I pieced together a program that we could accomplish here in Owen County."

The agency shares the ABCs of safe sleep, which states a baby sleeps best alone, on its back and in a crib. Owen County EMS receives cribs from the Indiana



Department of Health via the Cribs for Kids program, which offers a free crib to low-income households. Lunsford said the crib program was a great resource to utilize when they joined the Direct On-Scene Education (DOSE) program.

"We joined the DOSE program because it made sense for us because we are already at the home responding to a call," Lunsford said. "If we see an infant, we can start that conversation about safe sleep at that moment. If the caretaker doesn't have a crib, we pull out a form for them to sign and then we give them a crib from our truck so the baby can start sleeping alone that very night."

Additionally, Lunsford implemented floor talkers, a floor adhesive created for advertisements or awareness campaigns, about safe sleep for two local supermarkets.



EMTs also distribute safe sleep pamphlets, a storybook about safe sleep and a onesie with directions about the correct placement of the baby in the crib.

"We also have burp cloths handmade by a local retired couple who wanted to help the agency," Lunsford said. "They also hand-make blankets we give to older children to help calm them down in situations that can be pretty scary. It gives them something they can hold on to and hopefully provides some comfort when they're terrified."

In the fall of 2018, Owen County EMS held their first annual Community Baby Shower, where they partnered with other agencies such as the Owen County Sheriff Department and the local Department of Child Services branch. Information about safe sleep, infant safety and infant healthcare was provided.

Since Owen County EMS started their safe sleep program, there have been no reports of sleeprelated infant deaths in the county of 21,575 residents.

REMEMBER THE ABC'S OF SAFE SLEEP

ALONE

Babies don't need any blankets, coverings, toys or stuffed animals in the crib with them. These items can cause the baby to overheat and even suffocate.

ON THEIR BACK

Put your baby to sleep on a flat, firm surface, like a crib mattress covered with a fitted sheet. Soft surfaces like beds or sofas are not safe places for a baby to sleep.

IN A **C**RIB

Although it's tempting to cuddle with the baby while sleeping in the same bed, co-sleeping puts your baby at risk for suffocation and SIDS.



"I just didn't want sleep-related infant deaths to become a trend and keep losing the lives of innocent babies," Lunsford said. "My wish is that Owen County never has to respond to a call again where an infant passes away because of unsafe sleep practices. I hope sharing as much information about safe sleeping with the community will make this possible."

REGISTER NOW FOR NEW INTELLIGRANTS SYSTEM

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is launching a new grant application and management system platform, **INtelligrants**. With the launch of INtelligrants planned for Spring 2019, IDHS requests all authorized users to register in the new system.

In January, grant sub-recipients were asked to identify a single system administrator within their organization. This person should be authorized to request grants on behalf of an entity and approve others to have access to the system. This information must be submitted by filling out the form available on the IDHS website.

Information gathered through the form will be used to create administrator accounts. Logins and passwords will be sent to administrators as grant application periods approach.

Organizations that have not yet identified their system administrators should fill out the form by <u>noon on February 11,</u> <u>2019</u>. Individuals with questions or concerns, or sub-recipients who would like to update their initial form submission, should reach out to the Grants Management team at <u>grants@</u> <u>dhs.in.gov</u>.

IDHS encourages all potential sub-recipients to complete the administrator form as soon as possible. Organizations must have a system administrator identified in the INtelligrants system to apply for any 2019 grants through IDHS.

CAMP OFFERS CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO OVERCOME BURN INJURIES

Children with serious burns want a childhood experience just the same as any kid.

The Hoosier Burn Camp (HBC) works hard each year to ensure just that. The Camp has helped hundreds of children ages 8 to 18 recover emotionally and physically from their burn injuries. The American Burn Association reports 24 percent of burn injuries involve children aged 15 or younger. college scholarships for the camp's graduates.

"We have a great time, but it's not always fun and games," said Fred Hines, president of the Hoosier Burn Camp. "We sit down and talk about their burn experiences, their outlook on life and what they want their future to look like."

The State Fire Marshal's office helped create the camp in 1997

The American Burn Association's annual Burn Awareness Week, Feb. 3-9, strives to spread education on burn safety and prevention methods. State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson suggests following a few tips to help prevent burns:

- Handles of pots and pans should not be near the edge of the stove.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- Hot drinks should always be placed out of a child's reach.
- Test the water temperature to see if it's too hot before a child washes their hands or bathes.

Children who attend the camp learn life skills during fun opportunities they might never have experienced on their own, such as camping in the Ozark Mountains and attending Indianapolis Colts games. The camp is open year-round and also provides family counseling, opportunities for parents to connect with each other and and continues to stay active in the camp's mission. In addition, fire departments across the state regularly raise funds for the Hoosier Burn Camp and help educate residents about the many services it offers. These services include scholarships, counseling and an entire community of support for familes.



"The opportunity to help survivors of burn injuries is indescribable," Fire Marshal Jim Greeson said.

Hines said the Fire Marshal's office and the camp work together in pretty much everything the camp does. In addition, IDHS employees conduct various internal fundraisers each year, with proceeds going to support the Burn Camp.

"If we need help with something, we can just call them up and they will always help," Hines said. "They primarily help spread awareness to fire departments about our initiatives, fundraisers and programs."

"We can't change the lives of every kid who comes to the camp," Hines said. "But, we can make a difference for some of them. Our goal will always be to help as many kids as possible."

For more information, visit www.hoosierburncamp.org.

CRAWFORD COUNTY'S ARMCHAIR WEATHERMAN

When it comes to monitoring local severe weather, the Crawford County Emergency Management Facebook page never fails to provide residents immediate updates on what to expect. Behind those timely social media updates is 61-yearold Michael Schotter, the county's full-time social media volunteer.

Schotter always had a deep fascination for the weather. He explained the 1974 Super Outbreak of tornados that swept through the Midwest heavily influenced his interest on the topic of weather.

"I was a sophomore when one of the tornados came through Milltown," Schotter said. "It hit my church and blew it into a million pieces."

Schotter's weather interest grew to the point where he would regularly create and post about severe weather in Crawford County on his own personal Facebook profile for friends to see. Schotter would frequently stay up late into the night sending out severe weather updates on Facebook, pulling information from various weather websites that covered the area.

"A lot of times, we have severe thunderstorms or tornados when most people are asleep," Schotter said. "I have a lot of friends, so I figured I'd put the weather stuff on there for them to see if they were on Facebook."



"I just want to help people. Some people are just too busy to pay attention to the weather, and I don't want anything sneaking up on them."

Schotter's work options have always been limited due to spina bifida, a birth condition in which the backbone that protects the spinal cord doesn't form correctly. He has limited mobility but is able to monitor conditions and share information via social media late at night when others are asleep and most vulnerable.

Crawford County EMA Director Larry Allen grew up with Schotter in Milltown and noticed his consistent and timely weather updates on Facebook posts. He knew Schotter would be a valuable asset for Crawford County residents. "I knew he was very intelligent, dependable and willing to help people, so I approached him about volunteering with the EMA in Crawford County," Allen wrote. "He welcomed the opportunity, and I am very happy that he did. He does a tremendous job."

Schotter, who at the time had never done social media professionally, agreed to operate and post severe weather updates on the Crawford County Emergency Management Facebook page.

"I didn't have much confidence that I could do it at first," Schotter said.

That was in April of 2016. Today, Schotter still manages the county emergency management Facebook page and shows no signs of stopping.

"I just want to help people," Schotter said. "Some people are just too busy to pay attention to the weather, and I don't want anything sneaking up on them."

Schotter said he encourages other individuals with disabilities like his own to get involved in social media volunteering.

"If they are able to do it like I am, they should do it," he said.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH DURING SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will recognize Severe Weather Preparedness Week (March 17-23) by educating Hoosiers on the dangers of severe weather and the importance of preparedness.

Public safety agencies can utilize social media to help spread awareness and educate citizens. Creating a social media plan or strategy before Severe Weather Preparedness Week can help maximize efforts. Indiana experiences some of the worst thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding incidents during the spring months. In 2011, Indiana was impacted by a record 72 tornadoes, including 32 on April 19 and 26 on May 25.

Flooding also is a serious threat in the spring and summer months. In 2018, Indiana was devastated by major flooding in the northern and southern parts of the state, resulting in a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

When creating content for Severe Weather Preparedness Week, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Use #SevereWxWeek on posts throughout the week.
- Create and schedule posts ahead of time. This ensures consistent content throughout the week, even in busy times.
- Discuss the importance of having a plan for every type of severe weather and practicing those plans regularly.
- Introduce Severe Weather Preparedness Week on the first day and encourage followers to stay tuned for more tips and information throughout the week.
- Participate in the statewide tornado drill on Tuesday, March 19 at 10:15 a.m. Use this day to focus specifically on tornado preparedness.
- Encourage followers to put together a disaster preparedness kit for their homes and vehicles. Use a graphic to show what items to include in a kit.
- Educate followers on different severe weather terminology. For example, the difference between a watch and warning.

IDHS also will post severe weather tips and information on social media throughout the week. Feel free to share any posts from our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. If you have any questions about creating a social media plan or posts for Severe Weather Preparedness Week, contact Riley Harden, IDHS social media manager, at <u>rharden@dhs.in.gov</u>.



facebook.com/IndianaDHS



instagram.com/IndianaDHS

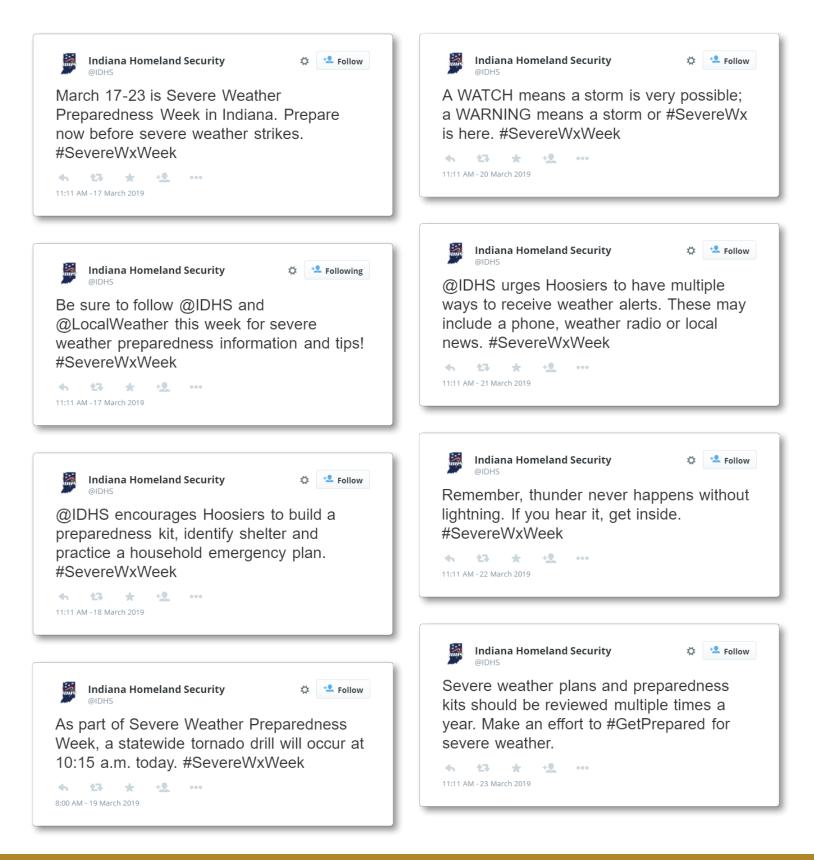


twitter.com/idhs



bit.ly/idhsyt

IDHS has created a few draft social media posts for public safety agencies to use during Severe Weather Preparedness Week. These posts can be edited or customized as each agency sees fit.





IUPUI AND IDHS JOIN FORCES ON RELIEF FUND PROJECT

A partnership between the Division of Response and Recovery of the Indiana Department at Homeland Security (IDHS) and the IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs Honors Program will help identify ways to support and sustain the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF).

"Collaboration on projects like this can benefit both parties," said Mary Moran, recovery branch director. "Students have the opportunity to gain experience working with a professional, external client to create a product that will be used in a field they may enter after graduating. IDHS receives an innovative, fresh perspective in an area we encounter on a regular basis."

The SDRF provides financial aid to cover the cost of response efforts during an emergency, and can be used to repair, replace or restore damaged or destroyed public facilities and individual property. These funds are distributed to individuals following qualifying disasters when a Presidential Declaration is not issued.

The program currently is funded by fees from retail fireworks sales, which can leave financial gaps. Moran said improved streams of revenue into the program are necessary because federal funding for recovery is limited. Since 1953, only <u>49 incidents</u> in Indiana have received a federal disaster declaration, the most recent being the flooding from February-March 2018.

Jim White, a clinical lecturer in IUPUI's public safety management program, said recovery is a costly process but can be offset by exploring ways to enhance the resiliency of the state

"The main goal in public safety is to always be improving," White said. "Strengthening areas where gaps are present will help prepare the state and citizens for disasters, which will help save lives." Students in the program will be asked to study historic trends of disasters in Indiana, the state's detailed recovery expenditures, how other states approach disaster recovery spending and trends in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's funding for catastrophic events. IDHS personnel will be available to provide data and assistance to the students.

The students will present their research in late April to the IDHS Division of Response and Recovery. Division personnel will review the work and evaluate what can be implemented into the program.

"We are hoping for definitive ideas on funding suggestions and hope all or most of the student's research to be utilized mainly by the state," Moran said. "However, local Emergency Management Agencies would benefit as well by having a clear understanding of state funding sources and gaps."

NEW FEMA POLICY PROVIDES DISASTER FUNDING RECIPIENTS WITH MORE PA FUNDING OPTIONS

A new FEMA policy has gone into effect regarding public assistance funding, allowing applicants to receive additional reimbursements for administrative costs accrued as a result of a disaster event. The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA), signed into law on Oct. 5, 2018, provides greater flexibility to state, tribal, territorial and local governments to manage their public assistance funding. The key changes included in this policy are as follows:

- A revised definition of management costs to include indirect and direct administrative costs
- A revised maximum management cost rate of up to 12 percent, of which up to 7 percent is for the disaster recipient (state) and up to 5 percent for sub-recipients (applicants)
- Elimination of the \$20 million cap
- Elimination of lock-in amounts and the associated process for determining the lock-in amount





The policy applies retroactively to incidents declared on or after Aug. 1, 2017, through Oct. 4, 2018. Recipients and sub-recipients with incidents declared within this retroactive date range can take advantage of this new policy or choose to continue under the policy they've already elected. Recipients and sub-recipients in future disasters will be subject to this new policy.

Materials specific to this new policy have been sent to all statewide DR 4363 applicants. Any questions regarding this new policy can be directed to IDHS Public Assistance Staff at <u>PA@dhs.in.gov</u>.

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?



Share the Hoosier Responder on social media with #HoosierResponder! Have a story idea? Send them to pio@dhs.in.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BURN AWARENESS WEEK

OBSERVED: FEB. 3-9, 2019

The American Burn Association estimates 486,000 Americans every year suffer from a burn or scald injury. Burn Awareness Week provides the opportunity to share cooking safety, firework safety and first aid tips in your community.

Learn more about fire safety at GetPrepared.in.gov.

VALENTINE'S DAY OBSERVED: FEB. 14, 2019

A candlelit dinner on Valentine's Day is a popular way to spend the holiday with that special someone. Share information about candle safety on social media as one way to help keep the holiday safe for your community.

For more information about fire safety, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

RADIATION AWARENESS WEEK OBSERVED: FEB. 17-23, 2019

Radiation is naturally present in our environment, and can have beneficial or harmful effects, depending on its use and control. Radiation Awareness Week is the opportunity to learn more about the effects of radiation, its uses in everyday life and how to stay safe during radiological emergency situations.

For more information on radiation awareness, visit www.in.gov/dhs/3523.htm.

PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK OBSERVED: MARCH 10-16, 2019

Sponsored by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the annual Patient Safety Awareness Week encourages discussion about healthcare safety improvements. Organizing a community educational event is one way to participate.

Learn more about Patient Safety Awareness Week at ihi.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY OBSERVED: MARCH 17, 2019

For many Hoosiers, celebrating St. Patrick's Day involves wearing something green and consuming alcoholic beverages. Before the festivities begin consider sharing alcohol safety tips in your community.

For more St. Patrick's Day safety tips, visit <u>GetPrepared.in.gov</u>.

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS AND FLOOD PREPAREDNESS WEEK OBSERVED: MARCH 17-23, 2019

Severe Weather Preparedness Week offers community members the chance to create and/or practice emergency plans and kits. Consider sharing some preparedness tips and information on social media and in your community throughout the week.

For more severe weather preparedness information, visit <u>GetPrepared.in.gov</u>.

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK OBSERVED: MARCH 17-23, 2019

National Poison Prevention Week strives to raise awareness to reduce unintentional poisonings and promote poison prevention. Use this time to share information in your community about the risks and chances of becoming poisoned.

For more information about poison prevention, visit poisonhelp.hrsa.gov.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7 to protect the <u>people</u>, <u>property</u> and <u>prosperity</u> of Indiana.



The Hoosier Responder is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Office of Public Affairs at 317.234.6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov

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