



Hoosier Responder

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EMS PROVIDERS SEE GROWING NEED FOR NEW EQUIPMENT: Part One—Discovering a Need

Over the last few years, EMTs and Paramedics have found innovative ways to help a growing number of bariatric patients in Indiana.

Randy Seals, chief executive officer for SEALS Ambulance Service of Indianapolis, says that the average patient weight has increased to 250 pounds since the late 1970s. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 26 percent of Hoosiers have a body mass index of 30 or greater. EMS personnel experience more

challenges with heavier patients including body instability, logistical issues such as extraction from a building with narrow entryways, and an increased potential for lifting injuries.



Bariatric cots are about 50 percent larger than standard cots and can carry up to 1600 pounds

Bartholomew County Coroner Allen Smith, who appeared as a contestant on Season 8 of "The Biggest Loser," acknowledges the challenges associated with transporting bariatric patients, especially in emergency situations. Smith compares transporting bariatric patients to transporting children. The bodies of obese individuals and children operate on extremes.

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EMSC PROGRAM NEEDS BASIC LIFE SUPPORT PROVIDERS TO COMPLETE SURVEY



If you are a Basic Life Support EMS service, the Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children (I-EMSC) program needs you to complete a survey. This survey is collecting data regarding medical direction, equipment, and training. The goal of the program is to reduce child and youth mortality and morbidity sustained as a result of severe illness or trauma.

The I-EMSC program needs 114 more EMS agencies to meet the program's requirements for an 80 percent response rate. To date, 48 percent of the selected agencies have responded to this online survey. Specifically, agencies in districts 3, 9, 5, 6, 8 and 10 are requested to complete the survey.

The deadline to complete this survey is April 15, 2010. Please take 15 minutes to complete this survey at www.emscsurveys.org. Contact Gurinder Hohl at 317.630.7399 or ghohl@iupui.edu for more information. ■

From the Director's Chair Executive Director Joe Wainscott Happy Five Year Anniversary

In April 2005, Governor Mitch Daniels directed the merger of the State Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshal's Office, Office of the State Building Commissioner, Public Safety Training Institute, and the Counter Terrorism and Security Council to create the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Over the past five years, IDHS has provided leadership for a safe and secure Indiana by administering almost \$750 million in federal grant dollars and collaborating with citizens, government and private entities to achieve the common purpose of preventing, protecting against, responding to and recovering from manmade or natural threats and events to people, property and the economy.

While not an exhaustive list, here are just a few of the major accomplishments we've achieved so far.



Threat analysis and hazard mitigation

Through its great partnerships with public safety agencies and local governments across the state, IDHS has made significant improvements in the organization, compliance and documentation of Indiana's emergency management program through the application of standards developed by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) focused on improving overall public safety and establishing an enterprise focus on disaster preparedness.

(Continued on page 2)

New Equipment (Continued from page 1)

"When kids crash (vital organs and systems start to shut down), their bodies have already compensated as much as they can," says Smith. "It's the same thing with bariatric patients. When they crash, it's harder to bring them back."

The difficulty in transporting bariatric patients adds to the challenges of providing care.

Even though EMTs and paramedics undergo training about proper boarding and lifting techniques, injuries may occur. At SEALS Ambulance, director of operations Chris Jones says "when dealing with patients over 300 pounds, strength and training sometimes aren't enough to prevent injury."

Merely a decade ago, few safe and dignified options were available to transport obese patients. CARE Ambulance Service in Indianapolis was one of the first to provide an option in 2000.

Dubbed "Ole Blue" by creator and EMT Donny Mitchell, the 55-inch wide cot could support up to 1000 pounds. A hydraulic pump system was used to raise and lower

patients. As word spread about the new bariatric cot, CARE began receiving more calls from health care and EMS providers requesting assistance in transport.

The technology of bariatric transport equipment has changed a lot. Electronic winch systems are easier to operate. Cots are lighter, safer and

more comfortable. Lap belts fasten and cot rails can be raised to secure the patient.

"It's all about ensuring the patient's comfort and safety while protecting their dignity," says Jones. "The equipment is a little more expensive but worth it to provide better patient care."

Having access to this specialized equipment is also important to the safety of the EMS crews who work with bariatric patients. According to STAT's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety Director Matt Pumphrey, the bariatric equipment eliminates a lot of back injuries. "The injury rate is now very, very low with the bariatric system," he said. "It has greatly reduced the risk of injury to medical staff."

Local EMS technicians utilize bariatric equipment to prevent injury and provide better care for their patients. When ambulance providers do not have bariatric units, others that are equipped with this technology provide assistance. "We're all in this together," said Marcia Kern, assistant director of operations at CARE.

Coming next month: a closer look at how several EMS transport providers use special resources specifically designed to assist technicians in bariatric care. ■



Donny Mitchell, of CARE Ambulance, patented one of the first bariatric cots.

Director's Article (Continued from page 1)

In partnership with the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, IDHS has completed a comprehensive, statewide analysis of potential natural, technological, and human-caused hazards. This data driven analysis presented in the Statewide Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment focuses on actual events and experiences over the past 50 years. Designed to support the IDHS developed State Strategy for Homeland Security, this risk assessment tool helps anticipate potential needs and required capability enhancements to better protect our citizens and emergency responders, minimize damage to property and the environment, and promote our common goal of creating safer communities and a more secure Indiana.

IDHS has revised and drafted a significant body of emergency plans and other materials based on needs communicated to IDHS from federal, state and local partners. Some of the documents developed within the last five years include: the Indiana Strategy for Homeland Security, the Indiana Catastrophic Earthquake Plan, the Leader's Guide to Emergencies and Disasters, the Indiana Ingestion Pathway Plan, the Indiana Mortuary Response Plan, the Indiana Water Shortage Plan, and others.

Connecting the Dots

IDHS has also begun taking initial steps to provide a common emergency planning

foundation for both state and local emergency management partners through the adoption of netPlanner, web-based information sharing and planning exchange system. The application will allow agencies and departments to develop emergency planning materials as well as share that information with stakeholders to ensure collaboration and communication.

In cooperation with the Integrated Public Safety Commission, IDHS's proactive interoperable communications initiatives have put Indiana ahead of the curve in promoting infrastructure and standard operating procedures that ensure key emergency responders are able to communicate during a crisis.

IDHS is setting the standard for securing cyberspace. IDHS and the Indiana Office of Technology partnered with twelve state agencies to develop the Indiana Cyber Security Framework Strategy which provides ongoing management of cyber security risk identification, threats assessment, and remediation efforts including coordination with private sector businesses and industries as well as local, state and federal partners from the public sector. This framework is providing a model for some federal and other state level agencies around the country.

IDHS has trained more than 150 local, public

sector responders to use the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS). IDHS will be providing State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) funding to remedy gaps in district response capabilities as they are identified by the ACAMS assessments. In addition, the agency is partnering with local, state and federal agencies to unify communication and assess risks to Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources, setting forth a comprehensive risk management framework and working to clearly define the roles and responsibilities for all partners.

Each of the ten IDHS districts have formally established District Planning Oversight Committees (DPOC) consisting of elected and appointed officials, and District Planning Councils (DPC) consisting of appointed public safety leaders. The DPOC is responsible for providing policy, support and endorsement to the DPC. The DPC is the planning and coordination body for district initiatives. These entities ensure a standardized structure and process for regional collaboration and enable districts to collectively manage and coordinate activities for operations and preparedness consistently and effectively.

[Story continued here](#)

Protect Yourself and Indiana Forests by Practicing Campfire Safety

Campfires are the nation's leading cause of children's camping injuries, and the primary catalyst for damaging forest fires. Indiana State Fire Marshal James Greeson warns, "Citizens should ensure that all fires are extinguished properly and there is parental supervision around fires." The Fire Marshal's Office is a division of IDHS.

Protect yourself and Indiana forests by practicing proper burning techniques and safety measures.

Here are a few basic fire safety tips from the Fire Marshal's Office and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- Dig a small pit away from overhanging branches.
- Circle the pit with rocks or check for a metal fire ring.
- Clear a five-foot area around the pit down to the soil.

- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby.
- Stack extra wood upwind and away from the fire.
- Keep camp fires small (2', X2', X2').
- Never leave a campfire unattended.

DNR also advocates buying firewood locally to help prevent the spread of invasive pathogens and insect species.

Visit www.in.gov/dhs/3288.htm for more information about safe campfires.

Other useful tips can be found at USDA's Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/fire/safety/campfire.htm. ■



EMA Spotlight: Benton County

John Fields wears a lot of hats. He stays busy as his small town as a farmer, a volunteer firefighter and as Benton County's Emergency Management director.

damage from storms, debilitating ice and snow and a fuel spill. Benton's EMA is also working on setting up 800 MHz radio bases at its five fire stations in the county.

"Always prepare for the worst and hope for the best," Fields says.

The county's EMA and sheriff's department participate and encourage citizens to take advantage of recent Internet technology to stay informed about emergency updates such as severe weather. ■



Benton County Mobile Command Center

Fields works part-time as EMA director, serving the county's 8500 citizens.

As president of the Boswell fire department, he understands the importance of staying prepared.

Since April 2009, Fields has dealt with wind and flood

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IDHS AND PORTER COUNTY HELP PREPARE VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY FOR SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS

Porter County's EMA and IDHS have helped prepare Valparaiso University for severe weather.

The Chicago Area StormReady Advisory Board, developed by the National Weather Service (NWS), in cooperation with state and local emergency management agencies, to recognize communities or counties that have established outstanding severe weather preparedness plans, has certified Valparaiso University as the first StormReady university in Indiana.



IDHS District One's Mobile Command Center, which is shared with Valparaiso

Jennifer Payne, the IDHS field coordinator for District One in northwest Indiana, has worked with Porter County's EMA director, Phil Griffith. IDHS provided assistance with document templates, EOC activation plans, and guidance for both the county and the school's StormReady accreditation. Payne participated in a walk-through assessment with other officials on Valparaiso's campus to survey Valparaiso's storm strategy and infrastructure.

"We had the opportunity to tour their emergency operations center," Payne said. "I was very impressed with their emergency response plan and how they coordinate efforts with their county EMA. The main assistance that the university received for certification came from the Porter County EMA."

The StormReady certification requires the university to have:

- A 24-hour warning point (Porter County's EMA) that can receive NWS information and provide local reports and advice to the university incident command group made up of core department heads and officials.
- An emergency operations center that is staffed during severe weather.
- Redundant methods of monitoring weather conditions, receiving severe weather warnings from the NWS, and disseminating warnings throughout the campus.
- Trained severe storm spotters and established communications with the NWS.
- Educational outreach program.
- Tone activated NOAA all hazard alert radios in all buildings.

Porter County EMA's volunteer staff worked closely with the students at Valparaiso on their StormReady accreditation.

"Valparaiso University is very well-prepared for severe weather and they are knowledgeable about meteorology. We have a good working relationship with Valparaiso," said Griffith. "We were there to support and assist them in any way they needed us."



Don Wilson, safety manager with Valparaiso University's Facilities Management and Human Resources Office, along with Charles Garber Jr., assistant chief of the Valparaiso University Police Department, worked in tandem with Porter County's EMA to ensure the school's storm readiness.

"The key to a successful StormReady plan is for EMAs to have a good relationship with the university," Payne said. "University administrators need to understand the importance of communicating with students, staff and EMAs about severe weather preparedness."

Other EMAs can work with schools in their counties to be storm-ready.

For more information on StormReady accreditation, visit www.stormready.noaa.gov. For information on NWS Chicago visit www.weather.gov/chicago. ■

FIRE SPOTLIGHT FIRESTOP PROGRAM

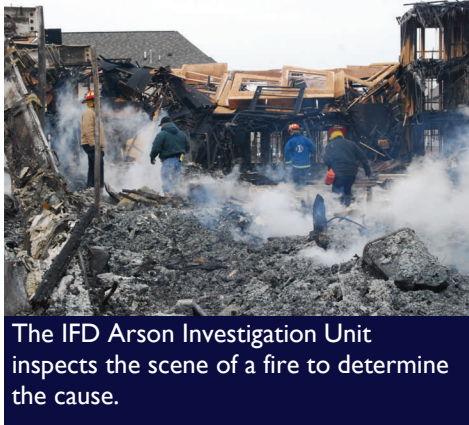
The Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) brings attention to misuse of fire by children in a program which counsels young fire setters. The arson Firestop program, led by Barbara Spurlin of the IFD, provides fire risk assessment and incident specific, age appropriate education for fire setters.

The program uses educational intervention through referrals from schools, courts, guardians, Child Protective Services (CPS), mental health workers and hospitals.

"We are trying to widen the referral base to get more kids identified earlier," Spurlin said. "I'd like to see calls to Firestop increase rather than fire calls increase. In the past year, there have been no juvenile arson-related fatalities and numbers of fires are down."

Children ages 5 and under experience the majority of child fatalities caused by fires. The program aims to decrease this statistic by involving parents in the program.

"For younger children, we will speak with the parents," Spurlin said. "We always want to give families enough information to save themselves in case there is another fire." ■



The IFD Arson Investigation Unit inspects the scene of a fire to determine the cause.

2010 Indiana Legislative Session Yields New Laws Affecting Public Safety Entities

Governor Daniels recently signed into law four bills affecting the IDHS family of public safety agencies. All of the new laws will take effect July 1, 2010.

New radioactive waste transport fees

SEA 186 amends the existing radioactive waste transportation statute by creating a permitting process for all radioactive waste shipments and increasing fees for high-level radioactive shipments that pose a public safety hazard. Transportation fees will be commensurate with those charged by surrounding states and will finance equipment purchases and training for public safety responders.

There are no high-level radioactive waste generating facilities in Indiana, so the purpose of the fees is to make sure those out-of-state facilities that do ship high-level radioactive waste through Indiana relieve Hoosier taxpayers of part of the costs associated with hazardous materials incident response.

The new fees for transportation of high-level radioactive waste are: \$2500 for each truck shipment, \$4500 for the first cask of each rail shipment and \$3000 for additional casks. The fee for low level transportation is unchanged.

Added representation

The bill also allows governmental members of local emergency planning committees (who oversee hazardous materials information at the county level) to appoint a designee to attend Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings. The law also provides for the State Fire Marshal and the Director of the Division of Preparedness and Training to appoint a designee to attend the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education meetings.



Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Governor Mitch Daniels

New rules for Mutual Aid Agreements

SEA 128, offered by the Indiana Fire Chiefs' Association and supported by IDHS, extends the reach of the statewide mutual aid program to include Fire Protection Districts and Fire Protection Territories. If a volunteer fire department's signed contract with a Fire Protection District or Territory includes mutual aid response, it can now respond to a request under the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Additionally, the requesting unit is no longer responsible for damage incurred by the responding unit if the responding unit has an insurance policy which covers that loss or damage.

Relevant provisions for EMS personnel

SEA 87, establishes entitlement to a hearing before termination for paid firefighters who also are EMS personnel.

A provision in SEA 356 directs the health finance commission (a standing legislative committee) to study and make recommendations before November 1, 2010, concerning whether a paramedic board should be established to license paramedics instead of the emergency medical services commission.

To read the full text of the above bills, visit <http://bit.ly/c5xj4S>. ■

GET PREPARED FOR EMS WEEK

To focus Hoosiers' attention on the commitment emergency medical personnel make to the communities they serve, Indiana will recognize May 16 through May 22, 2010 as EMS Week, celebrating May 19 as Children's day. This year's theme is *EMS: Anytime. Anywhere. We'll Be There.*

IDHS is joining national, regional, state and local organizations to pledge support to the American College of Emergency Physicians for EMS Week.

IDHS Chief of Staff Mike Garvey is an EMS professional with 33 years of experience. "Our EMS Community works very hard to provide the best of care to Indiana citizens,"

Garvey said. "They deserve our recognition."

Emergency medical service teams include emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others.

EMS week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line.

Many resources are available to help educators, emergency management agencies and other community leaders plan activities for EMS week.



EMS services may request planning kit materials from the American College of Emergency Physicians at www.acep.org. Another valuable website for planning for the children's day is Emergency Medical Services for Children at bolivia.hrsa.gov/emsc/. For a fact sheet about summer safety for kids, see <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3288.htm>. ■

IDHS TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL LEVEL EXERCISE IN 2011 TO PREPARE FOR MAJOR PROJECTED QUAKE

During a national level exercise in May 2011, state officials will be testing Indiana's catastrophic earthquake plan to gauge its effectiveness. The plan is based on data from historic earthquakes which affected the New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones, and damage projections developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Geological Survey, Mid-America Earthquake Center, and the Central United States Earthquake Consortium. The New Madrid Seismic Zone extends along the Mississippi River from southern Illinois to northeastern Arkansas and is centered approximately 180 miles southwest of Evansville. The Wabash Valley Seismic Zone is centered on the Wabash River and runs along the state line from west central Indiana to southeastern Illinois.



Major catastrophic effects which might occur after a massive earthquake include failure of critical infrastructure and mass human casualties. The earthquake exercise will also test the plan's logistical response, including district capabilities.

"The planning, training and exercise process is designed to expose limitations in plans and procedures so that those gaps can be corrected prior to an actual disaster," said Joe Romero, IDHS emergency planning section chief.

Participants include FEMA and key states most heavily impacted by such a disaster including Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas Kentucky and Mississippi.

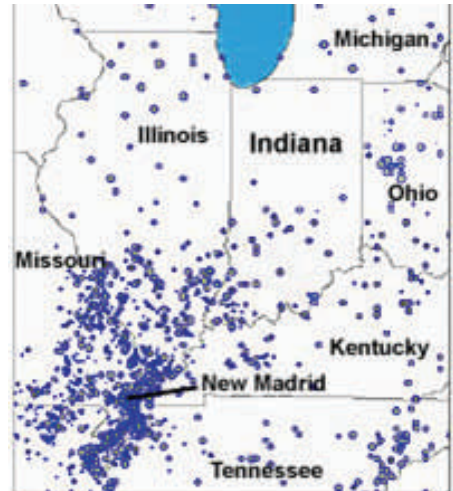
It's reasonably foreseeable that an actual disaster of this magnitude would require the mobilization of the entire country to support and assist in the rescue and recovery efforts around the epicenter.

"Collaboration is the key element in Indiana's strategy for Homeland Security," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "An effective disaster response depends on our ability to work together with all involved partners. This exercise provides a unique opportunity for us to communicate and coordinate with all levels of emergency responders."

FEMA will participate in the exercise for the first three days. Many states, including Indiana, are interested in continuing the exercise for an additional one or two days in order to take full advantage of the exercise. However, budget issues may play a part in the decision making about the exercise duration.

District Task Forces 1, 2 and 3 will deploy to the National Guard operated Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. This will represent the area of Vincennes in southwestern Indiana, allowing for the opportunity to test field capabilities and communication strategies.

Potential national and regional level long term recovery exercises are tentatively being planned by FEMA and Region V for the same time frame. ■



This map shows earthquake epicenters (points on the Earth's surface that are directly above an earthquake's center within the Earth) from 1800 to 1995. Indiana Geological Survey

EMS SPOTLIGHT **Evansville Firefighter and EMT John Riggs**

All EMS personnel care for people and save lives while on the clock. But some go beyond the call of duty. John Riggs was awarded the 2009 EMT-Basic of the Year award at the 2009 Indiana Emergency Response Conference.

He has worked with the Evansville Fire Department for 15 years serving on Engine-10, the busiest truck in Evansville. Besides being an exemplary firefighter and EMT, Riggs cares deeply for his community.



"All firefighters and EMTs do the same job.

We're all saving lives," said Tony Knight, EMS coordinator for the Evansville Fire Department. "But, it's not just what we do in the fire department, but what we do in the community that matters. John exemplifies that attitude."

Riggs co-chaired the building of two Habitat for Humanity homes using only Evansville firefighters as builders. He has also been involved with the Firefighters Children's Christmas Party for the less fortunate for 14 years. Riggs also organized firefighters to help build the Kid's Kingdom Playground facility, coordinated by the Evansville Police Department.

"In the EMS field we judge performance of co-workers based on whether or not we would trust them to work on our family members," Knight said. "John is one I would trust with my family's life."

He volunteers each year at the A.C.T.S. Work Camp where youth from across Indiana come to Evansville to repair the homes of less fortunate residents.

Riggs shows confidence and knowledge of emergency medicine, often offering advice to co-workers. Arriving paramedics say his patient reports are impeccable, detailed and accurate. Riggs is well respected by his co-workers, his management and the local ambulance service providers. ■

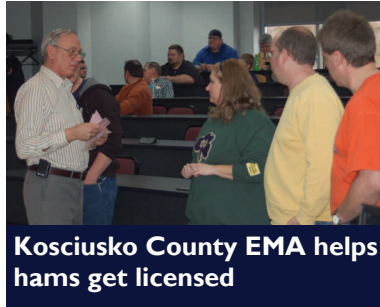
FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN RACES AND EMA

Hoosier Lakes Radio Club, in cooperation with Grace College and Kosciusko County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), recently held the largest amateur radio class in the area.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Justice enabled Grace College to supply the exam fees and course materials for the 44 participants.

During a disaster or emergency, amateur radio operators, also called hams, make contact with emergency responders when normal communications are overwhelmed, unavailable or incapable of providing the service. The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a network of amateur radio operators provided by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a service for civil defense communications. There are 800 RACES members in the state who are prepared to respond to their local, regional or national EMA.

"When we have a large failure in public safety communication systems, the amateur radio operators can provide limited backup in communication capabilities," said Don West, communications director at IDHS.



Hams regularly participate in drills and exercises. Several emergency management agencies have sponsored classes or lent their facilities for amateur radio license training in the past year. These include the City of

Anderson and the following counties: Adams, Blackford, Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Delaware, Hamilton, Johnson, Kosciusko, Nobel, St. Joseph, Wabash and Whitley.

Johnson County's EMA Director Forrest "Tug" Sutton holds a ham radio license, and he keeps the county's Emergency Operation Center available for training and testing. "My expectation is that RACES members deploy when severe weather is in the area." Sutton said.

Most amateur radio operators in Indiana participate in the SkyWarn weather network to stay connected with local governments. SkyWarn is a network sponsored by the National Weather Service to train citizen weather spotters. For more information about this network, visit www.WV9news.org.

Radio operators can contact their local EMAs about future RACES classes. ■

STAY AFLOAT CONFERENCE HELPS EMA AND FLOOD PLAIN MANAGERS COMMUNICATE

On March 9, the "Operation Stay Afloat" conference hosted 159 attendees, including staff from IDHS. Organizers and participants agree that the mission to encourage communication among all parties involved in flood recovery and mitigation was accomplished.



Conference participants discuss flood management techniques

Lenore Tedesco, director of the Center for Earth and Environmental Science at IUPUI, presented at the conference with a discussion on the modification of Indiana's hydrologic cycle.

"It was the kind of presentation that made light bulbs turn on in people minds," said Anita Nance, water resource planner with DNR. "Tedesco illustrated how everything interacts such as our land use, precipitation and use of chemicals."

One participant, Rick Emrick, serves as both EMA director and Flood Plain manager for Orange County. "There's not a thing you can do to stop it from raining," Emrick said. "Anything I can learn about flood planning and drainage is beneficial." ■

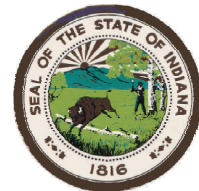


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