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IDHS Provides Search and Rescue Training to DNR Officers

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security recently organized a series of Search and Rescue classes and coordinated with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in order to provide training to 12 DNR officers.

Training was conducted at the IDHS Search and Rescue Training Center at Camp Atterbury, located in Edinburgh.

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Two high school students in Fountain County have developed a school emergency response plan for their local high school and helped to identify areas of improvement in the process.

Mariah Henk and Toby Ellis, both seniors with Seeger High School in Fountain County, approached Fountain County EMA Director Joe Whitaker about incorporating emergency management for their vocational class. After gaining approval from the school superintendent, Henk and Ellis spent an afternoon with Whitaker.

“It’s always encouraging to see kids taking initiative like this,” said Whitaker.

“It’s not often that we see high school students approaching us directly, wanting to get involved in emergency management like Mariah and Toby, but their school will be far better for it in the long term.”

Following their visit, Henk and Ellis developed a tabletop exercise designed to test the school’s emergency plan. The exercise was so successful that the school is now looking to purchase panic buttons, identified to be one of the areas of improvement.

“This was the first time that students took a major role in a school safety exercise,” said Ralph Shrader, Superintendent of Seeger High School. “As a bonus, the time spent reviewing the safety plans satisfied the requirements for vocational credits. The dedication and passion of these students made this a rewarding experience for all parties involved.”

According to Shrader, this process has motivated additional students to focus on emergency management as part of their upcoming vocational courses.



(Photo from left to right: Henk, Whitaker and Ellis)

Indiana Emergency Response Conference Announces 2017 Award Winners

The Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC) presented its annual awards on September 22 at an evening ceremony.

The conference is for firefighters, emergency management agencies, hazardous materials professionals, special operations and telecommunicators.

Award recipients are:

Indiana Legislator of the Year

Timothy Wesco

Fire Instructor of the Year (Individual)

Rick Whitehouse, Evansville Fire Department

Fire Instructor of the Year (Division)

Indiana District 1 Cadre, Northwest Indiana

Co-Dispatchers of the Year

Kyle Kirkman, AMR Evansville
Lynda Auken, Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (Fort Wayne)

Heroic Rescue of the Year Award

Steve Thomson, Jeff McKinney and Jeff Brown, Decatur Township Fire Department (Indianapolis)

EMS Advanced Life Support Provider of the Year (Fire Department-based)

Pike Township Fire Department (Indianapolis)

EMS Advanced Life Support Provider of the Year (Non-Fire Department-based)

Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (Fort Wayne)

Firefighter of the Year

Zachary Westfall, Vincennes Fire Department

Fire Chief of the Year (Volunteer)

Dennis Spears, Centerville Fire and Rescue (Centerville)

Fire Chief of the Year (Career)

Pascal Arnes, Decatur Township Fire Department (Indianapolis)

Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year

Chuck Steele, South Bend Fire Department

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Division of Training and Preparedness Starts New Registration Process

Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Division of Training and Preparedness has implemented a new course registration process through Acadis. The system allows individuals to view all classes, topics of interest, course descriptions and locations and to register for classes. It also allows them to log in to see if all prerequisites are met in order to enroll in certain classes.

"We are excited to use Acadis as part of the new registration process so that everything runs more

smoothly. This will make looking up courses, course descriptions and dates easier to access and meet the needs of individuals who want the training" said Elizabeth Westfall, the State Training Officer with IDHS. "Acadis will also hold all previous training records and certifications in one place to make accessing those records more convenient"

To search courses and check availability, visit acadisportal.in.gov and click "available classes" to begin the

search. Contact the training division at training@dhs.in.gov with any questions or to get more information about courses.

Johnson Co. LEPC Coordinates Full-Scale Exercise



The Johnson County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held a full-scale exercise on September 22 in Greenwood. As part of the exercise, first responders coordinated a response to a structure fire with hazardous materials inside.

The responding fire department was dispatched to a simulated structure fire without knowing any of the additional information about the scene. While on the way to the fire, the responding department learned that there were victims trapped inside the building.

Once on scene, the fire department discovered that, in addition to the victims trapped inside, the building also contained hazardous materials. Crews worked to suppress the fire and rescue all of the victims trapped inside.

Partners participating in the exercise included the Greenwood Fire Department, Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, Johnson County Health Department and Mays Chemical.



Fire Marshal Meritorious Service Award

Two first responders who stepped up and thought quickly on their feet to help someone in need were awarded with the Fire Marshal's Meritorious Service Award.

On January 18, 2017, Oakland City University men's basketball coach Mike Sandifar was getting ready for bed when he collapsed. His wife, Mary, dialed 911 and began CPR. Knowing that across the street lived Oakland City firefighter Taunya Deffendall and firefighter and police officer Tim Gaines, she asked them for help.

Taunya and Tim did CPR on Coach Sandifar for 15 minutes before Gibson County paramedics arrived. Once paramedics saw CPR being performed they then began to administer medication and prepare the defibrillator. Once

a heartbeat was detected, Taunya and Tim assisted the paramedics with loading the ambulance. After receiving two additional shocks on the way to the hospital, Coach Sandifar arrived at the hospital and had bypass surgery. The doctor informed the family that because of how quickly the two responders arrived on the scene and began CPR, Coach Sandifar did not suffer permanent heart or brain damage.



(Photo from left to right: John Buckman, State Program Director/Fire and Public Safety Academy Department, Tim Gaines, Coach Mike Sandifar and Taunya Deffendall)

Indiana Emergency Response Conference Announces 2017 Award Winners (continued from page 2)

Primary (EMS) Instructor of the Year

Daniel Huff, Pittsboro Fire Department

EMS for Children Award

Matt Morgan, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

EMT of the Year

Billie Auberry, Decatur Township Fire Department (Indianapolis)

Paramedic of the Year

Kerri James, Trans-Care (Indianapolis)

Medical Director of the Year

Neil Maholtra, M.D., Franciscan Hospitals (Michigan City)

Fire Officer of the Year

Mike Pruitt, Wayne Township Fire Department (Indianapolis)

EMS Officer of the Year

Randy Auker, Three Rivers Ambulance Authority (Fort Wayne)

Nominations can be made by any emergency response personnel, or other person that has been aided by a department they are nominating.

The IERC was planned by the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Medical. For more information, visit indianaerc.org.

Project Lifesaver Protects Children with Autism

For many families affected by autism, wandering causes significant concern. Fifty percent of parents of children with autism report their child had a tendency to wander. Children with autism are also 40 times more likely to die from injury and 160 times more likely to die from drowning than any other group of children. Thankfully, new technologies are being developed to protect these children's lives.

Project Lifesaver, a new tracking device for individuals with cognitive disorders, utilizes radio technology and a small personal transmitter that can be worn on the wrist or ankle. It works with local police departments, fire departments and EMS agencies have been credited with saving

3,331 lives so far. When a child goes missing, the caregiver calls Project Lifesaver, which then sends out search and rescue teams. Most children are found within a few miles of their home.

Currently, Project Lifesaver works with 52 first responder agencies in Indiana. "For the first time in their lives, families don't feel alone," said Joy Lorch, Project Lifesaver State coordinator. "They understand that their local law enforcement and fire departments care about their loved one's safety!"

There are challenges to the system, including a lack of donations and trained workers. Lorch reports that a transmitter costs \$300-\$350, and that some

require batteries to be changed monthly.

For more information, contact Joy Lorch at (317) 550-7066 or Project Lifesaver International at (757) 546-5502, or visit <https://projectlifesaver.org/>



IDHS Provides Search and Rescue Training to DNR Officers (continued from page 1)

The classes, a three-part progressive series, took six days to complete over the course of several weeks. Course curriculum included training on ground search awareness and operations, as well

as a Ground Search Technicians class for team leaders.

The 12 DNR officers completed the series on August 16 and became the first class to complete

all three parts of the series with the same group of people from start to finish.



In Brief

Indiana State Fire Marshal Re-Elected to Board of Directors of the National Association of State Fire Marshals

Indiana State Fire Marshal James Greeson was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) on July 31.

Greeson, who was appointed as Indiana's fire marshal in 2008, has been a member of NASFM for nine years and has served on the Board of Directors since 2013.

Greeson's board duties include representing and acting as a resource for state fire marshals in the states of Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio, as well as attending the three annual board meetings. He also serves on subcommittees for fire and life safety codes, National Fire Protection Association standards and firefighter health and safety.

Greeson's term for the Board of Directors for NASFM is two years.

IDHS Grants Training Offered Over Summer

Local and county officials received more assistance this year when applying for federal grants through district trainings held by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security grants program. This year's grant funding for locals focused more strongly on the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) grant, which provides funds to build capabilities to enhance resilience.

The trainings helped educate local officials on how to best target projects and partnerships, as well as develop their applications. The district formats allowed for information to be targeted to the specific needs of the district.

SHSP grant applications were due by September 30. Any questions on grants or grant applications can be directed to grants@dhs.in.gov.

Annual Indiana Geographic Information System Conference to be Held May 2018

Save the date for the Indiana Geographic Information Council's (IGIC) 2018 Annual Indiana Geographic Information System (GIS) Conference, to be held May 9-11. The two-day event will be held at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne. The conference will feature presentations and hands-on workshops taught by GIS experts. Sponsorship opportunities will be available, as will the chance to network with leaders in the GIS industry.

For more information, visit: <http://igic.org/conference>. Registration will open soon.

Indiana Fallen Firefighters Annual Remembrance

The Indiana Fallen Firefighters Annual Remembrance ceremony was held on September 6. The ceremony was held in honor and remembrance of Joel Patrick Johnston of the Indianapolis Fire Department, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on October 15, 2015. Johnston's surviving wife and children were presented red carnations, which they laid at the base of the stone bearing his name.



IDHS, Angola Fire Department Facilitate Casualty Care Training for Public Safety Personnel

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security sponsored a Tactical Combat Casualty Care – All Combatants (TCC-AC) course for public safety personnel on September 6. The eight-hour training session was hosted by the Angola Fire Department

The TCC-AC course has been certified by the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) and typically teaches tactical medical content and advanced medical procedures. An adapted version of the course was created to teach the core fundamentals of casualty care to non-medical personnel, without overwhelming them with advanced medical

procedures.

The adapted version was taught during the September training session held at the Angola Fire Department and focused on basic life-saving techniques that enable first responders to prolong life until medical personnel arrive on the scene.

Additional information about the TCC-AC course and other related training can be found on the NAEMT website: <http://www.naemt.org/>.



Emergency Personnel in Southern Indiana Receive WebEOC Training

Emergency responders in southern Indiana received WebEOC training from Indiana Department of Homeland Security staff on August 29 in Jasper.

Two classes consisting of 44 emergency management agency personnel and health care professionals learned how to log in, navigate and post updates to WebEOC boards. The two classes served as a refresher course for most, but for a few in attendance, this was their first time learning how to use WebEOC.

All 92 counties in Indiana use WebEOC, which is hosted by IDHS. Other jurisdictions that use

the application include 10 state agencies, five universities and the Red Cross. WebEOC and the jurisdictions that utilize it help create and maintain a common operating picture throughout the state.

The state first started using WebEOC in 2008. Since that time, the web application has undergone many upgrades to increase its capabilities. One of the major upgrades includes an increased ability to track damage assessments in counties following major weather events.

Currently there are 2,124 WebEOC user accounts in Indiana.

EMAI Conference

The Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana (EMAI) conference is October 17-20, 2017, at the Marriott East Hotel in Indianapolis.

On Tuesday, October 17, there will be a WebEOC class available for conference attendees from 1-5 p.m. at the hotel. The class will allow attendees to ask any questions they may have about WebEOC and other IDHS processes.

Questions about the WebEOC class can be directed to webeoc@dhs.in.gov.

Plan Now for Fall Outreach

October is an important month for public safety outreach opportunities. There are several events that emergency services and emergency management professionals can use as educational platforms this fall – begin planning now!

Harvest Safety

With the harvest comes traffic that moves more slowly, especially in rural areas where harvest equipment might be using the roads. Consider encouraging motorists to leave additional time, such as 10 minutes, for their commute.

For more suggested tips on harvest safety, visit GetPrepared.in.gov.

Fire Prevention Week

Observed: October 8-14, 2017

Planned in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Prevention Week is a public awareness campaign to help educate individuals, families and businesses on the importance of fire safety, smoke alarms and emergency planning. This year's theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out!" focuses on developing and practicing evacuation plans for home, work and school.

More information, including sample press releases, brochures and other materials, can be found online at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week-audience>. IDHS has more information about fire safety at GetPrepared.in.gov.

Great Central U.S. Shakeout

Observed: October 19, 2017

With Indiana near two major seismic zones, the Great Central U.S. Shakeout is an excellent time to encourage Hoosiers to practice how to "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" during this yearly drill. It's important to participate at work, school and home, so that citizens are ready wherever they may be. Individuals, schools, businesses and organizations are all asked to sign up for free to participate in the drill.

To sign up, or for more information visit <https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>. IDHS has more information about earthquake preparedness online at GetPrepared.in.gov.



Indiana EMT Presented with EMT Emeritus Certificate

Indiana EMT Randy Seals was presented with an EMT Emeritus Certificate in recognition of his 40 years of service in the Indiana Emergency Medical Services community.

Seals' unwavering dedication, excellence and service through several positions with the Indiana

EMS Association helped move forward EMS in Indiana. He plans to move to Tennessee for new adventures.

Michael Garvey of IDHS presented the award to Mr. Seals, who attended the event with his wife, Marie.

Mission

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security will provide statewide leadership, exemplary customer service and subject matter expertise for the enhancement of public and private partnerships and the assurance of local, state and federal collaboration to continually develop Indiana's public safety capabilities for the wellbeing and protection of our citizens, property and economy.

Contact

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of The Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Office of Public Affairs at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.

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