



Hoosier Responder

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ARE YOU READY? INDIANA PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

As September approaches, citizens are reminded again of National Preparedness Month. In the past year, Indiana has experienced numerous natural disasters such as the tornadoes in southern Indiana, the current drought and power outages across the state. By taking steps in preparedness, Hoosiers can plan and practice ahead of potential disasters. Many counties across the state are taking steps in preparedness efforts for the month of September.

- Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare (MESH), along with

Indianapolis EMS, Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children Program, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security are hosting “30 Ways in 30 Days.” This 30 day preparedness event in September will allow citizens to participate in a daily activity via Indianapolis EMS website, Facebook and Twitter pages. Each day is an opportunity to gain points and bonus points towards prizes.

There are four ways that players will be able to respond to each day’s challenge:

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From the Director’s Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott IS ANYBODY REALLY PREPARED?

Is anyone in Indiana prepared for a disaster or emergency? The short answer is yes, but the unfortunate qualifier is: but not many. Why not?

Are emergency management agencies doing enough?

That’s a question better for you to answer. Within the job description and direction you have, are you doing enough to educate your community? How many times do you engage your community each week, month or year? Do you talk with the media? Do you partner with other agencies and community events? Make a realistic assessment and see if

you can increase what you’re doing now. More importantly, see how you can be more effective.

It seems like nobody’s listening, should I continue to try?

Yes, because you never know when you’ll break through.

Why aren’t people prepared?

A few reasons include:

- It is thought of as complicated, when it’s not. A few minutes each month would provide any family or individual good, solid steps toward readiness.

- Many seem to believe they must be completely prepared, or it does no good. Again, being a little prepared is better than nothing. Any steps taken will be helpful.
- The government will take care of me. You all know the fallacy to this statement. While every effort would be made in a catastrophe,



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you and I both know there are not enough public safety professionals to go around. It is likely some people will have to fend for themselves, even if it is only in a limited way or for a brief time.

- People are so busy and exposed to so many messages, it's difficult to break through and get their attention.

What messages should be provided?

Again, this is something you have to decide based on the hazards for your community. Messages in the northern part of the state may be very different from the southern part of the state. A few suggestions:

- One of the most important messages is for Hoosiers to put together a preparedness kit so

they will be able to shelter in place or evacuate with a basic amount of provisions for at least 72 hours.

- Tell the members of your community that if they have the resources, it is their duty to be prepared, so that public safety professionals will be able to concentrate on the most vulnerable populations. Those that don't have the means to prepare.

What do I do if there's no time or budget?

Every facet of public safety is working with less: Less funding, fewer staff and fewer overall resources. If you can't fit in a presentation, media interview or other public facing effort regularly, or, even if you can, seek out volunteers. If you have a CERT team, that's a great place to begin. Even if you only recruit one good volunteer who gives one

presentation each week or month, that's substantial over the course of a year.

Resources are difficult to come by, is there help?

IDHS has some very good resources to assist you in your education and outreach efforts. First, we have fact sheets that you can have, free of charge. Simply email pio@dhs.in.gov and provide quantities you need. We'll work it out and see if we can have them delivered to you. Pickup may be necessary. Fact sheets include severe weather, earthquake, family preparedness, heating safety and fire safety/toy and novelty lighters.

There is also a host of information at getprepared.in.gov. If you have suggestions for specific fact sheets or other information, let us know by emailing pio@dhs.in.gov and we'll see if we can provide it.

DISTRICT I TAKES ACTION IN REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN

Indiana Emergency managers and first responders from District I combined efforts for a pilot outreach campaign, "Gear Up. Get Ready. It Can Happen!" The program encourages communities to increase their awareness of how to get ready, be prepared and to be able to respond in catastrophic situations. The campaign is part of the larger Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin's Combined Statistical Area's (CSA) Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program. The CSA is Northwest Indiana, Northeast Illinois and

Southeast Wisconsin.

On June 21st and 26th, outreach was conducted at the Maria Reiner Senior Citizen Center in Hobart Indiana, Valparasio Central Farmer's Market and the Gary South Shore RailCats baseball game.

At these community events, first responders and partners provided preparedness information, demonstrated how to create a low-cost 72 hour emergency kit and provide preparedness tips that fit their lifestyle. Attendees also had the chance to take a readiness assessment test, build a family plan for a prize, take pictures at the preparedness photo booth, listen to music and also have opportunities to win prizes.

"Emergencies or disasters can hit

anyone at anytime and that individual and families must prepare just as communities and governments prepare," said John Bryan, District I Administrator.

More than 2,000 District I families were given preparedness information such as emergency radios, survival kits and information for adults and children (in English and Spanish) were handed out. To learn more about the campaign, visit www.gearupgetready.com. •



DEKALB COUNTY DETECTIVE LAUDS WORK BY FIREFIGHTERS AND STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Commentary

By Adam Friedel
DeKalb County Sheriff's
Department

There has always been a subtle feud between cops and firefighters. Everybody loves them and everyone hates us. We are jealous of their public adoration and they are jealous of our guns and toys. They are better financed than we are and are generally in better physical shape than we are. We resent it.



Detective Adam Friedel

I have always looked at them with a bit of cynicism and to be honest I didn't get them. That all changed the other night. I was called to a fire in the southeast fire district because it was suspected to be the result of a meth lab. That turned out to not be the case. It is now believed to be an accident.

I am impressed with the firemen and women who were at that scene. It was Spencerville, Concord, Southeast, Jackson, Auburn, Hicksville, Edgerton, and I'm sure there are some that I have missed. Mostly volunteers.

This fire was a menace. It would not stay out. These people worked tirelessly, being led by the masterful leadership of Mike Georgi (Concord Township fire chief) and Troy Tracey of Jackson Township. It was

extremely hot outside and twice that inside the structure. There was no whining or complaining. Each person jumped in where needed and was willing to go above and beyond what was expected of them.

They were also extremely helpful to me. They were patient with my demands to try to preserve evidence. Two firefighters at separate times gave up their own boots so that I wouldn't get my new shoes dirty. I know they were thinking, "what a prima donna detective." P.S. I love those shoes. The representative from the state fire marshal's office was equally impressive. He was very informative and patient with my excessive questions. He is truly an expert in his field. Thanks, Mike Vogley.

This fire started at about 8:30 p.m. and there were firefighters on scene to well after 5:30 a.m. Backbreaking, exhausting work was completed efficiently and professionally. That was the kicker though ... they weren't professionals except for Auburn. They were construction workers, mechanics, local businessmen, farmers and housewives. They did it right with a no nonsense team work oriented attitude that epitomized the term "brotherhood." They did it all for free, knowing that they would pay for it at their paying jobs in the morning. Lack of sleep and physical exhaustion had to take its toll. (I slept until noon and did nothing but walk around, ask questions, and look at stuff.)

One of them pushed himself so hard he ended up in the hospital. I hear he is fine now. No, he wasn't a wide body that was out of shape, just a normal guy who pushed too far. He

did it for free. They all did. I felt guilty because I was getting paid and on top of it, it was overtime pay.

I could have left that morning by 2 a.m. By then we were 99 percent sure that it was an accident. By "we" I mean Vogley and the rest of the firefighters. I didn't have a clue. My job was done. I couldn't leave though. I didn't want to leave. I had to stay and watch. I had to stay and learn. I had to see it through. I learned a lot about fires and how they behave. I learned a lot about teamwork and "mutual aid." I learned a lot about character and duty. I learned a lot about firefighters and what they are made of. They are made of the same stuff as cops. It is called humanity. Someone who will go above and beyond what is expected just to help someone out. Firefighters just whine less about it.

No I am not an uber sensitive person and I usually don't spout off about patriotism or what it means to be a service provider in the public sector, but I was proud that night. Proud of our little county and the type of people that it has in it. I usually deal with the worst part of our county and lately the ultra anti-social combined with downright evil. That night, at that fire, I witnessed the best of our county. So thank you, firefighters. You have restored my faith in man when I needed it most. You inspired me to fight harder for what is right and just. Thank you all. You deserve adoration and little kids wanting to be you when they grow up. Just don't rub it in. ●

Note: This column appeared in the KPC News. Adam Friedel is a 14 year veteran with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department

THE 2012 IERC OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The 2012 Indiana Emergency Response Conference offers something for all emergency response providers. The conference dates are September 12-15 2012 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis.

The IERC offers educational opportunities beyond the required knowledge and skill sets for firefighters, paramedics, security administrators, law enforcement, Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT), Special Operations and Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

Sponsored by the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association and partnered with Indiana University Health, this four-day event offers various classes throughout the day for emergency professionals.

The Indiana Emergency Response Commission consists of 13 members appointed by the governor, and is chaired by the Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and vice-chaired by the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The Commission will have two sessions on September 13th and 14th. September 13th will feature the Computer Aided Management for Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Training; and September 14th will feature a presentation with Chief David Hudgins from the Waxachaie Fire Department on the Texas LEPC Update Response to rail HAZMAT incidents.

For more information on how to sign up, visit, www.indianaerc.com. •

FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS FUNDING AVAILABLE TO STATEWIDE FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)- United States Department of Agriculture federal funds assist leverage with local funding to increase fire suppression capacity within rural fire departments or departments that service rural areas.

The funding may be used for operational improvements and training aspects, but the DNR favors projects that support wildland fire suppression improvements. This includes 87 counties with \$2,454,910.92 of total assistance provided. For more information or to receive an application, contact Crystal Hunt at chunt@dnr.in.gov

Firefighting Handtool Program- Federal and/or state funding is used to supply rural/volunteer fire departments with handtools and equipment for wildland fire suppression. Handtools include saws, blowers, backpack pumps, shovels and rakes. This includes 86 counties with \$265,200.00 of total assistance provided. For more information and how to apply, contact Crystal Hunt at chunt@dnr.IN.gov

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)- Federal level screening authorities are required to receive excess federal equipment to support fire operations. The equipment is acquired at no cost "on loan" from the government and is dispersed to fire departments to support their operations. Items include fire apparatus, brush trucks, Water Tenders, generators and other items.

Fire Departments are allowed to make modifications, but they are required to return the equipment for disposal through the program when completed. This includes 82 counties with \$12,010,937.84 of total assistance provided. For more information or an application contact Darren Bridges, Assistant State Fire coordinator at dbridges@dnr.in.gov •

Ronnie Lohrig of Madison Indiana, passed away on August 6th 2012. Ronnie was a 61 year member of the IVFA and 63 year member of Western Fire Co. #3.

ENERGY-SAVING BULBS: DISPOSAL AND SAFETY

Energy-saving light bulbs, also known as compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs, are designed to replace an incandescent bulb and be more energy efficient.

CFLs consume less power and have a longer service life, but the fire hazards and exposure associated with these bulbs are much greater than that of their replacement.

A major concern is the mercury inside of each bulb, and the hazards it presents if exposed. This further complicates the possible injury and health risks and disposal of CFLs, especially if the bulb becomes broken.

Mercury exposure and poisoning induces sensory impairment (vision, hearing and speech), a lack of coordination, skin discoloration, tingling, itching, burning or pain and the shedding of skin. Mercury is a toxin and must be treated as such. •

If a CFL breaks, here are important steps to follow:

- Evacuate the room, being cautious not to step on broken glass.
- Ventilate the room for a minimum of 15 minutes (EPA recommendation).
- Do NOT clean the debris with a vacuum cleaner as this will spread toxic mercury droplets throughout the house either immediately or upon the future use of the vacuum.
- Use protective gloves and a broom or brush to sweep the debris into a dustpan; empty the contents into a plastic bag and then seal the plastic bag.
- Do NOT dispose of the plastic bag into an ordinary receptacle
- The debris is lawfully a hazardous material and must be disposed of accordingly
- Depending on the spill, a more thorough clean up may need to be followed through. Private companies specialize in this area.

Even if the CFL bulb doesn't break, it should be disposed of by:

- Calling your local garbage service and ask if they offer CFL or mercury recycling.
- Contacting your local municipality for how to safely dispose CFLs.
- Contacting retailers and asking if they offer a free take-back program or suggesting that they establish a program. Home Depot currently offers a general CFL recycling program.
- Visiting Earth 911, it is the U.S. and Canada's largest online recycling information source. Simply type CFL and your ZIP code in the "Find a recycling Center" field at the top of the page.
- There are also a variety of commercial services that offer a charge for disposal by mail.

If these options are not available, you can store CFL bulbs in a five-gallon PVC bucket with a sealable top until recycling becomes available in your area.

COLUMBUS FIREFIGHTER WINS GOLD MEDALS IN CAN-AM GAMES FIRST-TIME COMPETITOR IN TRACK & FIELD EVENTS TAKES HOME SIX MEDALS

Mark Ziegler, with the Columbus Fire Department, won six gold medals at the Can-Am Fire and Police Games from June 24th to July 1st 2012 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

The event takes place every two years and was established in 1977 as a showcase for law enforcement and fire service personnel from across North America. The event has around 55 sports to choose from and spouses of all eligible competitors are welcome to participate.

Ziegler took home the gold six times in the 100-meter dash, 200, 400, 110

high hurdles, 400 intermediate hurdles and long jump -- all in one day. This was Ziegler's first time competing in the Can-Am Fire and Police Games, and he first heard about it when he was in New York the previous year in the World Police and Fire Games.

"Track and field has always been something I love doing," said Ziegler. "I've coached Jr. High track at Hauser High School for 20 years and still hold two track records."

Being a firefighter for 15 years, Ziegler was interested in meeting fellow firefighters and policeman in

Minnesota.

"It felt good to win, but it was better just to have fun with all of the firefighters and police officers at the track that day," said Ziegler. •



Mark Ziegler with his medals from the Can-Am Fire & Police Games.

INDIANA YOUTH SELECTED TO SERVE ON NEWLY FORMED FEMA COUNCIL

Jason Reed, of Jeffersonville, Indiana, was selected to represent FEMA Region V on the Youth Preparedness Council. This is the first council of its kind established by FEMA.

FEMA region V includes: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The council is comprised of 13 leaders, ages 13 through 17, who are dedicated to public service,

making a difference in their community, and expanding their impact as a national advocate for youth preparedness. These leaders will voice their opinions and help develop solutions to strengthen disaster resiliency.

Reed is the cadet commander for his Civil Air Patrol squadron and is actively involved in his squadron's emergency services programs, with several years as a search-and-rescue ground team member. He was a

first responder during the March tornadoes, and conducted many health and wellness checks in the community as well as distribute supplies to those affected by the storm.

Council members will have the opportunity to participate in a community preparedness roundtable event in Washington D.C. with the leadership of national organizations on youth disaster preparedness. ●

INDIANA HIGHWAY I-69 CONSTRUCTION NOT TO AFFECT EMS PERSONNEL

INDOT will begin installing new signs in the northern region of Indiana beginning August of 2012, and will be complete in approximately 90 days.

The new signage will replace the current miles with the addition of 200. INDOT plans to maintain both the old exit number signs and the new exit number signs until October 2015.

Director of Steuben County EMS, Vicky Meek, ensures that public safety officials are well informed and that by just adding "200" to the current exit number is really simple.

"The state has been very good about keeping us informed, up-to-date and prepared."

DeKalb county will be instituting a new Electronic Patient Care Reporting (e-PCR) system and will use the new numbers so that future data research will not be complicated by the different numbers for same locations. ●

IDHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRAVELS TO WAR COLLEGE FOR DISCUSSION

On July 23rd-26th, 2012 Executive Director Joe Wainscott travelled to the 7th Annual Commandant's National Security Program at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Pennsylvania.

Director Wainscott joined a select group of 66 individuals from academia, the media, government, business and other prominent organizations to discuss national security related issues with students and faculty of the USAWC Distance Education Program and invited guests.

Participants from Indiana included four Indiana National Guard (INNG) personnel, three of which are members of Indiana State Police (ISP).●



Lt. Col. Todd Harless; Executive Director of Indiana Department of Homeland Security Joe Wainscott; Lt. Col. Steven Hibler; Lt. Col. Robert Burke; Not pictured: Col. Timothy Thombleson

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD GIVEN TO BOONVILLE MAN

John Dohrn of Boonville, Indiana has recently been selected as Indiana Firefighter of the Year. Dohrn is an eight-year veteran of the Boonville Fire Department and serves as a firefighter, a fire inspector, the department's pension secretary and is president of the Boonville Firefighters Union.

The award is sponsored by the American Legion and is named in honor of Martin A. Werner, a firefighter killed in the line of duty in 1988. Each legion post in Indiana can nominate a person for the award, and then winners are chosen for each of the 10 districts around the

state. Dohrn was nominated by Boonville American Legion Post 200.

"This is great for Southern Indiana, because I look at the other people who were district winners and they were from places like Indianapolis or other big departments," said Dohrn. "For somebody from Boonville to be recognized, it makes the whole thing shine a little brighter."

Dohrn is now advancing to national level. A banquet during the American Legion's National Convention in August will honor him and winners from other states. ●



September 2012 Upcoming Trainings/Events

SAR— Lilian Hardy, lhardy@dhs.in.gov

Sept. 4-5— K9310 Intermediate Cadaver Search Techniques

Sept. 8-9— K9650 K9 Credentialing Test

Sept. 14-16— TEEEX Wide Area Search

Sept. 22-23— SAR 400 Ground Search I

Sept. 25-26— K9410 Advanced Land Cadaver Techniques

Consortium/Online Trainings— Amy Lindsey,

alindsey@dhs.in.gov

FEMA Independent Study:

IS-42— Social Media in Emergency Management

IS0921— Retail Security Awareness: Understanding the Hidden Hazards

Task Force— Jenna Rossio,

jrossio@dhs.in.gov

Sept. 5— Leader's Role in Creating Vigilant, Prepared, and Resilient Communities (DI)

Sept. 6— Leader's Role in Creating Vigilant, Prepared and Resilient Communities

ICS— Jenna Rossio, jrossio@dhs.in.gov

Sept. 17-18— ICS 300

Sept. 19-20— ICS 400

EMA— Ashlee Grisel, agrisel@dhs.in.gov

Sept. 5-7— Mass Fatalities

Advanced PIO Workshops— pio@dhs.in.gov

District 9— Aug. 23, 12:30-4:30; 315 S. Ireland St. Greensburg, IN

District 1— Aug. 27, 8:30-12:30; St. Mary's Medical Center Hobart, IN

District 3— Sept. 6, 8:30-12:30; 220 W. Van Buren St. #204 Columbia City, IN

District 8— Oct. 4, 12:30-4:30; 205 N. Ewing St. Seymour, IN

INDIANA PARAMEDICS CERTIFICATION CHANGES TO LICENSURE

Effective July 1st, all paramedics in the state of Indiana are now licensed. According to Rick Archer, IDHS State EMS Director and Certifications Branch Chief, "State definitions of licensure vs. certification are the same; however, medics working in hospitals may see a change in how they are utilized in those settings by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations." •

FAQs

Q. Does this mean more money in wages and salaries?

A. Not necessarily

Q. Do I have to carry my own liability insurance?

A. Not necessarily, liability needs to be discussed with the employer.

Q. Does this change in-service requirements?

A. No.

DISTRICT 2 TASKFORCE HOLDS SERVICE AND SUPPORT EXERCISE

The Indiana District 2 Taskforce held a service and support field operation exercise that included an exposition of equipment and supplies on July 30th and 31st. The exposition consisted of equipment, supplies and first responders that may be deployed to assist the public in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

Task Force Leaders from Indiana's other nine Districts visited to view District 2 Task Force's new heavy equipment and transfer vehicles as well as confer about the state's

overall disaster preparations. Responders also set up tents, generators, lighting etc. to replicate a temporary base camp where they would live, and ideally sustain themselves for a minimum of 72 hours.

The Task Force system is part of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's efforts for all-hazard disaster preparedness and response. •



Larry Hoover (District 2 Planning Committee Chair and Pulaski County Emergency Manager) and Dave Tofson (Fulton County Emergency Manager) utilize some of the newly acquired equipment and supplies.

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