HOOSIER RESPONDER

OCTOBER 2021

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- New Connections for Emergency Managers
- COVID-19 Update for First Responders
- IERC Award Winners
- Training Firefighters to Be Leaders
- Indiana School District Safely Setting the Standard
- Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony
- Grant Boosts Mobile Integrated Health Programs

Cybersecurity 101:
How to Protect
Your Cyber Self



CONTENTS

SECC Campaign Results	03
New Connections for Emergency Managers	04
Cybersecurity 101	80
Hospital Diversion Guidance	10
COVID-19 Update for First Responders	11
IERC Award Winners	12
Valor Service Award	13
First Responder Appreciation Day	14
Keeping Haunted Houses Safe	15
Training Firefighters to Be Leaders	16
Fire Investigator of the Year	17
Indiana School District Safely Setting the Standard	18
Secured School Safety Grant Update	19
Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony	20
Grant Boosts Mobile Integrated Health Programs	22
Fire Prevention Week	24
Recovery Reckonings	25
EMAI Conference	25
Message from the Fire Marshal	26
Upcoming Trainings	27
Upcoming Events	28

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

When coordination is needed for a large-scale public safety response, the State Emergency Operations Center steps up to take on the challenge.

At the height of the first wave of COVID-19, that meant a Level 1 activation for more than 350 days. The state had never experienced such a long-lived disaster response, but IDHS staff and public safety partners served admirably to meet the needs of Hoosiers. The SEOC continues to coordinate activities daily for COVID-19, only at a reduced level



due to Indiana's enhanced preparedness and resource initiatives.

We're seeing a similar breakneck pace now as the SEOC helps to coordinate much-needed donations for Afghan evacuees housed temporarily at Camp Atterbury. Since Sept. 20, nine Indiana National Guard armories have accepted public donations, with several state agencies collaborating on the sorting and delivery of the items to Camp Atterbury.

It's reminiscent of the partnership experienced during the pandemic, albeit an entirely different mission. Today's focus showcases Hoosier Hospitality and is a welcomed change of pace for many in the public safety community.

These evacuees sacrificed their safety to help Americans in Afghanistan. As the war ended, they knew they faced injury or death in their home country and sought a better life elsewhere. Indiana is one of several states welcoming these families, most of whom came halfway across the globe with only the clothes on their backs. Nearly 40 percent of the Afghans in Indiana are children under the age of 14.

Having been to Camp Atterbury and seen firsthand the outpouring of support, I am proud to live in Indiana. The evacuees are incredibly thankful for the help and kindness shown to them since arrival. I also am proud to be part of the Indiana governmental response.

IDHS is contributing significantly to Operation Allies Welcome in a multitude of ways. The initiative serves as a good snapshot of the IDHS Vision: "Stronger together. Always prepared. Ready for the next challenge."

Sincerely,

Steve Cox

Executive Director

SECC CAMPAIGN 2021!









The theme for the 2021 State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) was "We Make a Difference." The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) sponsored Week Two of SECC (Sept. 7–10) and chose to support the Hoosier Burn Camp.

The Hoosier Burn Camp was founded in 1997 to extend physical and mental rehabilitation opportunities to severe burn survivors in Indiana ages 8 to 18. The camp's mission is to provide life-changing experiences for young

people who have suffered the trauma associated with a severe burn injury. The Hoosier Burn Camp has an annual summer camp and monthly events to create activities for burn survivors where they can be themselves in a safe space.

The IDHS SECC Week was a great success. During the week, IDHS raised **\$2,317.62** through fun events including penny wars, a cornhole tournament, a silent auction, a bake sale and a chili cookoff. The following is a breakdown of donations:



PENNY WARS **\$304.62**



\$1,189.00



DONUTS **\$130.00**



CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT \$25.00



CHILI COOKOFF & BAKE SALE \$192.00



TOTAL RAISED = \$2,317.62

With this donation, the Hoosier Burn Camp can continue its mission of helping young Hoosiers who have experienced a burn injury or have been treated for burns requiring hospitalization in our state.

You can keep showing your support for the Hoosier Burn Camp! Camp organizers maintain a <u>wish list</u> for donation items for events throughout the year.



After a long delay, the muchanticipated and updated Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Program returned to in-person instruction in August as part of a revised slate of National Emergency Management Basic Academy courses.

In-person courses now reflect the FEMA Academy curriculum, so attendees can get national credit in addition to working toward the Indiana-specific PEM certification. PEM program requirements did change slightly. IS 29 Public Information Officer Awareness needs to be completed before applying for L0105 Public Information Basics. Public Information Basics replaced the now-retired Basic PIO and JIC courses (290 and 291).

The Foundations of Emergency Management course took place at the fairgrounds in Danville and kicked off the return to in-person classes. It was exciting for students, who came from various disciplines such as hospital emergency management, fire service, EMS service, law enforcement and state and county emergency management.

"It was a great course with a large mix of students from different backgrounds. Since it was one of the first in-person classes since COVID-19, you could tell other people were excited to be working together," said Indiana Department of Homeland Security EMA Training Program Manager Cassie Parker. Parker added that the FEMA instructors said they were impressed by how well the group collaborated.

Montgomery County EMA
Director Shari Harrington said
she appreciates the different
types of students going
through the program. There is a
common misbelief that anyone
can step into an emergency
management leadership role
and know how to run a robust
program. She said there
are elements of emergency
management not found in other
public safety realms.

"We all have the same challenges but bring different perspectives to the table. The course materials of PEM help us accomplish these objectives and goals," Harrington said.

Person-to-person networking has been the highlight of the program for Tammy Mann, the emergency program manager for Veteran Health Indiana, which covers several VA medical sites throughout the state, including the Indianapolis VA Medical Center. Although she has many years of emergency management experience, including formal education and a military background, she said she has been finding new practices to implement at her sites. Mann also values the collective knowledge of a roomful of her peers, most of whom she had never met before.

"Now I know of certain people who have different experiences than I do, and I can call them and they'll be able to help the best they

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can," Mann said, adding that she recommends prospective students bring a list of questions or problems with which they would like help. She says the instructors or other classmates are eager to help and share their own relevant experiences.

Aaron Bolinger, assistant chief for Warsaw-Wayne Fire Territory, has been in firefighting for 20 years and started taking the in-person PEM courses before the hiatus. His county EMA director encouraged him to take the courses, and so far Bolinger has found the program helpful. He said one of his goals is to promote what he has learned within his department.

"Our role in the fire department, we manage emergencies. That's what we do. But instead of just the response part, these courses let us look at the planning part. Instead of us reacting to everything, we can have plans in place so we know how everyone fits in," Bolinger said. He adds that few people in his county seem to understand how integral the EMA can be, besides just asking for help on hazmat incidents. "I know what emergencies mean to me as a firefighter, but how do we work with the emergency manager? What information do they need to give us or need from us?"

Parker says the in-person PEM courses will be offered again in 2022, but the timing will be determined in part by how many instructors are available.



The state wants more in-state instructors and is offering a Basic Academy Train-the-Trainer course in mid-November.
Registration is now open on the Acadis Portal.

Harrington took the older version of the PEM program but is retaking it this fall. She expects the new version to refresh skills, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic has been such a focus for the past two years.

"Personnel changes have taken place and some of our emergency managers have moved on, so it is good to bring knowledge from our past experiences for the new emergency managers coming up through the ranks," Harrington said. "For new emergency management personnel, it may be like drinking from a fire hose. It really is a lot of information to digest, but muscle memory kicks in and these courses will come forth to help in those situations when we need it."

For more information on emergency management training, including PEM program requirements, visit the IDHS Emergency Management
Training Program webpage.

BASIC ACADEMY TRAIN-THE-TRAINER NOV 15–19

NOV. 15-19, MADE@PLAINFIELD

The state would like more in-state instructors for Basic Academy courses.

Requirements: At least 5 years in emergency management, at least 3 years training adults. Highly recommended to take the PEM courses first.

Register for National Emergency Management Basic Academy L110 on the Acadis Portal. Questions can be sent to training@dhs.in.gov.



Indiana and Kentucky residents along the Ohio Riverfront experienced a chaotic exercise scene on Oct. 1 as hundreds of actors and participants simulated a terrorist attack taking place simultaneously in Louisville, Ky. and Jeffersonville, Ind.

The Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) exercise "Operation Thunderstruck" was several years in the making and the result of a \$2.3 million federal grant to help local, state and federal agencies practice the intense collaborations and coordination required in such a mass-casualty event.

Hundreds of actors joined dozens of public safety personnel in simulating an explosion at Louisville Cardinal Stadium as well as an active shooter situation with multiple casualties at the Riverstage in Jeffersonville. The event was timed to take place as if the Thunder Over Louisville fireworks celebration was taking place when thousands of spectators typically line the riverfront.

Local students wore makeup to simulate injuries and deaths while emergency crews had to both treat the casualties and interdict the assailants. Bomb squad equipment could be found outside of Cardinal Stadium, and the site also served as a family assistance center to help treat bystanders and provide resources. The Clark County Fairgrounds was designated as a family reunification site, where families could learn updates on missing loved ones and even determine

their safety after the simulated event.

The Jefferson Police Department served as an active Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center to coordinate activities and information flow from both states and the many agencies involved.

The CCTA grant was first awarded to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in 2016, and training related to the actual event began the following year. COVID also caused the event to be delayed until October 2021. The exercise was unique because of the two states involved; however, officials say public safety agencies continue to expand the scope of training due to growing threats across the world.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR COVID-19 FUNERAL COSTS

The COVID-19 pandemic caused stress and grief for everyone in Indiana, but especially for those who lost a loved one. FEMA is accepting applications to ease the monetary burden created by losing a family member to COVID-19.

Financial assistance is available for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020. Encourage your community members to use this benefit. Indiana is behind the national average on assistance provided.

As of Sept. 30, 2021, more than 15,000 Hoosiers have died from COVID-19 and only 3,200 applied for and received funeral assistance. Nationally, about 700,000 people have died from COVID-19 and only 175,000 have received funeral benefits.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNERAL ASSISTANCE:

- For deaths that occurred after May 16, 2020, the death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- For deaths that occurred from Jan. 20 to May 16, 2020, any death certificate that does not attribute the caused of death to COVID-19 must have an additional signed statement listing COVID-19 as a cause or contributing cause of death.
 - The signed statement must be provided by the original certifier of the death certificate or the local medical examiner or coroner from the jurisdiction in which the death occurred.
 - The statement must provide an additional explanation linking the cause of death on the death certificate to COVID-19.

Applicants are encouraged to keep documentation of the funeral expenses and the death certificate.

COVERED EXPENSES TYPICALLY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Funeral services
- Cremation
- Interment
- Transportation for up to two individuals to identify the deceased individual
- Transfer of remains
- Casket or urn
- Burial plot or cremation niche
- Marker or headstone

- Clergy or officiant services
- Arrangement of funeral ceremony
- Use of funeral home equipment or staff
- Costs associated with producing and certifying multiple death certificates
- Additional expenses mandated by any applicable local or state government laws or ordinances

Hoosiers can apply by calling (844) 684-6333 to speak with a FEMA representative. More information is on the IDHS's <u>Individual Assistance webpage</u> and on FEMA's <u>COVID-19 Funeral Assistance website</u>. Funeral assistance for COVID-19 related items is made available through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB DESIGNATES OCTOBER AS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Governor Eric Holcomb issued a proclamation designating October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The state of Indiana is following his lead by continuing to promote cyber readiness to keep all Hoosiers safe and secure, and to protect critical infrastructure that is essential to everyday life.

The progress comes at a critical time, as the severity and frequency of cyberattacks move beyond data breaches. Cyberattacks are now crossing over to sophisticated attacks on the physical operations of water utilities, hospitals, schools and local governments.

In addition to the best practices, tips and resources available on the Indiana Cybersecurity Hub website, the state of Indiana is staying at the forefront of being prepared with the Emergency Manager Cybersecurity Toolkit. It is a free, downloadable "playbook" designed to take out some of the complexities related to cybersecurity and provide an invaluable resource to help people stay protected.

The toolkit is a complete guide to assist with planning in the event of a cyberattack.

Office managers, executives and IT managers interested in getting an initial understanding of an organization's cybersecurity posture can use another cyber resource known as the Indiana Cybersecurity Scorecard. It is free to download and takes less than 20 minutes to complete. The results will help leaders start a conversation about cybersecurity within an organization.

Cybersecurity Awareness

Month is designed to
raise awareness about the
importance of cybersecurity
across Indiana and the country
to make sure everyone is
able to stay safe online. This
year's theme "DoYourPart.
#BeCyberSmart" encourages
individuals and organizations to
be proactive in protecting their
part of cyberspace. For more
information, visit the Indiana
Cybersecurity Hub, or social
media at Twitter and Facebook.

Developed by the Indiana **Executive Council on** Cybersecurity (IECC), the Toolkit is organized into four main sections: A survey to assist emergency managers in working with their partners to develop emergency plans; Cybersecurity incident response plan template; Training and exercise quide; and Additional resources to help deal with new and pervasive threats. INDIANA EMERGENCY MANAGER CYBERSECURITY TOOLKIT

HOW TO KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION SECURE

- Be alert to impersonators, especially through email (aka "phishing")
- Safely dispose of personal information <u>computer</u> and <u>mobile device</u>
- Encrypt your data look for "https://"
- Create unique passwords and keep them safe
- Don't overshare on social networking sites
- Use multi-factor authentication

KEEPING YOUR DEVICES SECURE

- Use security software
- Avoid phishing emails
- Be wise about Wi-Fi
- Lock up your laptop
- Read privacy policies Nobody Reads Privacy Policies Here's How to Fix That

GUARD AGAINST PHISHING

Phishing is a type of deception designed to steal your identity. In a phishing scam, an identity thief tries to get information such as credit card numbers, passwords, account information or other personal information from you by convincing you to provide it under false pretenses.

Phishing schemes usually come via spam emails or pop-up windows and often pose as legitimate businesses.

In a phishing scam, the messages often look authentic, featuring corporate logos and formats similar to the ones used for legitimate messages. Typically, they ask for verification of certain information, such as account numbers and passwords, allegedly for auditing purposes. Responding to phishing emails can result in financial losses, identity theft and other fraudulent activity.

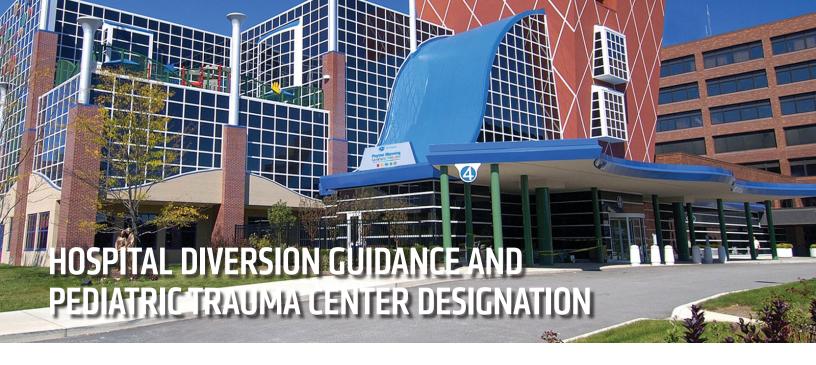
COMMON FEATURES OF PHISHING EMAILS

Too Good To Be True - Lucrative offers and eye-catching or attention-grabbing statements are designed to attract people's attention immediately. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Sense of Urgency - A favorite tactic amongst cybercriminals is to ask you to act fast because the super deals are only for a limited time. When you come across these kinds of emails, it's best to just ignore them. When in doubt, visit the source directly rather than clicking a link.

Hyperlinks - A link may not be all it appears to be. Hovering over a link shows you the actual URL where you will be directed upon clicking.

Attachments - If you see an attachment in an email you weren't expecting or that doesn't make sense, don't open it! They often contain payloads like ransomware or other viruses.



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) EMS Section has worked with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to come up with guidance for EMS providers when hospital capacity is diminished and ambulance providers experience challenges with diversion and off-loading delays.

The guidance includes specific directions for EMS providers on how diversions and offload delays can be handled and also how diversion status can be checked via an EMS organization's EMResource account. Find the diversion guidance and the EMResource instructions on the EMS Section webpage under Recent News.

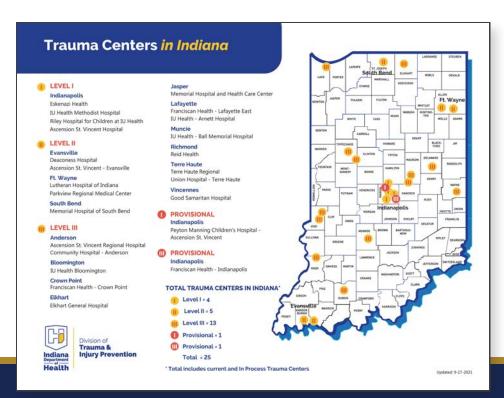
TRAUMA CENTER DESIGNATION

The Indiana EMS Commission approved the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital as a new Level I "in the process"

pediatric trauma center, as recommended by IDOH. This means the hospital can receive pediatric trauma patients now. The Peyton Manning Children's Hospital is the second pediatric trauma center in Indiana after Riley Hospital for Children.

IDOH provides full trauma system resources and an updated map of all approved trauma centers in Indiana on its <u>Trauma Centers webpage</u>. IDHS also posted the <u>updated map</u> of the trauma centers on the EMS Section webpage for convenience.

EMS providers are encouraged to consult local medical protocols for decisions relating to trauma transport destinations and should be familiar with the Transport Destination Protocol.



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

VACCINES

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) continues to house important vaccine updates online at ourshot.in.gov. All individuals above age of 12 are now eligible to schedule vaccination appointments. As of publication, IDOH announced a single booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine can be administered only to individuals who previously received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months prior. Those who have received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines are not eligible for a booster dose.

Eligibility for the Pfizer booster is further limited to the following conditions:

- Individuals ages 65 and older and residents of long-term care facilities **should** receive a booster dose.
- Individuals ages 50–64 with underlying medical conditions that put them at high risk of a severe COVID-19 illness should receive a booster dose.
- Individuals ages 18–49 with underlying medical conditions
 may receive a booster dose, based on their benefits and risks.
- Individuals ages 18–64 who are at high risk of COVID-19
 exposure and transmission because of an occupational or
 institutional setting may receive a booster shot based on their
 benefits and risks.

The Pfizer vaccine is <u>approved by the FDA</u> for individuals age 16 and older. It is also available under emergency use authorization for individuals ages 12–15. An "additional dose" (not the same as a booster dose) of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines received FDA emergency use authorization for <u>third doses for immunocompromised people</u> whose first doses did not have an optimal effect, including solid organ transplant recipients.

Visit the <u>FDA website</u> to review information for each of the vaccines currently available in the U.S.

EMS GUIDANCE

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) EMS Section webpage offers updated COVID-19 guidance, including a revised vaccines presentation, general waiver order and guidance on hospital diversion. Additionally, IDHS in coordination with IDOH has released a series of trainings on the Acadis Portal about COVID-19. Topics include mental awareness, patient privacy, decontamination and aerosol transmission diseases.

VARIANT UPDATE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is tracking several variants and offers a <u>dashboard</u> to provide an in-depth look at the data. In the Midwest, the Delta variant now makes up 99.0 percent of cases. In Indiana, the Delta variant is at about 99.0 percent of cases in the past month too, according to <u>coronavirus</u>. in.gov.





Presidents Award

Randall Frye, State Representative, Indiana House District 67

Presidents Award

Brad Lucas, Fire Chief, Seymour Fire Department

Legislator of the Year

Scott Fadness, Mayor, City of Fishers

Fire Instructor of the Year (Individual)

Robert Wagner, Firefighter Private, Indianapolis Fire Department

Fire Instructor of the Year (Division)

Black Township Fire and Rescue

Dispatcher of the Year

Jason Haddix, Assistant Supervisor, Hancock County 911 Center

Heroic Rescue of the Year

Brandon Gardner, EMT, and Rebecca Garvey, Paramedic, Indianapolis EMS

Primary EMS Instructor of the Year (PI)

Keith Current, Evansville Fire Department

Specialty Care Award

Crawfordsville Fire Department

EMT Basic of the Year

Brandon Brock, EMT Star Ambulance

Indiana Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year

David Cherrone, Fire Marshal, Clay Fire Territory

Paramedic of the Year

Dayna Leonard, Paramedic/Firefighter, Crawfordsville Fire Department

ALS Provider of the Year (Fire Based)

Fort Wayne Fire Department

ALS Provider of the Year (Non-Fire Based)

American Medical Response of Evansville

BLS Provider of the Year (Fire-Based)

Evansville Fire Department

EMS Officer of the Year

Tony Anteau, Vice President, Seals Ambulance Service

Fire Officer of the Year

Tom Meadimber, Battalion Chief, Decatur Township Fire Department

Medical Director of the Year

Scott Douglas, Medical Director, Franciscan Physician Network-Crawfordsville

Fire Chief of the Year (Volunteer)

Todd Trent, Fire Chief, Flora Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Chief of the Year (Career)

John Ireland, Fire Chief, Grissom Air Force Base Fire Department

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

VALOR SERVICE AWARD GIVEN TO DESERVING FIREFIGHTER

On Aug. 25, Indiana State
Fire Marshal Joel Thacker
presented the Indiana State Fire
Marshal's Valor Service Award
to Nick Beagle, firefighter/
EMS with the Letts Volunteer
Fire Department. The award is
given to public safety workers
for heroism or acts of bravery
above and beyond the call of
duty. The special ceremony was
held at the Decatur County Fire
Association.

Beagle says he was in the right place at the right time.

"I came upon a vehicle that was off the road in a wooded area and appeared to be on fire. Knowing I had a portable fire extinguisher in my toolbox, I pulled to the shoulder in order to assist the motorist with putting out the fire," Beagle said.

"As I approached with my extinguisher, several bystanders gathered and said that there was still a person inside the vehicle. The bystanders were saying that he was trapped, injured and that the fire was too large to pull him out."

Beagle was heading home from a concert and did not have his protective equipment, turn-out gear or any EMS gear.

"The male was semi-conscious and was calmly asking for help. At that time, I deployed my fire



extinguisher to the windshield area of the victim and was able to knock down a large volume of fire. I yelled to the bystanders for assistance, and along with one other person, we grabbed the male under the arms and pulled him onto the shoulder of I-74. I provided medical attention until the arrival of EMS." Beagle described the incident as "rapid, and the whole thing only took seconds."

Fire Marshal Thacker described Beagle as "a very humble young man."

"We often say, 'we were just doing our job,' but when you're off-duty, and you don't have your equipment, there is no expectation that you can perform an act like this. He

didn't know if the car was going to explode or what additional hazards were present. He put his own life at risk to save this individual."

This is the first Valor Service Award that Thacker has given out during his tenure: "This award is for those folks who truly risk their lives in the service of others," he said.

Beagle added: "I feel like I was doing what I was trained to do, and I know that a lot of others would have done the same thing if put into my position. The experience has been one with many emotions, but overall, I am grateful that I was able to use my training and experience to help a person in need."



On Saturday, Aug. 21, over 37 public safety agencies from Northwest Indiana participated in a First Responder Appreciation Day. The appreciation day was held to support the Multi-Agency Academic Cooperative (MAAC), a nonprofit organization created in 2016 by Stewart G. McMillan. Through its partnership with the Indiana District 1 Training Council, the MAAC provides high-quality, no-cost training to public safety personnel at a 20-acre state-of-the-art campus. MAAC's First Responder Appreciation Day provided an

opportunity for the public to learn more about the work first responders do and how the MAAC's mission supports the community.

Throughout the day, the public saw K-9, fire safety, law enforcement and public safety helicopter demonstrations. The Lima Lima Flight Team from Naperville, Ill. performed an air show as well. The Porter County Emergency Management Agency took the opportunity to educate the public about how to stay prepared for a natural disaster or critical incident.

Approximately 1,000 people, including those from the general public and first responder agencies, were in attendance.

After the demonstrations, Dove Award winner Josh Turner performed a concert at the Porter County Fairgrounds. The concert was followed by a patriotic fireworks show, donated by a local retail fireworks store. Proceeds from both the concert and donations benefitted the MAAC.



KEEPING HAUNTED HOUSES SAFE

Haunted house season is here, and the public should know that even though they might be in for a scare, safety is still paramount.

All haunted houses operating in Indiana are required to have an <u>Amusement & Entertainment permit</u> from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Additionally, all haunted houses must be inspected and determined to be compliant before opening their doors.

- Exit signs should be installed at all required exit/exit-access doorways.
- Obvious/marked exits should be located every 50 feet.
- There should be no dead-end corridors.
- Fire extinguishers should be every 75 feet or less.
- Groups no larger than 20 people are allowed at a time and must be supervised by a staff member 18 or older with a flashlight.
- Fire sprinkler systems are required unless the floor area of the haunted house is less than 1,000 square feet and travel distance from any point of exit is less than 50 feet.

- No open flames, temporary heaters or smoking is allowed.
- Automatic smoke detectors are required and must be interconnected.
- Maze areas must be at least 3 feet wide and 5 feet high, and one 4x2x2 section is allowed every 50 feet.
- All materials used must be flame-resistant, or flame retardant, and proof must be shown to code officials.



KEEPING TRICK-OR-TREATERS SAFE





A large group of seasoned firefighters returned to the classroom recently. For some, it was almost like starting training all over again, except this time they were learning to lead people rather than run into burning buildings and fighting fires.

The inaugural class of the Fire Chief Executive Training Program recently graduated from the weeklong program designed to teach them skills to help them in their roles as new fire chiefs. Human Resources. mediation, public relations, budgets, diversity ... these skills are required of today's fire chief. On Jan. 1, 2022, all new fire chiefs will be required to complete the program within one year of appointment. Volunteer chiefs can attend but are not required.

"I think it is much, much needed to train the next level of leaders of the state as fire chiefs," said Brent Anderson, chief of Plainfield Fire Territory. "We're not going to be prepared for everything, but it's going to put us in a much better situation to lead our organizations."

Police chiefs across Indiana have attended a leadership academy since the 1980s.
Until new legislation this year, fire chiefs never had a similar opportunity. Feedback provided by the two dozen fire chiefs who completed the program indicates it is long overdue.

"When you arrive on a scene, you can train for that and have been trained as to what to do. You have a toolbox. I didn't have much of a toolbox as a chief," said Damon Carpenter, chief of

East Chicago Fire.
After 23 years on the job,
Carpenter said the chief's role
was new territory for him: "I
represent the community, the
department and the city. To
balance those three things, it's
pretty difficult at times to keep
in mind who I serve and who I
represent."

John Reitz has 24 years on the job and was recently promoted to assistant chief of Hobart Fire.

"I think this class has the potential to be invaluable," he said. "So many chiefs have been promoted throughout the state over the years without any training" and, instead, learn on the job.

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The Fire and Public Safety Academy already is planning for the next program offering, and any firefighters interested in attending should contact Academy personnel. The course is designed for a chief officer, management-level personnel, volunteer fire chief, volunteer chief officer or volunteer management-level personnel.

"I think this is going to raise the education level of all the chiefs in the individual departments ... and we all win when we increase our education level of firefighters," said state Rep. Randy Frye, a former firefighter and author of the bill.

The training program is the culmination of many years of planning and discussion in the public safety community. It continues the mission of the Academy itself, to provide quality, consistent training to Indiana first responders.

"This is something that Indiana has worked on for the past 20 years, and we're finally getting there. We're excited about that," said Wade Walling, director of the Academy.

Want to learn more about the Fire Chief Executive **Training Program?**

Watch this video to learn all about it!

FIRE INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR



This year, the Fire Investigator of the Year award was presented to Jeff Roseboom of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. He received the award at the Indiana Fire Investigation Conference. The award is presented each year by the Indiana Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Roseboom works primarily in the northern half of the state of Indiana and has been a dedicated fire investigator for several years. He consistently goes out of his way to assist fire departments, whether it's determining the origin and cause of a fire or explosion, conducting case follow-up, evidence collection or just consulting about a case or issue. He consistently goes above and beyond what is required of him. Despite his case load, he balances case work and regularly meets reporting deadlines. He is thorough and doesn't rest until all investigative tasks have been completed and all leads exhausted.

Roseboom regularly coordinates with fire departments, police departments, federal agencies, insurance companies and private investigators to ensure a thorough and proper investigation. From 2020 to current he has investigated approximately 187 fires and explosions of all types and classifications. His case load includes multiple serial arson cases in the northwestern area of the state, several fatality and injury cases, and murders. His diligent work has led to the successful conclusions of many investigations and the arrest of multiple suspects in arson cases.

Roseboom also has a reputation amongst his peers as a diligent, honest and reliable investigator whose integrity is unquestionable. He strives for accurate, unbiased determinations in all of his cases even if it's not the most popular decision. He is continually seeking education and training to stay up to date on fire investigation research and technology. He regularly conducts research, consults with peers and subject matter experts, and always evaluates all evidence and data prior to determining a fire or explosion cause in order to ensure scientifically valid conclusions. **17**



Salem Community Schools soon will be the only school district in Indiana to have protected <u>safe</u> rooms installed at all schools in the district.

The district continues to set the benchmark in Indiana; Bradie M. Shrum Elementary became the first school to include a safe room when it opened in 2017. A \$7.4 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) supports the ongoing project of putting safe rooms in the middle and high schools.

"We're excited the county and community supported this effort, because parents are able to see



the value of a project like this to protect the kids," said Assistant Superintendent Kim Thurston. "It's great to the be the only one (with district-wide safe rooms).

We're proud to talk about it and share it with our community."

A safe room is an underground addition to school buildings. It looks like a normal classroom space but can withstand winds up to an EF-5 tornado. The middle school space will double as a multi-purpose room, while the high school space will provide a much-needed practice room for the band and choir. The district has about 1,900 students.

The safe rooms also will be open to nearby residents in the event of an emergency.



SECURED SCHOOLS SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

The Indiana Secured School Safety Board approved more than \$19 million in matching state grant funds, marking a third consecutive year of record-breaking school safety investments.

The \$19,058,808 in awards allows the board to fully fund all eligible, top-priority projects identified by 392 schools in their applications to the Secured School Safety Grant program (SSSG). Every applicant this year received either full or partial funding once award determinations were made.

The SSSG issues matching grants for eligible items, and then schools match those funds at a certain level: 25 percent, 50 percent or 100 percent. The

THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FY22 INCLUDE

- \$13,440,127.88 for School Resource Officers
- \$4,926,399.15 for equipment
- \$642,369.22 for student and parent support services programs
- \$43,678.47 for active event warning services
- **\$6,233.33** for training

match requirement is based on average daily membership of the school district, the total amount of the project or what the request covers.

Eligible items in the grant include funding for school resource officers (SROs) and law enforcement officers in schools; equipment and technology; active event warning systems (no matching requirement); firearms training for teachers

and staff (whose schools choose to allow guns on school property); threat assessments and implemention of a student and parent support services program.

The Indiana School Safety
Hub also provides schools
with a wealth of resources,
training opportunities and other
information designed to give
schools the tools they need to
keep students and staff safe.









FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On Aug. 27 the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana held its annual ceremony to honor the lives of fallen Indiana firefighters.

The names of eight firefighters who died in the line of duty were added to a monument outside the Statehouse.

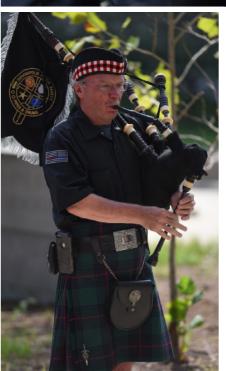












OUR FALLEN HEROES

Joshua ComeauSouth Bend

David "Dutch" Koehler South Bend

Gary Southerland Westfield

Brent Ryan HollandAnderson

Travis Mahoney Elkhart

John Schoffstall
Terre Haute

Donald Thelen Lafayette

Matthew Bennett Indianapolis









The EMS Commission awarded \$100,000 to six Indiana fire departments' mobile integrated health (MIH) programs as part of a new MIH grant program. The goal is to start new community paramedicine programs and expand existing ones.

The commission awarded grants of \$15,000 or \$20,000 to Elkhart and Monticello fire departments (Northern Indiana); Crawfordsville. Muncie and Noblesville fire departments (Central Indiana); and Vincennes Township Fire Department (Southern Indiana). The departments will use the funds to provide services such as addiction response, reduction of suicide ideation in children, inhome health visits and outreach to individuals that typically do not seek medical care.

The awards were the result of a state-funded grant application program that was available to cities, towns and townships per state law for this program.

"There are new opportunities to meet community needs and new pathways for funding appearing all the time," said State EMS Director Kraig Kinney. "By providing this program, we are hoping to prove that if the state continues to fund it, we can grow new programs and show it's a successful means of reaching that goal."

Elkhart, Muncie and Vincennes Township are starting new MIH programs, while Crawfordsville, Monticello and Noblesville's programs are using the money to expand.

Monticello's program is now nearing the end of a six month trial supported by IU Health. The hope is that at least one full-time community paramedic can be funded going forward, said Monticello firefighter/paramedic and MIH Program Director Chad Walther.

"Our population already had problems getting to the doctor

because they're in the middle of nowhere," he said, "so we began with chronic disease management with the elderly. We also do fall-risk assessments and fire-risk prevention and education. Most of the patients we follow for 30 days."

"When you're in someone's home, they tell you things like they're having trouble getting fed, and so we've been able to help connect patients to meal programs. These are things not typically seen as medical but are important to health and social needs."

Walther said the MIH grant funds will be very helpful and used to pay salaries for community paramedics to work outside their normal shift and expand the coverage area of the program. Currently, the program is limited to serving people near the city of Monticello because onduty paramedics have to remain available to respond to

(continued on next page)

regular-duty calls. Because of limited funds, the community paramedics put in a significant amount of time volunteering (off-duty) to make sure their MIH patients still get the care they need.

"Community paramedicine should be a Monday through Friday job," Walther said, adding that there is little prenatal care in White County. He hopes the Monticello program keeps growing to fill that need as funding allows.

Crawfordsville EMS Division
Chief Paul Miller said the
commission's MIH grant will
go toward a remote patient
monitoring system and include
the purchase of tablets, scales,
blood pressure cuffs and
glucose meters. The technology
allows the department to
provide telehealth services in
realtime as patients at home
use the devices. If a patient's
numbers are not at the correct
levels, the department's
community paramedics will be

notified and can address the situation immediately. "Whatever the social and clinical behaviors that contribute to poor health outcomes, we are working to get the right care at the right time to the right place," Miller said.

The programs receiving the grants all have partnerships in place with their local health department, hospital or police department, among others. More community paramedicine programs are developing across the state. This year the Indiana Department of Homeland Security EMS Section hired its first full-time MIH coordinator, Brittany Fortinberry, to keep up the momentum. Fortinberry said the department is aware of at least two dozen programs and expects the number to keep growing.

"There are so many gaps in the health care system, and some people do not fit into the standard framework. Community paramedicine is the only way these gaps are going to get filled, because these agencies know their communities better than anyone," she said. "A lot of programs have been lost in the last several years, and nobody knows it, but this is a pivotal moment to help them do better."

The EMS Commission recently set up an MIH program approval process, available on the IDHS website's Mobile Integrated Health webpage. After MIH program information is submitted and approved, it can become eligible for reimbursements by entities like the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). Fortinberry said every MIH program is different and is based on the needs of its community, so the approval process is structured in a way to encourage more programs rather than limit them.

Agencies with existing MIH programs or that are interested in starting them can contact her at mih@dhs.in.gov.

EMS COMMISSION AWARDS GRANTS TO SIX MIH PROGRAMS

On July 30, the EMS Commission awarded the following EMS provider organizations grants for the FY22 Mobile Integrated Healthcare Grants program:

- Crawfordsville Fire Department (Montgomery County): \$15,000
- Elkhart Fire Department (Elkhart County): \$20,000
- Monticello Fire Department (White County): \$15,000
- Muncie Fire Department (Delaware County): \$15,000
- Noblesville Fire Department (Hamilton County): \$20,000
- Vincennes Township Fire Department (Knox County): \$15,000



Fire Prevention Week 2021 is all about teaching the public what fire safety sounds like, whether it is a smoke alarm or a carbon monoxide alarm beeping or chirping. This week, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) encourages all fire departments statewide to share videos and safety tips from the IDHS Fire Prevention Week page or National Fire Protection Association website.

IDHS also recently purchased more alarms for the Get Alarmed campaign. Fire departments that need alarms can contact getalarmed@dhs.in.gov to request more. Bed-shaking alarms that help people who are deaf or hard of hearing are also available.

SMOKE ALARMS: 3 LOUD BEEPS



CO ALARMS: 4 LOUD BEEPS



CHANGE BATTERY: SHORT CHIRPS



TELL YOUR COMMUNITIES

- An ongoing set of three loud beeps means there is smoke or fire.
- An ongoing set of four loud beeps means there is too much carbon monoxide inside.
- Occasional chirping means a battery is low.
- Replace smoke alarms at least every 10 years.
- Test alarms monthly



RECOVERY RECKONINGS

UPDATES FROM IDHS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

FEMA has updated the COVID-19 Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance policy. Eligible work and costs conducted from the beginning of the disaster event through Dec. 31, 2021, will be reimbursable through the Public Assistance (PA) program. This updated policy will also continue the 100 percent cost-share reimbursement for eligible project applications associated with the COVID-19 disaster. The previous work eligibility cutoff date was Sept. 30, 2021.

Governmental entities and private nonprofits that have not yet submitted for possible assistance through the PA program may still do so, as the deadline for submission is still considered open-ended. These organizations can visit the <u>FEMA Grants Portal</u> to get this process started. Applicants with questions regarding FEMA's updated policy, or the PA program in general, can visit the <u>IDHS PA webpage</u> for more information.

IN MEMORIAM

Mark Gillam, 58, was a 31year veteran of the Elwood Fire Department. The Elwood Firefighters Local 1671 was sad to announce Gillam died Oct. 3 after a long battle with COVID-19.



Gillam spent his entire adult life as a public servant. Before becoming a firefighter, he served in the United States Marine Corps. Gillam was also an active volunteer for multiple organizations, a youth coach and a local business owner.

"Please hold your loved ones a little tighter this evening and pray for our fallen Brother and his family," the union said.

IDHS IT SECTION: NEWS YOU CAN USE



EMAI CONFERENCE
PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS: OCT. 19
CONFERENCE: OCT. 20-22

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security Office of Information
Technology is ready to present the "latest and greatest" additions to
WebEOC and ArcGIS at the EMAI
Conference. The afternoon preconference session is set for Tuesday,
Oct. 19. The team also will lay out a road map of features that will be implemented in the near future and open a discussion with emergency managers on features they would like to see incorporated into future WebEOC development.

Please make an effort to attend — your voice counts!

Register for the conference online at indianaema.org.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

It's a great time to talk about fire safety in Indiana.

This week is national Fire Prevention Week, a time when we remind people of the resources out there to keep them safe in situations involving fires. Refresh your memory about safety tips, escape planning and the proper care and installation of working smoke alarms. They save lives.

As of Oct. 1, Indiana was tracking 59 residence fire fatalities. Last year, 74 people lost their lives during a fire at their home. Many of those people could have had a better chance of escaping safely if their homes had working smoke alarms.



Our safety platforms <u>GetAlarmed.in.gov</u> and <u>GetPrepared.in.gov</u> can offer you safety tips for fire prevention. These can be printed for distribution as well. Indiana State Fire Marshal staff regularly collect data about the causes of fires in Indiana, and some of the results could be a little surprising.

- 1. The most common cause for a fire in a residence is a cooking accident. Food left on the stove, burns from popping pans and spilled food or water onto a person all represent the most common reason for injury by fire in Indiana homes.
- 2. Many people continue to smoke cigarettes even after being placed on oxygen, which is a common risk factor for homes going up in flames in Indiana. Simply put, people should never smoke or keep an open flame around oxygen or any flammable gas. Yet, many do and pay the ultimate price.
- 3. Improper disposal of smoking materials is another major factor. Throwing an ash tray in the trash before you leave home could be all it takes for your house to catch fire. That is even more risky if you happen to go asleep while a trash can smolders.

One other important note to make during Fire Prevention Week: Fire pits build incredible bonds between family and friends but also can provide a serious risk if not taken seriously. Wind and dry grass combine to increase the fire risks, but many people each year also burn themselves by falling in the fire due to getting too close to the outdoor fire pit.

The theme this year for Fire Prevention Week is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety," an effort focused on improving homeowners' ability to distinguish beeps from an alarm, carbon dioxide detectors and other sources of alarm noises. Visit dhs.in.gov to test your knowledge.

Remember, stay fire safe this fall and all year long.

Joel Thacker

Indiana State Fire Marshal

UPCOMING TRAININGS

OCTOBER

10/12 - 10/13	Planning: Emergency Operations (L103)	DANVILLE
10/18 - 10/22	Advanced Public Information Officer (L388)	PLAINFIELD
10/18 - 10/22	Fire - Driver/Operator Aerial (DOA210076) District 9	GREENSBURG
10/19 - 10/22	Social Media Engagement Strategies (PER343)	VIRTUAL
10/26 - 10/27	Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS300)	DYER
10/27 - 10/29	Social Media Engagement Strategies (PER343)	VIRTUAL

NOVEMBER

11/04 - 11/05	Advanced ICS Command & General Staff (ICS400)	VALPARAISO
11/06 - 11/07	Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction (F0635)	PLAINFIELD
11/07	Leveraging Tools for Conducting Damage Assessments (AWR319)	VALPARAISO
11/07	Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency	PLYMOUTH
11/07; 11/13-14	Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS300)	VALPARAISO
11/12	Working With the Media (AWR209)	LAFAYETTE
11/15 - 11/19	National Emergency Management Basic Academy (L110)	PLAINFIELD

Register for all classes on the Acadis Portal.

BASIC ACADEMY TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

NOV. 15-19, MADE@PLAINFIELD

The state would like more in-state instructors for Basic Academy courses.

Requirements: At least 5 years in emergency management, at least 3 years training adults. Highly recommended to take the PEM courses first.

<u>Register</u> for National Emergency Management Basic Academy L110 on the Acadis Portal. Questions can be sent to training@dhs.in.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

OBSERVED: OCTOBER

Now in its 18th year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity across our nation, ensuring that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online. This year's theme is "Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart", which encourages individuals and organizations to own their role in protecting their part of cyberspace, stressing personal accountability and the importance of taking steps to enhance cybersecurity.

For more information, visit the <u>Indiana Cybersecurity Hub</u>.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OBSERVED: OCTOBER 3-9

The National Fire Protection Association sponsors Fire Prevention Week every year to emphasize the importance of fire safety. This year's campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety," works to educate everyone about the different sounds the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms make. When an alarm makes noises – a beeping sound or a chirping sound – you must take action!

Visit the <u>Fire Prevention Week website</u> for more information about Fire Prevention Week. For fire safety tips, visit <u>GetPrepared.in.gov</u>.

GREAT CENTRAL U.S. SHAKEOUT

OBSERVED: OCTOBER 21

Indiana is located near two major seismic zones that have the potential to cause significant damage. The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut and Indiana Department of Homeland Security invite Hoosiers on Oct. 21 to Drop, Cover and Hold On in a worldwide earthquake drill. The drill emphasizes the importance of learning about and practicing for earthquake emergencies.

For more information about the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut, visit the <u>U.S. ShakeOut website</u>.

AMERICA'S SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

OBSERVED: OCTOBER 17–23

America's Safe Schools Week provides public officials, school organizations and professional organizations the ability to develop and discuss best methods to implement school safety policies. Successes and progress in increased school safety will also be recognized during the week.

Visit the <u>National School Safety Center's website</u> for more information about Safe Schools Week. For more information about Indiana's school safety measures, visit the <u>Indiana School Safety Hub.</u>

UPCOMING EVENTS

HALLOWEEN

OBSERVED: OCTOBER 31

On Halloween, children are twice as likely to die from a vehicle accident than any other time of the year. Remind trick-or-treaters and their loved ones about safety precautions that should be followed before they go out for the night.

Visit <u>GetPrepared.in.gov</u> for more Halloween safety tips, and help raise awareness about a COVID-safe Halloween by sharing information from the <u>Indiana State Department</u> of Health or the CDC.

WINTER WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

OBSERVED: NOVEMBER 7–13

Winter weather will arrive soon, and it is important Hoosiers are prepared before the icy cold blasts and precipitation occurs. Encourage community members to check weather updates frequently and share information about the <u>IDHS County Travel Advisory Map</u>, which can be viewed on the IDHS website or through the mobile app. It is important for Indiana EMAs to regularly update the county's status to help ensure travel safety.

Visit GetPrepared.in.gov to find more information about winter weather safety.

THANKSGIVING AND HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

OBSERVED: NOVEMBER 21–27

Thanksgiving is the leading day for cooking equipment-related home fires and one of the busiest holidays for traveling. Also, many residential fires occur due to placing holiday decorations too close to heat sources. Decorations are a festive way to celebrate winter holidays, but it is important to remember safety when the decorating begins.

For more Thanksgiving safety tips or holiday decorating safety tips, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

ALTERNATIVE HEATING

OBSERVED: ALL WINTER SEASON

Alternative heating equipment is responsible for approximately 19 percent of fire-related deaths in the country. Most fires related to these devices are reported during the winter months of December, January and February. Alternative heating sources should be the last option used by an individual, but if they cannot be avoided, caution should be practiced.

Learn more about alternative heating safety at GetPrepared.in.gov or WATCH THIS VIDEO!

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



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

Indiana Department of Homeland Security 302 West Washington Street Indiana Government Center South Room E208 Indianapolis, IN 46204 317.232.2222 or 800.669.7362







