



Hoosier Responder

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Fire Fatalities on the Rise

Many of Indiana fire deaths were in homes with non-working smoke alarms

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, is reminding Hoosiers that it is not only crucial, it is the law (IC 22-11-18-3.5) to have a working smoke alarm in every home.

As of June 19, 55 lives have been lost so far this year, many due to either non working, or no smoke alarms at all, compared to 46 for all of 2012. Working smoke alarms can double the chances of surviving a residence fire. Greeson urges all Hoosiers to have working smoke alarms in their homes.

“Smoke alarms save lives, and a working smoke alarm is one of the best options against becoming a casualty in a house fire,” said Greeson. “Firefighters too

often find that in fatal fires, a home had smoke alarms but their batteries had been removed or they were dead.”

Most home-fire casualties occur at night when people are sleeping. The smoke and toxic gases generated by a fire can induce a deep sleep, decreasing the chances of survival. Here is what some experts recommend regarding smoke alarms:



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From the Director's Chair — Executive Director John Hill

I-DPMU/I-MERT Work Together in Mass Casualty Incident



Indiana Mortuary Emergency Response Team (I-MERT) and Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit (I-DPMU) work together in a mass casualty incident that has overwhelmed local resources.

But what's the difference between the two?

The Indiana Disaster Portable

Mortuary Unit (I-DPMU) has an operational team made up of volunteers from Indiana Department of Homeland Security personnel. The team sets up and manages the morgue and provides assistance during local disaster response.

The portable mortuary unit is designed to relieve overwhelmed morgues where a disaster has occurred. It has all of the

necessary tools to properly identify and process the deceased.

I-DPMU positions that require medical and scientific education are staffed by working professionals who volunteer with the I-MERT. The people who make up the I-MERT are funeral directors, pathologists, anthropologists, dental assistants,

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IDHS has job listings on website for local agencies

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has a “help wanted” section on its website.

It’s open to any public safety agency such as emergency management agencies (EMA), emergency medical services (EMS), fire departments and law enforcement.

In the last two months, more than two dozen jobs have been posted to the site.

“The “help wanted” page is very straight forward, it was easy to submit for a posting and seemingly easy for others to find. I even had a few mistakes and typos throughout my posting process that were quickly corrected when I inquired about their being fixed. I would not have been able to fill it (position) without your job posting system. I appreciate you and your team for adding that to the IDHS website – it is very helpful,” said Beau Parker.

Currently, the postings on the site are mostly EMS-related jobs. The goal is to have more public safety opportunities from fire departments, law enforcement and EMA.

Visit the IDHS “Help Wanted” page at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2714.htm> for more job listings.

Indianapolis Airport Exercise Enhances Emergency Training

The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) successfully conducted a full-scale emergency training exercise at the Indianapolis International Airport on Wednesday, June 5.

The drill is required under the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Regulation Part 139 every three years. It evaluates airport emergency operations plans, assessing critical functions such as incident command and control, rescue methods and procedures, and triage of injured victims.

“The benefits of this drill go well beyond the important tasks of satisfying FAA requirements and ensuring the community is prepared for a combined response to an aircraft disaster at IND,” said Mike Medvescek, senior director of operations for the IAA. IND is the FAA designation for the airport.

The drill scenario involved an inbound commercial aircraft that reports smoke in the cabin and then veers from the runway upon landing, coming to a rest with a fire apparent.

An actual aircraft was staged at the scene of the exercise and a

separate live aircraft fire trainer was also used. Approximately 100 volunteers of all ages served as disaster victims and survivors, complete with moulage to create mock wounds and injuries. Normal airport operations were not affected.

Participants included individuals and teams from more than 30 agencies and organizations in the Greater Indianapolis area. About 75 IAA fire, police, security, dispatch, and other operations personnel were on hand for their respective assignments during the event. A team of 16 non-participant experts, including personnel from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana, was also present to document and assess the experience.



Indianapolis, State Fire Marshal’s Office to Host 2013 National Conference

Indianapolis is the host city this year for the National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Conference, Aug. 7-9.

State fire marshals from more than 25 states will converge on the city, hosted by the Indiana State Fire Marshal’s office and State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson.

“We are proud to be the host city for this year’s conference,” said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal. “It’s a perfect way to show off the beautiful city of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana. We have a very robust agenda filled with timely topics and impressive speakers.”

Some of the topics that will be discussed during the conference include school safety and security, the latest research on the effectiveness of residential sprinklers, new fire suppression rating schedules and fire behavior. There is also an exhibit hall.

Register for the 2013 National Fire Academy State Weekend Trip

Registration is now open for the 2013 National Fire Academy State Weekend Trip to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Participants will leave Friday, October 18, spend two days at the NFA, before heading back the evening of Sunday, October 20.

The trip is sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Transportation from Greenfield to Emmitsburg and back is covered, along with housing and meals served on the NFA campus. Those attending will have to cover meals on the bus trip and any food other than NFA provided meals. 150 seats are available for five courses at the academy. Those courses are:

- Methods of Enhancing Safety Education
- STICO (Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations)
- Shaping the Future

- Incident Safety Officer
- Health Safety Officer

Registration and applications are due by September 13. For bus transportation, notify Brandon Wood by email at

BrWood@dhs.in.gov.

Those attending need to only register for one course at www.indianafiretraining.com, fill out the National Fire Academy application and send it to IDHS by fax (317-233-0497) or by email to BrWood@dhs.in.gov. Attendees will also need a Student ID Number. To sign up for one, go to <https://cdp.dhs.gov/elms>.

Additional Information on the National Fire Academy can be found at www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa.

Pam Moore Receives Award

Pam Moore has been awarded with the Emergency Medical Services for Children Healthcare Hero Award. Moore was selected for her work in pediatric education through the Mobile Simulation Lab.

Each year, the Health Care Hero Awards honor health care providers, public safety workers and community leaders throughout the state who provide care to children. This care can range anywhere from pediatric hospital care to community advocacy.

The Mobile Simulation Lab is a free resource available to EMS and fire instructors across the state. The program has two adult and one pediatric patient simulator which can provide personnel with real world learning situations in a safe environment.

Fire Fatalities on the Rise Continued

- Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside of every sleeping area and on each level of the home. Make sure that everyone can hear the alarm and knows what it sounds like.
- Smoke alarms need to be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Test the alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery immediately.
- The smoke alarms themselves should be replaced every 10 years.

- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home – when one sounds, they all sound.
- Have a fire escape plan and practice it with your children.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, exit the home at once and meet at a set location.
- Call 911
Once outside, stay outside. Do NOT return for anything.

For more information on fire preparedness and safety:

Visit
GetPrepared.in.gov



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radiological technicians, safety and environmental specialists, physicians, security personnel and mental health professionals. Qualified professionals willing to fill these volunteer roles are constantly being sought.

The overall goal is to ensure that even in a mass-casualty incident that the deceased are treated properly, identified and returned to the family in a timely manner. Drills occur at least once a year. Like many emergency resources, the hope is to never use them, but the resource is ready if necessary.

If you, as a local public safety professional, know of anyone who might be willing to be part of the I-MERT, please contact Robin Stump at rstamp@dhs.in.gov or Jason Smith at jsmith@dhs.in.gov.

Application for Homeland Security Foundation Scholarship Opens July 1st

The application period for the 2013 Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Foundation Scholarships is July 1st to November 26, 2013.

There are nine (9) potential scholarships to be awarded to undergraduate students attending an Indiana college.

A full-time student with at least 12 credit hours is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship and a part-time student with at least six (6) hours is eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. The program funds are intended solely to reimburse eligible student educational expenses. Deadline for applications is November 26, 2013.

Who can apply?

An Indiana resident who is an incoming or continuing student who:

1. Attends or will be attending an accredited Indiana college.
2. Must have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

3. Volunteers at a public safety organization such as fire, law enforcement, emergency management or emergency medical services. IDHS will determine compliance eligibility. For more information on the compliance of an organization, contact council coordinator.

Application will require the following:

1. To apply, the applicant **must** include a completed Foundation Scholarship Application Form and an official college or high school transcript (for incoming freshmen).
2. A recommendation letter from the public safety organization's chief executive describing the volunteer work completed by the applicant.
3. A resume or list of past employment, awards, honors, and/or volunteer/service activities.
4. A minimum 500-word essay describing why the applicant applying for this scholarship and why the applicant wishes to pursue a career in public safety.

A completed Vendor Information Form (State Form 53788) http://www.in.gov/auditor/files/SF53788_Vendor_Information.pdf

How to apply?

If you are interested in submitting an application, please contact the council coordinator, Mary Fields, at mafields@dhs.in.gov and you will be given a vendor form, username and access to the system. The application closes on **November 26, 2013**. Awards will be announced in mid-April 2014. Questions should be directed to Mary Fields, Council Coordinator:

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
mafields@dhs.in.gov
 Attn: Mary Fields, Council Coordinator
 302 West Washington St., Rm. E220
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

IDHS Coordinates Responders' Deployment to Alaska Wildfires

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has coordinated the deployment of four responders to Tok, Alaska, to shadow key positions and assist in operational response to the Moon Lake wildfires that have affected nearly 65,000 acres.

The Indiana team deployed on Tuesday, July 9 and will return Tuesday, July 16.

IDHS team members are Cliff Weaver from Evansville Fire Department, Megan Thiele from Decatur Township Fire Department, Roger Powers from DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency and

Chris Walker from Ft. Wayne Fire Department.

All will shadow their designated positions and be very involved in operations. Responders and their positions are:

- Weaver, incident commander, will oversee a management team and be responsible for the overall incident response.
- Thiele, planning section chief, will organize resources and develop strategies, tactics, and objectives.
- Powers, finance section chief, will focus on documenting cost of an incident and manages all financial

aspects.

- Walker, logistics section chief, supports the individuals affected by the incident, especially dealing with details of food, medical services, and communication.



From left to right: Chris Walker, Roger Powers, Megan Thiele, and Cliff Weaver

John M. Buckman III Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

During a special banquet on May 10 in Washington D.C., Chief John Buckman III of the German Township Volunteer Fire Department in Vanderburgh County was presented with the National Volunteer Fire Council Lifetime Achievement Award for 2013.



Buckman also works for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as the Director of the State Fire Training and Certification System.

Buckman received the award for his numerous accomplishments, dedication and lifetime of outstanding leadership in the fire service. For more than 25 years, he has worked to improve the service delivery, training, safety and benefits for volunteer fire fighters from the local to international levels. He was instrumental in developing the state

fire training system in Indiana, was a charter chairman of the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and served as president of the association in 2001. Buckman also led the national volunteer fire service's response in Arlington, Virginia and New York City after the events of September 11.

Recently retired from 36 years as the operational leader, Buckman is in his 43rd year of active membership at the German Township Volunteer Fire Department in Vanderburgh County, Indiana. Throughout his years of service, he has presented training seminars in all 50 states, each province of Canada, and in China.

Governor Opens State Disaster Relief Fund

Governor Mike Pence has opened the State Disaster Relief Fund to local government in 16 counties affected by severe weather and flooding that began April 17.

The counties are Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Hendricks, Howard, Knox, Madison, Montgomery, Putnam, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Vermillion, Wabash and Warren counties.

Qualifying expenses include the replacement, repair and restoration of roads, sewer systems and other public property. Certain expenses with debris removal also are qualified expenses.

The storms and flooding resulted in extensive damage and strained the resources of local units of government.

State Disaster Relief Fund

The Indiana State Disaster Relief Fund was established in 2003 to provide assistance to individuals and local governments who may not be eligible for federal disaster assistance, but met the state's criteria for disaster relief.

Individual assistance from the State Disaster Relief Fund began immediately following the implementation of low interest federal disaster relief loans and is ongoing. Counties eligible include Blackford, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Delaware, Hamilton, Huntington, Madison, Miami, Wabash and Wells.

To date for the April flooding, there has been a total of \$398,590 issued to Hoosiers for individual assistance. A total of \$541,438 has been processed for payment.

Fees from retail fireworks sales provide the funding for the State Disaster Relief Fund, and Indiana is one of a few states to have a state fund.

Call 8-1-1 Before Digging

The Indiana State Fire Marshal, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, is reminding Hoosiers to call 811 before digging on a property for any reason.

The goal is to increase awareness of hazardous gas and liquid pipeline safety. Excavation is a leading cause of pipeline incidents resulting in injury or death. In fact, a buried utility line is damaged every three minutes. These damaged lines are dangerous to those digging, the general public and any responders at the incident. Damaged lines can also compromise community safety, disrupt critical services and cause

environmental harm.

To dig safely, 811 should be called a few business days prior to the scheduled digging. The caller should know the site address, township and county. Locaters will be sent out from each affected utility company to mark where lines are located. The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, and should be marked even if digging only a few inches.

For more information about 811 and safe digging practices, visit www.indiana811.org.



EMS Survey



With the changes coming to the health care field, Indiana, along with 16 other states, is participating in the nationwide

survey on Community Paramedicine.

Many upcoming changes in the law are expected to affect the way health care is delivered. Health systems are searching for ways to deliver care which results in better patient outcomes and lower costs. One approach is the creation of Community Paramedicine programs within EMS agencies.

These programs use EMS practitioners to increase patient access to primary and preventive care. They work to ultimately decrease emergency department visits and save healthcare dollars. The survey is designed to help understand these programs and to develop policies and plans to better support them.

To take the survey, visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/communityparamedicine1>.

Vigo County Search and Rescue Aids Illinois

On June 1, a team of Vigo County agencies responded to a request for assistance from nearby Paris, IL to find an elderly woman who was missing.

Vigo County agencies responding were: Vigo County Emergency Management Agency; Vigo County Search and Rescue; ARIES - HAM radio operators; Honey Creek Fire Department. They assisted the Paris (Illinois) Police Department; and Edgar County (Illinois) Emergency Medical Services.

Both teams met in Terre Haute and then responded together to Paris, IL, where a briefing was held at the Paris Police Department. Both ground and K9 assets were on scene and group leaders were assigned.

Ground search teams along with two K9 teams, consisting of K9 Payton and handler Robin Stanifer; and K9 Maggie and handler Kenna Duguaywere; searched the areas north of the person's residence, as family members advised she showed interest in that area. Tracking and Trailing K9 Chaca and handler Josh Sittler were assigned to the victim's residence.

A scent article was collected and additional information was gathered from the family about the victim. K9 Chaca began tracking at the rear of the residence and continued heading east, then

made a turn north along a creek bed. K9 Chaca and Sittler went



into a field of tall grass and the woman was located. She was unresponsive and in need of medical care. She had been out in the elements for close to eight hours and was showing signs of hypothermia.

Edgar County EMS responded from the incident command post and the woman was removed and transported to Union Hospital of Terre Haute. The actual tracking until the woman was located was about 20 minutes.

The K9 units were trained at the IDHS Search and Rescue Center at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh, Ind. All members of these teams are volunteers and pay for travel expenses, vehicle maintenance and numerous other items.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana

302 West Washington Street
Indiana Government Center South
Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-3980 or (800) 669-7362



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Please direct any questions or comments to the

IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-4214 or JErickson@dhs.in.gov.

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