



Safeguarding Hoosiers by Planning, Preparing and Responding

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The Hoosier Responder

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Can You Hear Me Now? State Receives 20 Million to Improve Communications

The ability to communicate is a vital part of being an emergency responder. Without the proper communication technology, safety personnel are not able to respond as quickly to situations where lives may be at stake. Also important is the ability for different departments to have open communication with one another, allowing for proper distribution of personnel and response coordination. In an effort to improve Indiana's public safety communications, Governor Mitch Daniels recently announced that more than \$20 million in Federal grants will be used to enhance communications for emergency responders.

The grant was awarded through the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program, which awarded over \$900 million in September 2007, to fund communications projects in 56 U.S. States and Territories. PSIC awarded the funds in

an effort to help States create their interoperable communications.

Interoperable communication is the ability for various agencies to receive and use information from one another, in turn making emergency response easier and more effective. Previously, first responders used different technologies that made it impossible to coordinate efforts during a disaster or emergency.



A 2007 Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) survey will act as the main guide for the distribution of the funds. The funds will be used to supply more than 5,200 radios to first responders, \$2.9 million for communication infrastructure, \$2.1 million for the advancement of integrated data sharing, finances for the first statewide interoperable communications conference

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From the Director's Chair



As we wrap up the month of July, the recovery efforts after devastating tornadoes and floods in June continue. I must first commend our state and local team who have worked so diligently. Our department, along with local, state, and federal agencies, have worked

selflessly to ensure the protection of life, property, and the environment for Indiana.

Due to severe storms and flooding, hundreds of Hoosier homes were damaged or destroyed, farmland was over-saturated with water, and

commercial and governmental buildings need repair. The costs to rebuild need not rest solely on the local communities or the state. Federal aid programs, grants and other forms of funding are available to

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Vests Required for Emergency Responders



By Josh Frasure

In accordance with a new federal mandate, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will purchase new High-Visibility Vests for state emergency responders. The new mandate, effective November 24, 2008, requires that anyone working on the right-of-way of a federal-aid highway must wear high-visibility clothing.

The new regulation is intended to ensure the safety of emergency response personnel working on busy streets and intersections. While responding to a roadway emergency, personnel become prone to accidents

caused by distracted or inattentive drivers. However, the new vests will improve visibility, with the goal of, decreasing the likelihood of a collision.

There are a few exceptions to the rule; however, due to the response from state and local police organizations and state departments of transportation, the rule includes exceptions for law enforcement officers. Officers are not required to wear the vest if they are in a potentially adversarial or confrontational situation, such as, traffic stops or searches. On the other hand, officers are still required to wear high-visibility clothing during other highway activity. There are currently no exceptions for firefighters.

There have already been some proposed changes to the rule. For example, one proposal suggests allowing ANSI 207 vests for emergency responders, instead of the ANSI 107 that is in use. The ANSI 207 only requires 450 square inches of background material, not 775 like the ANSI 107. In addition, another proposal suggests requiring use of the vest on all public roads and not just federal-aid highways, suggesting that in order to be truly safe, emergency personnel should wear the vest during every traffic emergency.

Regardless of the changes, IDHS is currently in the process of purchasing the vests for its emergency response team.

Retro-Fit of Website

The [IDHS website](#) has been recreated by IN.gov (Indiana IOT staff). This retro-fit was done so that a new version of software can be used to manage the system and perform updates. In doing so, it was necessary to change the page identification structure of each of our web pages.

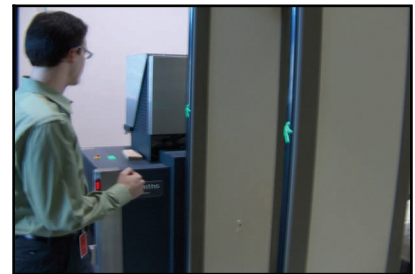
Each IDHS web page has its own four digit identifier (right before .htm in the address). These new page numbers cannot be changed back to the old numbers. Please be sure to update your bookmarks and notify key partners.

Security Tightens around Gov't Center

Identification cards issued to state employees have recently become more important. In an effort to secure the Indiana Government Center, all state employees must use their ID cards to access the north and south buildings.

The Indiana State Police (ISP) is in full cooperation in implementing the new security procedures, which were a recommendation of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council chaired by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman.

Visitors to either building must use the public entrance and pass through security prior to entering. Public entrances for the north and south buildings are located at 302 W. Washington St. and on Robert D. Orr Plaza. State employees must present their ID cards in front of the card reader to access either building to any entrance other than the public entrance. ISP will also begin weapons screening at both buildings.



In order to help state employees and visitors with special needs, the Indiana Government Center reminds anyone with pacemakers, defibrillators or other medical devices to notify Capitol Police so the search can be conducted with a handheld detector and not interfere with these medical devices. In addition, ADA-accessible doors with the assist button can be accessed by first presenting an ID card and then pressing the assist button.

Although these measures may take a little effort for state employees to get used to, they will help ensure the safety of employees and visitors to the IGC North and South buildings.



EMA Spotlight



Martin County

Martin County is in District 10, in the southwest quarter of the state. Cameron Wolf has been a part time director since 1987 with certificates in Fire Fighter I, II and First Responder. Deputy Director Andrew Ringwald has also been an active firefighter and first responder since the late 1980s. In addition, 25 volunteers assist in the department's many activities. Recently, Director Wolf joined the health board and has found the collaboration productive.

He has followed in the steps of his father, Camden Lee Wolf, who was director from the mid 1970s through the mid 1980s. At that time there was

a need for improvement to the rescue services and Camden was instrumental, as director, in getting the first Amkus rescue tools for the county. Continuing the tradition, the Emergency Management office manages a county-wide fire/rescue department which provides automatic mutual aid to the local fire, sheriff and the ambulance services.

Martin County has also been proud to accept a 3,000 gallon pumper/tanker (the largest in the county) from the FEMA Fire Act Grant program and will soon take delivery on a Pumper/Rescue truck being funded by a state grant.



**Cameron Wolf, Director
Martin County EMA**

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Martin County EMA looks forward to continuing and improving service to the community.

Scott County

Shortly after 9/11/01, Greg Brown became a volunteer member of the Scott County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Prior to joining the Scott County EMA Brown was a small business owner in Scottsburg after leaving the position of National Construction Manager overseeing the design and installation of electronic heating, ventilating and cooling (HVAC) and fire protection and security control systems across the country. Brown became the deputy director in mid-2003 and assumed the executive director position in January 2004, which also includes responsibility for all emergency communication and 911 operations in the county.

Accomplishments

- Assisted in the creation of the Scott County EMS service and sits as a member of the advisory board.

- Member of the Scott County Courthouse Security committee and used IDHS grant funds for the upgrade of courthouse security systems, such as access control, closed circuit television (CCTV) and fire protection systems. Provided additional security for the county-wide primary safety answering point (PSAP) or 911 center.
- Through IDHS grants began the build-out of the county-wide 800 MHz interoperation communication system.
- Established the Scott County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) program with the help of local HAM operators and upgraded the armature radio repeater system in the county.



**Greg Brown, Director
Scott County EMA**

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- Ensure county wide NIMS compliance as federally mandated.
- Worked several PA and IA declared disasters within the county, most recently flooding along the Muscatatuck River this spring.



From the Director's Chair

(Continued from page 1)

support the reconstruction of the affected counties.

Most of the severe storms occurred in central and southern Indiana and prompted disaster declarations by both Governor Mitch Daniels and President George Bush. Because of the severe weather and flooding, federal assistance is available to more than [40 Indiana counties](#).

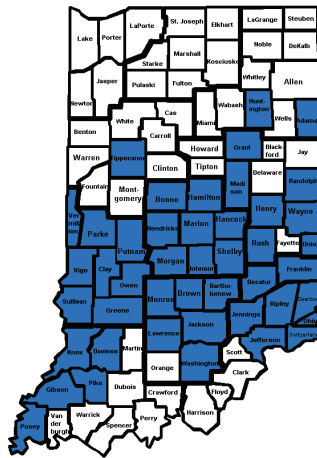
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides two of the primary vehicles for financial assistance to those affected by the severe weather. Funding resources to aid the recovery and restoration process after a major disaster is available through FEMA's Public Assistance and Individual Assistance programs.

The Public Assistance (PA) grant program provides financial assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. The federal share of PA is not less than 75% of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration. Indiana has received special consideration for the expenses incurred in Category B on Emergency Protective measures and will be reimbursed for 90-percent of these eligible projects.

Through PA, FEMA provides supplemental disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-

Profit organizations. The PA program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

It is essential that any eligible entity that incurred damage or emergency response costs of \$1,000 or more submit its request for public assistance prior to August 20, 2008 to be eligible for any reimbursement. Failure to submit the application within the allotted time period will make those



expenses ineligible. For more information on [Public Assistance](#), visit the IDHS website.

Unlike Public Assistance, the Individual Assistance (IA) program provides money and services to Hoosiers in the disaster area when losses are not covered by insurance and property has been damaged or destroyed. IA is designed to help with critical expenses that cannot be covered in other ways. Assistance available through IA includes temporary housing, repair to a damaged home, replacement of a home and permanent housing construction. Other needs assistance can be provided and includes medical, dental, funeral, personal property, transportation, moving and storage aid.

When determining the level of aid offered by FEMA, factors such as health/safety issues, private insurance coverage, and the availability of housing are all taken into account. The economic impact and loss of jobs directly resulting from the disaster are also influential on the level of support provided.

With deadlines for the approved counties approaching, it is imperative for all affected Hoosiers to *correctly* apply for available assistance. Incorrect applications or a lack of awareness about available aid can place a burden on everyone in the community by taxing already depleted resources and funding.

The hard work of IDHS with other local, state, and federal entities has shown how strongly we can respond in such a swift and expansive disaster. To date, the PA and IA programs continue to work on providing the people of Indiana with financial help. Currently, the IA program has approved nearly 3,500 applications for Small Business Administration (SBA) loans and IA totaling more than \$49 million.

We obviously don't wish for disasters to happen, but we know that when they do, Indiana responders will be prepared. As homes and communities are rebuilt, it is necessary to continue to provide Hoosiers with the needed economic support via federal grants and loans, and is also essential to keep providing support, services and encouragement. I am impressed by the dedicated professionals we have working at IDHS and throughout our partner federal, state and local agencies. Keep up the great effort.

Indiana Code and Statute Corner

IC 36-8-21.5-9

Department to adopt rules concerning severe weather warning sirens

Sec. 9. Before January 1, 2010, the department shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to provide for the following

- (1) Minimum technical standards, including a minimum range, for any siren that is to be acquired and installed in a county under a county's siren coverage plan.
- (2) A specification of any permissible storm, weather condition, or emergency, other than a tornado, for which a severe weather warning siren may be activated.

(3) Requirements for any test, activation, or failure rate data that the department may require a county to submit with respect to any siren identified by a county in a:

- (A) siren coverage report prepared under this chapter; or
- (B) siren coverage plan prepared under this chapter.

(4) Any other rules necessary for the department to:

- (A) assess the number, location, and condition of existing severe weather

warning sirens in each county in Indiana; and

- (B) determine the need for additional sirens in order to ensure comprehensive severe weather warning siren coverage for all Indiana residents.

As added by P.L. 89-2008, SEC.1.

For more information on Severe Weather Warning Sirens, [click here](#).



IDHS Completes Database Merge

By Josh Frasure

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has merged existing data into a single training certification database. IDHS will implement the Acadis Readiness Suite created by the Bloomington based company ENVISAGE Technologies.

ENVISAGE is a leading technological corporation in homeland security, creating multiple training management systems for Homeland Security, law enforcement agencies, and the Armed Forces. Some of ENVISAGE's current customers include, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, parts of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Army, and the Navy. In addition, the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy has been using the Acadis system for several years.

The need for one all-encompassing database emerged several years ago upon the creation of the IDHS in 2005,

which merged several existing State agencies under one roof. Each agency brought its own training certifications and records databases that often contained information that overlapped that of another agency. This complicated the emergency response process by making it difficult to determine who was qualified to handle specific situations.

Under the Acadis system information regarding fire, Haz-Mat, emergency management, emergency medical, search and rescue, and first responder training is compiled in one system, making training a much smoother process.

"The Acadis database will act as a one-stop-shop for training and certification information," said Brad Thatcher, director of the IDHS Division of Training. "If someone shows up at an emergency out of uniform and without ID, it won't take us long to make sure they are who they say they are."



In addition, Acadis will act as a transcript, allowing public safety personnel to access their own records and keep track of their training progress.

IDHS hopes to begin using the database by the end of July; however, additional information regarding those with Federal or outside training may not be updated until later in the year. Furthermore, the system will be continually updated as more emergency responders enter the system and those already in the database receive more training. If Acadis meets expectations, tracking and updating training information will now be done with ease.



IFA Donations Help District Training

By Michael Benning

The Indiana Firefighters Association (IFA) is donating \$500 to each of the 10 Indiana District Fire Training Councils in the state. The funds will go to support additional training and other programs in the districts.

Ralph Luke, Secretary and Treasurer of the IFA, and John M. Buckman, III, Indiana Fire and EMS Certification Chief, collaborated on the decision to make the donations. Luke sees this action as “one way to put back into the state...and it goes to [help] all fire services.”

As of now, four of the ten districts have received checks; the IFA is currently in

the process of personally delivering the remaining ones.

With such additional support and training, everyone benefits, as firefighters can then better protect Hoosiers, noted Luke. He hopes that this act will “encourage other organizations to help out as well.”

Such giving is not something new to the IFA; every year the organization donates to the Indiana Law Enforcement and Firefighters Law Memorial. Also, the IFA supports individual projects for city departments, such as bagpipes for the Indiana Emerald Society, a law enforcement cultural organization which performs at fire, military, and police funerals.



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will participate again this year in the Indiana State Fair. IDHS will be maximizing their sponsorship by having “Indiana Homeland Security Day” on Saturday, August 16, 2008.

Staff at IDHS and a handful of partners will be available at the Fair from 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. to distribute informational literature and promotional items. If you are interested in participating in Indiana Homeland Security Day at the Fair, please contact Rachel Meyer at (317) 232-8303 or rmeyer@dhs.in.gov.

Inspectors Play Part in Stadium

15 days 19 hours 22 minutes and counting. That is how much time is left before the new home of the Colts, Lucas Oil Stadium, hosts its first official event. Working hard to ensure that the building is up to code and safe for the public is IDHS Fire and Building Code Inspector Kevin Troy. Troy stated a preliminary finish date of August 10 for

the new stadium, saying that by then the stadium should be finished enough to house the public and its first event. Troy remains the stadium's inspector only through the end of the construction. At that point, Robert Miller will take over the fire and maintenance inspections. Miller stated that inspections will occur

annually to check the sprinkler systems, boilers, alarms systems, building evacuation plan and exit signs.



Troy & Miller on Lucas Oil Stadium Field

Employee Spotlight - Christine Clouse

Christine Clouse works as an administrative assistant to the Director of Fire and Building Code Enforcement. Her responsibilities range from ordering supplies and drafting correspondence to solving daily office problems and supervising her office staff of seven. She has been in this position for more than four years.

Christine's favorite aspect of her job is the variety of assignments and the

interaction with people.

Outside of work, Christine has several hobbies: sewing, reading, gardening, cooking, scrapbooking, and camping. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and family.

A resident of Southport for over 22 years, Christine lives with her husband, youngest daughter, and two cats. She has five additional children who are

married, and a total of seventeen grandchildren—with another on the way.



Employee Spotlight - Kemp L. Jones, Jr.

Kemp L. Jones, Jr. is an Intelligence Officer for the Indiana Department of Correction and is currently assigned to the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center as a Watch Officer. He has been in this position for just over a year.

While Kemp primarily assists the IDOC in apprehending fugitives, he also works with the Law Enforcement Notification System [LENS] to alert local law enforcement agencies of offenders being released in their

jurisdiction.

In Kemp's opinion, the most exciting part of his job is taking advantage of the extensive intelligence-related training available.

Kemp spent 3 years in the US army in the Infantry Division. He is the only Certified Corrections Supervisor in Security Threat Groups in his Department.

Born in Gary, Kemp currently resides on the northwest side of Indianapolis with his wife and four children.



Mobile Homes Available For Indiana Disaster Areas

Some Indiana residents put out of their homes by the recent disaster will get mobile homes to use as temporary housing. Governor Mitch Daniels requested the units from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) earlier this month.

Officials from FEMA and Indiana's Office of Disaster Recovery (ODR) estimate that the need may be for 100-500 units. Families moved into the units in mid-July.

Although Governor Daniels encouraged the primary focus for the units to be Bartholomew, Morgan and Vigo counties, residents of other counties will be considered on an as-needed basis. Once a need has been expressed, FEMA assesses for such housing by interviewing applicants. The agency has made more than 4,000 preliminary calls to applicants so far.

Requests for housing are reviewed and prioritized based on current living situations and other circumstances. For example, anyone living in a shelter would have first priority. The need to relocate closer to schools, day care or doctors would be examples of other factors taken into consideration.

Mobile homes are usually about 14 feet wide by 60 feet long and are "move-in ready" with everything residents need to set up housekeeping. This includes full furnishings along with necessary items such as bedding, towels, dishes, pots and pans, etc.

Occupancy of a FEMA mobile home or park model is strictly voluntary – and temporary. They are intended to meet



emergency needs that end when each occupant's permanent home is repaired or alternate housing is found.

While the mobile homes are constructed for long-term living, the maximum occupancy period is 18 months. During that time, the applicant must be working toward a permanent housing plan. Each household is assigned a caseworker to assist them in developing a permanent housing plan. The option for families to purchase the mobile home at the end



of the 18 months will only be available to previous homeowners. So far, FEMA has disbursed \$49 Million to Indiana households including nearly \$6 Million in rental assistance.

In order to qualify for this direct housing assistance, households affected by the disaster must register with FEMA and have sufficient disaster-related damage to their primary residence that makes it uninhabitable.

Register with FEMA by calling the toll-free registration number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or on-line at www.fema.gov. Those with speech or hearing impairments may call TTY 1-800-462-7585.



FEMA

Employee Spotlight – John Buckman



John M. Buckman, III is the Fire and EMS Certification Chief at IDHS. Midway through his fourth year, John works with the training and certification system for Indiana Fire and EMS personnel.

John's favorite part of his job is being able to provide the funding, equipment, support, and supplies needed to help local firefighters meet their training goals.

In his free time, John enjoys photography and writing. He recently self-published *Lessons Learned from Fire Rescue Leaders* and is currently finishing another book.

With his wife Leslie, John resides in Evansville. He has been the Fire Chief of the German Township Volunteer Fire Department for 31 years.

Agencies to Create Traffic Incident Management System

By Josh Frasure

The U.S. Fire Administration, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and the International Fire Service Training Association recently created the Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS) report.

TIMS provides training and guidance programs for traffic incident management, firefighters and other emergency service providers. The report will act as a guide to manage traffic incident emergencies. The collaborating departments feel that with a better system in place, the

number of emergency personnel killed while responding to a traffic emergency will dwindle.

Nationally in 2005, more than 100 firefighters lost their lives because of a vehicular collision. In addition, there have been recent incidents of Indiana firefighters losing their lives because of vehicle collisions while responding to a roadside emergency. This report is intended to prevent such tragedies from occurring.

The report examined such practices as effective distance for placement of roadway warning signs, correct amount and color for vehicle warning lights,



proper training, and proper protective gear for flaggers. It is hoped that proper training and practice will lead to safer conditions. Reports also include first hand accounts of roadway incidents, which have taken the lives of emergency personnel, and incidents where effective TIMS programs have prevented such occurrences.

Can You Hear Me Now?

(Continued from page 1)

which occurred in early July, and the implementation of Communications Asset System Mapping (CASM).

Project Hoosier SAFE-T, is an award-winning communication project, which began in the late 1990s. The system now provides 95% mobile radio coverage for Indiana First

Responders. With the funds from the new grant, the number of radios in use with Hoosier SAFE-T will increase by 20%, and seven new sites for portable coverage will be added.

These funds will greatly benefit Indiana's effort to create one interoperable communications system. By providing new radios and training to use them, the state is

making these communication devices affordable and available for every community.





IDHS to Receive SAG Award

By Josh Frasure

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will receive an award this year from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). ESRI is a leading marketer in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and chose IDHS as a recipient of the 2008 Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) award. The award is presented every year at the annual ESRI's User Conference to a **select** group from

more than 100,000 customers. Roger Koelpin will be accepting the award on behalf of IDHS at the special awards ceremony in San Diego on August 6th.

GIS is a method of organizing database systems based on geographical locations and relationships. More specifically, GIS can take and interpret multiple information inputs and integrate them into a single geographical interpretation. GIS allows users to create a specific integrated mapping system that makes it easy to locate people, events, locations,

weather, etc. and find patterns in the information.

Indiana established its GIS office on July 1, 2007 to coordinate statewide activities. Specifically, the office was to facilitate GIS data cooperation from federal, state, and local governments and update existing information. The office gathered the information to compile one statewide dataset, which allows officials at various levels of government access to the information.

Greeson, Buckman Speak at Fallen Firefighter Memorial

By Michael Benning

On July 17th, Indiana honored its fallen firefighters at the Indiana Law Enforcement & Firefighters Memorial. Indiana Department of Homeland Security employees State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and Fire and EMS Certification Chief John Buckman were among the speakers.

An American flag, hoisted high between two raised fire truck lifts, floated silently just outside of the memorial. The temperature ran into the 90s, aided by a piercing sun.

With bagpipes sounding "Minstrel Boy", the Emerald Society Honor Guard with the Fire Fighter Color Guard marched into the circular memorial site to begin the service. After an introduction of the speakers and Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation by Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) Chaplain Ed Gerdowski introduced the overall theme of the service stating, "they are truly heroes for us to admire."

The honored fallen were Sidney Hall of the Upland Fire Department, Bradley

Green of the Cowan Volunteer Fire Department, Dennise Leslie of the Coal City Volunteer Fire Department, and David Sherfick of the Brown Township Fire Department.

Greeson reflected on why individuals become firefighters: to fulfill a childhood dream, to serve the community, to follow a family tradition. Greeson also discussed the firefighter's motto, "Everyone Returns Home." After a brief pause, he solemnly conceded the reality in such a dangerous occupation; not everyone will return home.

In closing, Greeson recalled his experience as a fire chief where it was his duty to know when to pull his men and women out of a situation. No longer in direct control of such scenarios, he now works to make the buildings across the state which fire fighters may need to enter as safe for them as possible.

Next, Buckman took the podium and expanded on heroism; the sacrifice of the fallen firefighter's family to endure



makes them heroes as well. Buckman said, "it is more than just placing a name on a piece of granite...it memorializes [the fire fighters'] sacrifice and the continued one of their families." To close, Buckman read selected lyrics from "My Wish" by Rascal Flatts.

A carnation ceremony followed, with two red carnations being presented to the surviving family members for each of the honored fire fighters. One was to be placed on the memorial itself; the other in the Memorial Chamber, a clear vessel containing a white carnation for each fallen fire fighter who has gone before. Two instrumentals were performed in reverence: "TAPS" by a single trumpet player, and "Amazing Grace" by the Emerald Society.

With a closing benediction, the service ended as it began, under the colors of flags and the sound of bagpipes.

Annual Hazards Workshop Held In Colorado

On July 12-15, the Natural Hazards Center of the University of Colorado held its 33rd Annual Hazards Workshop. The Center has been holding these workshops since 1975 to help advance and communicate knowledge on hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.



The annual workshop includes nearly 400 federal, state, and local emergency officials, among others, who would respond in the case of a disaster. Brad Thatcher, Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Director of Training, attended this invitation-only event.

Thatcher attended several events at the workshop, including a session on dealing with deaths in a pandemic disaster, one on coordinating community-based and volunteer organizations, and one regarding working with the press during a disaster event. The workshop included several other events and speakers dealing with disaster response or recovery information.

Meant to be engaging, the workshop devotes over half of its time to question and answer, as well as, debate session, in which participants can discuss critical issues in the hazards and disaster community.

IDHS Named Fire Prevention Bureau of the Year



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security won the 12th annual Fire Prevention Bureau of the Year Award. Presented annually at the Fire Inspector Association of Indiana (FIAI)/ Indiana Association of Building Officials (IABO) business meeting, the award goes to the area voted the best Fire Prevention Bureau. This year IDHS was chosen for the effort put forth in ensuring proper training and certification of its personnel.

This year marked FIAI's 20th anniversary and, in partnership with IABO, it hosts an annual business meeting.

Each year at the meeting, awards are given to the Fire Inspector and Fire

Prevention Bureau of the Year. Winners are chosen by a panel consisting of FIAI/IABO personnel and previous year's winners.

"The award was really unexpected, it seems that they're starting to get what it is we're doing," said Shelly Wakefield, IDHS Fire & Building Code Services Branch Chief. "It's just important that everyone gets credit for this not a select few. This is a group effort."

Employee Spotlight - Beth Sutor



Beth Sutor is an administrative assistant for Code Services at IDHS. She has worked in the position for almost 11 years. Beth's responsibilities include clerical support, providing variances, maintaining the code library, responding to inquiries, and processing the minutes of department meetings. Beth's favorite part of her job is meeting and talking with "so many interesting people from around the state."

Out of the office, Beth enjoys quilting, knitting, crochet, reading, camping, travel, and baking. She has been a Girl Scout leader and currently is Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troupe 265. Beth also finds time to volunteer in the USO at Camp Atterbury.

Beth lives in Greenwood with Jim, her husband of 36 years. She has three children and three grandchildren.



The EMS/IFCA/IFA Conference will be held September 17- 21, 2008 at the Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel & Conference Center. The conference program includes: classroom lectures, general sessions with major speakers, practical skills sessions, and a large exhibit hall/demonstration area.

FEMA Region V Conference To Be Held in Nashville

The Annual FEMA Region V Conference is being held in Indiana this year. Each year officials from FEMA's fifth region, consisting of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, meet to discuss a large array of topics and formulate bonds with officials from other states. This year the meeting will be in Nashville, Indiana, and run from August 5-7. IDHS State Training Officer

Amy Lindsey and State Exercise Officer Rick Archer are planning the event.

This year's meeting will include multiple state personnel, as well as, 20 to 25 personnel from the other states in region five. There is a broad range of topics from the Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program. As in every conference, this year will allow

for regional collaboration and as an introduction to what is happening nationally. The location of the event is Brown County and will also allow for some fun, shopping and wine tasting.



Indiana Guard Reserve Helps Hospital Heal

COLUMBUS, Ind. - It was the worst flooding to hit Indiana in decades. During the first weekend in June, rising rivers and streams damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses across the state. One target of the flooding was Columbus Regional Hospital in Bartholomew County, which sustained an estimated \$130 million in damage. On Saturday, June 7, water rushed into the hospital's basement and first floor. Within hours, patients were evacuated and the hospital was closed. Marines and the Indiana National Guard helped move 157 patients to safety and secured the hospital.

However, less than a week later, on June 13, the National Guard was needed downstream for new duties. At that moment, the Indiana Guard Reserve, or IGR, rushed in to take over security. While an army of contractors started cleaning the hospital, IGR citizen soldiers started patrolling outside, to make sure the building and its workers were safe and secure.

Maj. Hal Grigdesby explained the IGR's mission. "Obviously there is a lot of valuable equipment inside and there's

also an opportunity for mischief," said Grigdesby, a Westfield resident. "With any kind of flooding situation, you have people who are interested in seeing what's available for looting. So we have our presence to discourage that kind of thing." Approximately \$20 million in salvaged equipment was staged in the hospital's parking lot. The IGR members protected the items and held a secure perimeter to deter theft

The IGR is an all-volunteer force that may be called upon to supplement the Indiana National Guard during state emergencies. There are nearly 300 IGR members based at 66 armories across the state. Ninety-six IGR soldiers answered the call to assist in Columbus. Each soldier worked an average of 51 hours and drove an average of 161 miles round trip.

IGR members do not expect to get paid or reimbursed for mileage or time off from work. However, they train for disasters like this in order to help their neighbors.

Grigdesby said that members of the IGR have varied backgrounds in age

and professional experience. "We have folks who are very young, 18, 20, 22 years old. And we have folks who have actually retired from the military and are young and able enough to still be of value to their state," said Grigdesby, himself a veteran.

Many others, such as Officer Candidate John Hoenstine, have a law enforcement background. "I retired from the Indianapolis Police Department and I've taken a lot of training from FEMA and homeland security. I was looking for a place where I could put that training to use," said Hoenstine.

That experience helped IGR Soldiers protect the hospital and the people working inside. IGR members patrolled multiple locations, working 12-hour shifts, or longer.

They were not alone in this mission. IGR leaders said additional support came from other organizations, including the American Red Cross, police agencies, hospital employees and the people of Bartholomew County.

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Indiana Guard Reserve Helps Hospital Heal

(Continued from page 11)

The mission had its hazards. Nine feet of water filled the basement. In about 45-minutes water washed away the hospital pharmacy, pathology, laboratory, information technology, and radiology departments, food services and more. Although there was no loss of life, the IGR chain of command presumed that the hazards were both environmental and biological. IGR members made sure no one entered the dangerous areas unless they were supposed to be there.

The IGR provided security at Columbus Regional Hospital for more than a week, when hospital security assumed control. The reviews from the hospital were positive. Martha Myers, Manager of Risk & Security,

told the IGR how thankful the hospital was. "Your ability to be here from June 13th through the 21st allowed us time to get organized for our own recovery. We had disaster plans, but the extent of this disaster was far greater than anything we had imagined," Myers said.



IGR members appreciated the compliments. "They just thanked me for making sure any onlookers did not come by," said Pvt. Lori Ahmed, a Camby resident. Col. Bernard Hayes, Indianapolis, added, "We've gotten a

lot of compliments from the hospital staff because they're doing a hell of a good job."

Staff Sgt. Paul Sabol, West Lafayette, summarized how most IGR members feel. "This is an important mission to me, but I wish I wasn't here because of everything these folks have gone through."

Maj. Gen. Barry Green added that he and his Soldiers were sorry to see what happened in Columbus. But he said that's why the IGR exists. "One of the mottos for the Indiana Guard Reserve is Hoosiers helping Hoosiers. And that's what this is all about."

For more information about the Indiana Guard Reserve, visit the Web site at <http://www.mdisd.org>.

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