



Hoosier Responder

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Responders Return to Long Beach, New York for Super Storm Sandy Reunion

A group of four responders from Indiana returned to Long Beach, New York, for a thank-you celebration marking the one year anniversary of Super Storm Sandy and to thank the responders who came to the area's aid.

The group that went consisted of:

- Diane Mack, Director of Emergency Management and Continuity, Indiana University
- Paige Connelly, Porter County Telecommunications Dispatcher
- Mike Weber, Porter County

Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director

- Lori Postma, Nurse and Emergency Preparedness and Bioterrorism Coordinator, Franciscan Alliance, Munster

The group had lunch, watched a video detailing the recovery efforts and visited places that have recovered from the storm. They saw many people that they had helped when responding almost a year ago.

During the event, a letter was read from

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From the Director's Chair — Executive Director John Hill

Governor Pence's Vision to Assist Schools with Safety Becomes Reality

On November 1, Governor Mike Pence announced that 241 school corporations, charter schools, and coalitions across the state will receive grant funds with the goal of making Hoosier schools safer. Governor Pence recognized the need for additional resources for local schools to enhance safety and made it a priority of his administration. From his inauguration to the first grant award was less than 11 months.

The grant funding can be used for schools to employ a school resource officer, conduct a threat assessment, and/or purchase equipment to restrict access to schools or expedite notification of first responders.

Schools with an average daily membership (ADM) of at least 1,000 students were eligible to receive up to \$50,000, and schools with an ADM of less than 1,000 students

were eligible to receive up to \$35,000.

In addition to a representative from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, board members are Mary Allen, Director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; Eric Bowlen, Principal at Ronald K. Bell East-Middle School of Martinsville; Doug Carter, Superintendent of the Indiana State Police; Mike Eslinger,

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EMAI Conference

The state's emergency management professionals came to Indianapolis for the annual Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana (EMAI) Conference, which began Wednesday, October 30, at the Indianapolis Marriott East hotel, and ran through Friday, November 1.

Emergency managers from across the state came to Indianapolis for the conference, which was designed to train and educate professionals in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Several individuals spoke at the conference on topics relating to social media, emergency planning for schools, the Boston Marathon bombing and more. The topics were designed to give valuable insight, education and tips to emergency managers to bring back to their communities.

The conference received 139 registrations and 18 vendors. Additionally, three recipients received awards at the conference.

- Former IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott received the EMAI President's Award for his dedication to emergency management.
- Tommy Clements, a volunteer at the Porter County Emergency Management Agency, received the EMAI President's Award. Clements has been a full-time volunteer at Porter County EMA for over 15 years.
- The Madison County EMA received the C.R. Brown Lifetime Achievement award for its overall excellence and decades of contribution and dedication to emergency management. The award is named in honor of Charles R. "C.R." Brown, the former

executive director of the Madison County EMA. Brown's daughter was also presented with a copy of the award.

EMAI was organized to become a widespread network of emergency management professionals, and an organization that cultivates and fosters a collaborative and supportive professional environment, while also preparing, promoting, informing, serving, and rewarding members and customers.

Emergency management agencies and professionals work to keep the public safe on a daily basis. They do this through preparedness, response to and recovery from, and prevention and mitigation of hazards and disasters.

For more information and other awards given visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3192.htm>.

EMS Spotlight

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) presented Donna Wiseman, from Harrison County Hospital, with the Advanced EMT of the Year award.



Wiseman has been a full-time employee of the Harrison County Hospital EMS for 18 years, without missing a single day of work. Wiseman is knowledgeable and skillful in her work and active in the community. Wiseman teaches students during their ride time to ensure they know their skills and are comfortable with what is expected of them.

Responders Return to Long Beach (continued)

Governor Mike Pence to the City of Long Beach. It highlighted what an honor it was for Indiana to aid neighbors on the East Coast, and expressed support for the continuing recovery process.

View the letter at http://www.in.gov/activecalendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=10/1/2013&todate=10/31/2013&display=Month&type=public&eventidn=140381&view=EventDetails&information_id=189862

"You couldn't imagine that you would make that great a difference in just two weeks, but everyone remembered us," said Postma. "It was emotional for us because we never got to see the end result, but everyone remembered us; we were treated like long lost family returning home."

Remember these resources to educate your local community and the general public.

Visit getprepared.in.gov

Holiday Shopping Tips

Online

- Email advertisement and spam traffic may increase during the holiday season. If the subject of an email from a known or unknown sender seems suspicious, delete the email without opening it.
- Never convey personal information, such as credit card numbers, bank account numbers, Social Security numbers or passwords in emails.
- When shopping online, visit only well-known, reputable sites.
- Keep virus protection and computer security software up to date.
- Use complex passwords to safeguard personal information like credit card numbers and billing addresses.
- If available, consider using your bank's virtual credit card service. Virtual credit cards can only be used once and usually expire in 24 hours.



In the Store

- Be aware of your surroundings and know where the exits are located. Periodically, take a moment to reorient yourself to these exits while you are shopping.
- Notify building security or another employee if you notice exits that are blocked with merchandise, displays or other items.
- If a fire alarm sounds, leave your shopping carts and bags and evacuate the building immediately. No bargain is worth ignoring a fire alarm.
- Retail store owners and employees should be aware of building occupancy limits and be attentive to potential overcrowding. If consumers think a building may be filled past capacity, they should notify a store employee or consider returning to that store later.
- If retailers are closely monitoring occupancy levels, they may ask you to wait before entering the store until another patron exits to avoid exceeding building capacity.



Safety Tips for Buying a Christmas Tree

Picking out a Christmas tree is one of the most exciting and common family traditions of the holiday season. Whether big or small, real or artificial, picking a Christmas tree brings out the holiday spirit in all. As you choose and decorate your tree this holiday season, keep a few safety tips in mind.

- If you choose an artificial tree, be sure it is identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- If you decide on a real tree, choose one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source. One in five Christmas tree fires is caused by a heating source that is too close.
- Make sure the tree does not block an exit.
- Add water to the tree daily.
- Make sure the lights on the tree are for indoor/outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights that has worn, in addition to broken cords and broken bulbs.
- Never decorate the tree with lit candles.
- Always turn the Christmas tree lights off before leaving home or going to bed.



Cooking Safety

With the holiday seasons quickly approaching, now is a good time for Hoosiers to be reminded of cooking safety, not only when guests are over, but also on an everyday basis. The following are a few tips to keep in mind when cooking.

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen even for a short period, turn off the stove.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turning off the stovetop.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Director's Column (continued)

Sheriff of Parke County; Scott Reske, Executive Director of Public and Governmental Affairs for the Indiana Department of Education; and Greg Zoeller, Attorney General.

From all the applications submitted, 90 percent were funded, for a total of \$9,097,701.77. Out of those funded, 95 (39 percent) are in counties classified as urban, 61 (25 percent) are in counties classified as rural, and 85 (35 percent) are in counties classified as mixed urban and rural. (Note: percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding.)

Schools requested funds for several purposes, but the majority of requests were made for security equipment. Examples of this equipment include panic buttons, shatterproof glass film, visitor management kiosks,

security doors, door-locking devices, surveillance cameras, video and intercom systems, and swipe card readers. By no means is this an exhaustive list, but it provides a strong idea of the types of items schools requested to enhance security measures.

This grant is flexible and a great partnership between the State of Indiana and local school districts. Local schools define their risks, and allows them to be honest about their needs. The grant then allows the state to help solve the problems and fill any gaps they identify within the parameters of the program.

Those schools receiving funds will see a positive impact. It is our goal, as a state, to be among the safest schools in the country, and with this grant we are taking a step in the right direction.



Fire Spotlight

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) has presented its annual awards to firefighters, emergency medical services, law enforcement, hazardous materials professionals, special operations and those who are part of Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

Chief Christopher See of the Jeff-Craig Fire & Rescue in Vevay, IN, received Fire Chief of the Year (Volunteer). See is a 12-year veteran of fire service, serving six of those years with the Jeff-Craig Fire Department. After See taught Firefighter 1 & 2 courses in 2008, the Department had 16 members

on its roster; now, he currently leads a 49-member volunteer fire department that responded to more than 500 emergency calls in 2012. See reduced Vevay's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating so residents would see a drop in insurance premiums. See also served as an incident commander in 2012 to many calls including a fire in a retirement home, flash flood damage and an oxygen explosion in an assisted living complex.



FIRE Grants Application Period Opens and FEMA Region V Offering Webinars

The Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) is one of FEMA's most applied for assistance programs. The purpose of the FEMA webinars are to provide information on the upcoming Funding Opportunity Announcement as well as to explain program updates, funding priorities and application information. Each webinar will be approximately two hours in length, and participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.

The application period for the FY 2013 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program will open on November 4, 2013 and remain open until December 6, 2013.

The webinars can be accessed at <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/afgwebinar-regionv/>.

EMS Reminds Hoosiers to Stay Warm Outdoors this Winter

In preparation for winter weather returning, Emergency Medical Services in Indiana is reminding Hoosiers to take care against the bitter cold and snow often experience during the season. The following are good reminders for working the cold:

- Dress warmly. Wear layers of loose-fitting clothing, a hat, and cover the extremities most prone to frostbite, such as the nose, ears, and fingers.
- Stay dry. Wet clothing can chill the body. Remove any wet items before heading back out.
- Cold weather puts an extra strain on the

heart. Take time while doing outdoor chores and take frequent breaks.

- Return indoors or someplace warm if persistent shivering occurs. If a person's body temperature is below 95 degrees, call 9-1-1.
- Numbness and redness in extremities can be a sign of frostbite. Get someplace warm and immerse the area in warm (not hot) water.

Emergency Medical Services are part of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

IDHS Assists ISP with Car Water Escape Training

Indiana State Police (ISP) and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) partnered on Saturday, Oct. 19, to train on escape procedures pertaining to vehicles. Officers from the ISP dive team have been assisting IDHS in the Ice Safety Program for the last three years.

The message and steps for a car in the water is:

- Seat Belt (Unbuckle it.)
- Window (Roll it down. Even power window WILL function.)
- Children (Get their seatbelts off and get them out of the car.)
- Out (Get out of the car.)

Some Do NOTs:

- Do not waste precious time making a cell phone call.
- Do not wait for the pressure of the water to "equalize."
- Do not try to open a door, Get out through an open window.



On October 5, District I United States Army Reserve Technical Response Team (USAR/TRT) conducted a drill in LaPorte County at Kingsbury Industrial Park. The objectives of the drill were to have the team work together with locals to show one another's capabilities. While the agencies were the experts of the area and able to provide the history, the USAR/TRT was able to show how it would conduct a search if a major event such as a tornado were to take place. The industrial park has a lot of debris and portions of collapsed structures, which makes the training

very realistic. The team's rescue dog Jake (center photo), participated by completing several missions to locate victims. Jake's response also conveyed to the agencies his capabilities.

Governor Declares November 17-23 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week

Governor Pence has declared November 17-23 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. The week is used to remind Hoosiers to take the time and prepare for the upcoming winter weather.

November 19 is the average date of first measurable snowfall in the State of Indiana. Hoosiers need to take some extra measures to ensure they are prepared for winter weather.

Home Readiness

- Check your homeowner's insurance policy to make sure coverage is adequate for the type of winter weather in the area. Learn what is excluded from the policy.
- Remove dead tree branches. Ice and snow, combined with winter winds, can cause limbs to snap and break and could do damage to your home.
- Clean gutters. Snow and ice can

build up quickly, especially if gutters are clogged with debris. When thawing begins, water from melting ice has nowhere to drain and can back up under roof and eaves, causing water damage to walls and ceilings. Consider buying screens to keep your gutters debris-free.

- Make sure auxiliary heaters and fireplaces are adequately maintained and serviced. Many fires related to alternative heating sources are preventable through proper maintenance. Before installing a wood-burning stove, check with local fire officials about codes and proper installation techniques. Do not store kerosene in a non-approved container or in the home and be sure to keep alternative heat sources from flammable materials (walls, curtains, etc.).

Readiness Kit:

- Food and water for 3 days (includes 1 gallon of water per person, per day)

- Battery or hand crank all hazards radio (weather)
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries for radio and flashlight, if needed.
- First aid kit
- Extra clothing, sturdy shoes, blankets, and personal hygiene items
- List of emergency phone numbers
- Important documents (copies of photo ID, social security card, insurance and banking information)
- Cash (Small bills. Power outages can limit use of ATMs and credit cards)
- Special items (baby formula, insulin, life-sustaining medication)

For more information on Winter Weather Preparedness,

Visit
GetPrepared.in.gov



Solar panels creating hazard for firefighters

A recent fire at a Dietz & Watson distribution center in South New Jersey has drawn attention to a relatively new hazard facing firefighters – solar panels. The 300,000 square-foot refrigeration facility for the company's deli meats and cheeses burned to the ground partially because firefighters ran the risk of electrocution and were kept from attacking the blaze from the roof.

The panels, while environmentally sustainable and cost-saving, pose a real electrocution risk that's not easily solved because each solar panel

is its own energy producer. That means the grouping of panels cannot be de-energized from a single point like other electric sources. Solar panels generate electricity as long as there is light present. Throwing a tarp over the panels to block the light is an option, but only if crews can get to the area safely.

A roof covered with solar panels also presents access risks to firefighters because they are less able to make ventilation holes in that area to extinguish the fire. In the case of the Dietz & Watson blaze, firefighters were forced to fight the flames from

afar, rather than go inside and attack the fire source.

According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, photovoltaic solar panel installations on industrial and commercial buildings – and now homes -- have jumped nearly 300 percent from 2010 through 2012. That means code officials, builders and developers will need to work with local fire departments to ensure solar installations are designed and installed with firefighting in mind, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



On November 1, surrounded by students and staff at Cedar Elementary School in Avon, Governor Mike Pence announced more than \$9 million in grant funding to local schools and school corporations through the Secured School Safety Grant Program.



In Remembrance

- John C. “Yogi” Murley former Fire Chief for Milton-Washington Township Fire Department in Wayne County.
- Mike Fowler served formerly as the Deputy State Fire Marshal for the State of Indiana and was an investigator for the Vigo County Prosecutor’s Office.
- Robert Campbell served for the Hogan Township Volunteer Fire Department in Dearborn County.
- Richard Lamb served formerly as Fire Chief to the Wayne Township Fire Department in Marion County.
- Rick Martindale served formerly as Fire Chief for Green Township Fire Department in Morgan County.

Indiana Leads 10 States in Fourth Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

Indiana led the Great Central U.S. Shakeout with more than 540,000 registered participants. More than 2.4 million people across 10 central U.S. states took part simultaneously in the fourth Great Central U.S.

ShakeOut on Oct. 17, 2013, at 10:17 a.m. The ShakeOut is a regional earthquake drill during which participants simultaneously practice the recommended action to take, specifically drop, cover and hold on.

Participants learned to:

- **DROP** to the ground
- Take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table or covering their head and neck with their arms, and
- **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops.

Citizens, schools, businesses, organizations, government agencies and communities participated in the central U.S. drill. States included in this regional exercise included Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana,

Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma and Tennessee. Nationwide, 43 states and territories totaling 15 million people participated.

“Being prepared for an earthquake means you’re prepared for all hazards Indiana faces each year,” said Indiana Department of Homeland Security Senior Public Information Officer John Erickson. “Many of the same preparations for an earthquake apply to tornadoes, flooding and winter storms. The ShakeOut is a great annual event to help keep Hoosiers thinking about preparing for emergencies.”

To view the full list of participants, go to <http://shakeout.org/centralus/participants.php?start=Indiana>. For more information on the annual drill and to research helpful preparedness information, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

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