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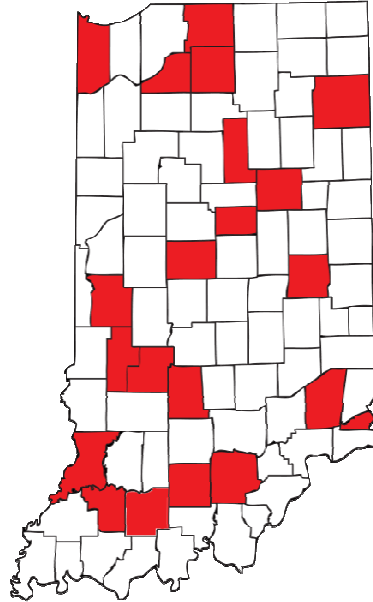
5 Delaware County acquires new ambulance ATV

FEMA Suspends Mitigation Funds

Cites Lack of Compliance of Kokomo Stadium

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) suspended all hazard mitigation grant awards to the State of Indiana on February 25, impacting 21 counties across the state.

The suspension is due to unresolved compliance issues with Kokomo's baseball stadium project, which includes up to eight parcels that were purchased as part of FEMA's hazard mitigation grant program. Guidelines require that properties in the program remain open space, or that projects obtain FEMA approval prior to construction.



The above map shows counties currently affected by the FEMA decision. Those counties have funding that is currently on hold.

As long as FEMA's decision stands, and Kokomo's stadium compliance issues linger, Indiana will not be eligible for future hazard mitigation funding, which could result in millions of additional lost grant funding to Indiana cities and counties. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is currently managing approximately \$50 million in hazard mitigation funded projects. Because these funds are already committed, they are not affected by the suspension.

The suspension may also extend to future disaster funds and the National Flood Insurance Program as related to the Kokomo project. The rest of the state is still eligible for future disaster grants and the National Flood Insurance Program.

FEMA determined in late 2014 that the Kokomo baseball stadium was not in compliance. As the grantee, IDHS has been working with the City of Kokomo to resolve compliance issues.

IDHS previously issued a letter on November 24, 2014, noting the violations and providing a timeline of 60 days for the city to resolve the issues. FEMA's February 25, 2015 letter noted that the violations still exist.

More than \$6.1 million in mitigation grant funds are affected. The awards were funding property acquisition projects, safe rooms, multi-hazard mitigation plan updates and a bridge project to mitigate flooding issues.

State, Counties Power Through Last of Winter

Over the last five weeks, Indiana was hit with a multitude of winter weather, with all corners of the state experiencing snow and frigid temperatures, sleet, localized flooding and more. Weather conditions contributed to frequent collisions and slide-offs, with all major highways subject to closures and many state and county roads following suit.

Numerous hours were logged by public safety officials attempting to stay ahead

of the snow and ice, and several times in northern Indiana snow plows were ordered off the roads due to treacherous conditions. Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) trucks travelled more than 5 million miles, deploying 254,000 tons of salt, 4.8 million gallons of salt brine and logged more than 276,000 staff hours during winter operations. The Indiana State Police (ISP) responded to thousands of weather-related calls, peaking between

February 28 and March 1, with 643 calls coming in.

Even with the challenges, cities and counties rose to the occasion. Resources were mustered, information was gathered, and while the State Emergency Operations Center increased staffing from Feb. 18 through Feb. 20 in the event assistance was needed, none was requested.

Severe Preparedness Week is Annual Reminder

Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 15-21 and serves as an annual reminder that planning and preparedness help minimize the number of weather-related deaths and injuries.

Local, state and national organizations use this week to encourage citizens to prepare before a severe weather event such as tornadoes, thunderstorms and flooding. While severe weather can strike anytime, volatile weather frequently accompanies the arrival of spring.

History bears out that Indiana can be in the path of damaging and life-threatening storms. In 2012, from February 29 through March 3, southern Indiana was devastated by hail, storms, straight line winds and powerful tornadoes that caused loss of life and resulted in a federal disaster declaration. The year before that brought a record 72 tornadoes to Indiana,

including 32 on April 19, 2011, and 26 on May 25, 2011.

As part of Severe Weather Preparedness Week, there will be tests of the Emergency Alert System on commercial radio, television networks and all-hazards radios. Often, the most damaging tornadoes occur at night, making it even more vital Hoosiers have the ability to receive warnings 24 hours a day. Families, schools and businesses are encouraged to practice their weather safety action plans.

Knowing what to do in an emergency is important. So is having the right items in a disaster kit. Families are encouraged to have the following things at the ready at all times:

- Food and water for three days, including one gallon of water per person per day

- Battery-operated all-hazards radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- List of emergency phone numbers
- Important documents like photo ID, Social Security card, insurance and banking information
- Cash (power outages can limit ability to use ATMs and credit cards)
- Special items for babies or medications for any family members

Indiana residents who live in mobile homes or manufactured structures should also have a plan to quickly find suitable shelter. People living in homes or apartment buildings should take shelter in the lowest level of the building, away from windows and doors.

To find out more about preparing for severe weather, visit GetPrepared.IN.gov.

3 Severe Weather Myths that will Blow You Away

Everyone has heard “dos and don’ts” about severe weather. For Severe Weather Preparedness Week 2015, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is debunking a few myths that some swear by.

Myth #1: Any Building is Safe During a Tornado

Manufactured buildings often can’t stand up to the wind speed and pressure, and are not safe shelters during a tornado. Hoosiers living in mobile homes or similar structures should talk to friends, family or neighbors to find a safe shelter in advance.

Permanent structures are best for shelter during a tornado, especially if they have a basement. Interior, lower level rooms

away from doors and windows can be an adequate backup plan.

Myth #2: Seek Shelter in an Underpass During Tornadoes

When traveling during a tornado, an underpass is one of the worst places to take shelter. Wind speeds can increase while flowing under the structure, and serious injuries can occur. Seek shelter in a permanent structure (even better if it has a basement), or find a low-laying area and lay down flat on the ground.

Myth #3: Open Windows Prior to Tornado Strike to Equalize Pressure Inside the House to Prevent it from Exploding

Opening windows does not help equalize pressure, and spending the time cracking

those windows can use up valuable seconds needed to take shelter. When an alert sounds on television, phones or all hazard radios, seek shelter right away.

We said three, but really, there’s one more...

Myth #4: You Can’t Prepare for Disasters

We all know that steps taken now can make a big difference during an emergency. Making a plan, building an emergency kit and learning about possible disasters in your area can help keep you and your family safe. Visit the Indiana Department of Homeland Security site GetPrepared.IN.gov for more information and resources for severe weather and floods.

Johnson County Opens New Operations Center

February 6, 2015, the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency cut the ribbon at its new emergency operations center.

The facility, which can withstand an F4 tornado, will also serve as the 9-1-1 dispatch center. With space for 16 emergency support functions, as well as a conference room for elected officials to utilize during emergency activations, the new building will serve as a dedicated hub for the county.

The new structure, in process for several years, additionally allowed the county to finish consolidation of its 9-1-1 dispatch services. The dispatch wing, usually staffed by six dispatchers, has the capability to house 12 dispatchers during an emergency.



Madison County Forms PIO Team

Team formed to strengthen communications

The Madison County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency has organized a public information team to handle media during large emergencies.

“We set up a Public Information ESF-15 group in November in response to the Ebola concern,” said Todd Harmeson, Public Information Officer with Madison County Emergency Management.

Harmeson said he began reaching out to partners in the community to identify

participants in a Joint Information System in the event of a suspected Ebola case in Madison County. Since then, Harmeson said full time as well as volunteer public information officers from several local and state agencies have been attending monthly meetings.

During the recent winter storms and cold temperatures, the team shared



information before putting out coordinated winter weather information to the public.

“The cooperation countywide and support from our partners is making this a successful program,” said Harmeson.

He said training and sharing of information are keys for any other county considering the creation of a similar team.

Agencies Power Through Winter (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

“Indiana’s counties have many years of training and experience, and are very capable of handling these types of weather events,” said Arvin Copeland, Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Emergency Response and Recovery Division.

“Local first responders and public works staff dealt with the challenges in their counties very well, without need of assistance or resources from the state.” In the meantime, INDOT, ISP and IDHS worked to provide safety information to Hoosiers.

“Preparedness is vital in weather events, and the ability to work closely with INDOT and ISP helped provide clear, consistent information to Hoosiers,” said John Erickson, Director of Public Information with IDHS. “By sharing information we are able to leverage our resources, reach the broadest number of residents and help protect lives.”

Indianapolis Smoke Alarm Program Saves Life

Early in the morning on February 12, a smoke alarm rang out, waking a 73-year-old Indianapolis woman. A fire had started in a back bedroom while she slept on the couch. The alarm provided her the precious seconds needed to move into her wheelchair and escape the building.

The smoke alarm responsible for waking her had been provided and installed through the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) Fire Prevention Month blitz in October. IFD worked

with the American Red Cross and State Farm Insurance to provide and install smoke alarms for senior citizens, doubling their chance of surviving a residence fire.

“There are so many times when firefighters respond to a home without properly installed smoke alarms, or worse yet, no smoke alarms,” said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal. “There are often injuries that could be prevented and lives that could be saved

if everyone would remember one simple fact. Smoke alarms save lives.”

Many fire departments around the State of Indiana have recently participated in similar blitzes, handing out smoke alarms in a variety of ways.

“These efforts translate into major benefits for citizens,” said Greeson. “And that’s significant, especially for a state that saw 102 fire fatalities in 2014, and already 20 in 2015, the IFD can be proud that at least one resident has been saved from serious injury.”

Speedway Fire Department Gets New Tool

Firefighters trained to use Narcan to fight overdoses

Drug overdoses are on the rise in communities across Indiana. In order to save lives, many emergency medical providers, law enforcement agencies and fire departments are using Naloxone to save lives.

Naloxone, also known as Narcan, is used to counter the effects of an opioid overdose, commonly caused by prescription painkillers, morphine and heroin.

Before the start of 2015, the Speedway Fire Department (SFD) partnered with Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services to receive training.

All SFD firefighters spent the last three days of 2014 learning how to properly

administer the drug. The training involved learning when and how much of the drug to use when administering it to someone suffering from a drug overdose.

SFD Battalion Chief Michael Cheney says every rescue box in the department is now equipped with Narcan and the training has already helped save an unresponsive patient. Cheney said agencies thinking about the training should not hesitate.

“You never know when the person you save might see that near death experience as the call to change,” said Cheney. “Without Narcan, and without trained and knowledgeable personnel on scene, they will never have that chance.”



Fire Engineer Mike Boe (left) and Firefighter Eric Emerson (right) show the Narcan equipment along with their medical kit.

Both are with the Speedway Fire Department.

District 10 Earthquake Exercise March 27

An upcoming training in District 10 will allow first responders and community officials the opportunity to test their earthquake preparedness.

The New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones are potential threats to

Indiana, especially in the southwest part of the state. The New Madrid Fault has produced eight earthquakes in or near Indiana since 2000 according to the United States Geological Survey.

The exercise, which will take place on Friday, March 27, will include search and rescue operations, as well as district emergency operations center and joint information center activation.

Delaware County Acquires Ambulance ATV

Funds provided by the Ball Brothers Foundation

Thanks to a grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation (BBF), Delaware County Emergency Management has a new all-terrain ambulance.

The vehicle is Delaware County's newest advanced life support unit and is now delivered and ready for action. The ATV is an off-road ambulance that has a fully enclosed, all-aluminum patient compartment that holds a full-sized cot and seating for up to two attendants and a driver. It is built to easily be taken off-road and is smaller and more maneuverable, making it excellent for responding to incidents in crowded areas, remote areas and more.

"Several years ago, Ball Brothers Foundation began a new 'Emergency Management' initiative," said Jenna Wachtmann, Foundation Program Officer. "Through this initiative, BBF provides funding to support critical needs of selected public agencies responsible for the physical welfare of citizens.

Recognizing that public agencies face tight budgets, BBF provides limited funding for efforts that provide a 'margin of excellence' for law enforcement agencies, first responders and others."

Ball Brothers Foundation's board of directors approved a grant for \$65,000 to support the purchase of an ATV ambulance for Delaware County in October 2014. Jason Rogers, Executive Director EM/EMS, had first approached BBF with the idea for the ATV ambulance in summer 2014. He had previously received a number of grants from BBF, which had been successful in helping to strengthen the outstanding organization that Rogers leads, said Wachtmann.

In his case for support, Rogers emphasized the need for a small, maneuverable, and versatile life support vehicle that could just as easily be navigated through large crowds at events in downtown Muncie or Ball State

football games as it could in making life-saving runs on the Cardinal Greenway or on trails at Prairie Creek Reservoir. As one of very few such units in Indiana, the medical ATV sets Muncie-Delaware County apart. The addition of this unit allows other ambulances to stay on-duty and certainly piques public interest, making it a great centerpiece for public education efforts.



The new EMS vehicle was purchased with a grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation. The foundation supports culture, education, healing and projects benefiting the public.

State, Local NCAA Cooperation Scores Big

The beginning of April brings four days of festivities as the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) Final Four tournament rolls into Indianapolis. Basketball won't be the only highlight, with concerts, vendors and events planned in White River State Park to entertain attendees.

Building on services provided during the 2012 Super Bowl, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Fire and Building Safety

Division, Indianapolis Code Enforcement (ICE) and the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD) are again working together for applications and inspections for buildings, tents, stages and other temporary structures needed during the event.

The cooperative effort will allow vendors and event participants to fill out one form for all the involved agencies and work with each office to verify that they are in compliance with all state and local

regulations. "All three agencies will perform inspections together," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson, who oversees the IDHS Fire and Building Safety Division. "This allows all customers to receive the same information and allows the agencies to provide the highest level of public safety."

The Final Four will be held in Indianapolis from April 3-6, 2015.

Local, State Cooperation Leads to Fire Arrest

A Vincennes man was arrested March 3 following an investigation among the Vincennes Fire Department (VFD), Knox County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Dustin Taylor, 32, was arrested for arson, a level 4 felony.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, VFD responded to a two-story duplex apartment fire at 2008 Raymond Drive. When firefighters arrived to the reported fire, smoke and flames were visible. The occupant was able to evacuate the apartment. Firefighters used forced entry into the structure and were able to extinguish the fire.

An IDHS fire investigator aided VFD as it investigated the fire. Follow-up interviews supported the determination of probable cause, leading to Taylor's arrest.

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson oversees the Fire and Building Safety Division of IDHS.

IUPUI, IDHS Share Partnership Model

Partnership presented at National Tornado Summit

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has teamed up with students from IUPUI's School of Liberal Arts, Department of Journalism and Public Relations, to form an agency/university partnership model that is now being presented on a national level.

IDHS Director of Public Information John Erickson and IUPUI Public Relations Lecturer Julie A. Vincent were session speakers February 25 at the National Tornado Summit in Oklahoma City, OK. Their session, titled "An Agency/University Partnership – could it work for you?" detailed the collaboration that benefits both IDHS and students.

"We first included IUPUI public relations students and Julie in February 2012 to monitor various social media sites 10 days before, during and 10 days after Super Bowl XLVI," said Erickson. "We then used students again in the spring of 2012 to help us after southern Indiana experienced a day of deadly tornado activity. From then on, we have included students in various exercises, in internships and now even in full-time employment after graduation."



Julie Vincent (right) is interviewed by Lacey Lett, a reporter for News Chanel 4 in Oklahoma City.

Vincent says this collaboration is really a win-win arrangement. It gives IDHS extra sets of hands in times of emergency or large exercises. It gives her students experiences not routinely offered to this age group and provides them with impressive resume and portfolio content. She said her students, through their exposure to IDHS, have broadened their network of people, their view of the world and their skill sets.

"Several IDHS employees regularly serve as guest lecturers in our Public Relations Issues and Crisis Management course,"

said Vincent. "And our students regularly take part in events like last July's Vibrant Response, the largest week-long exercise ever held in North America. It was just great for IDHS and the other exercise agencies and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our students."

Erickson and Vincent are now in the process of training students to be members of the inaugural voluntary IUPUI Social Media Strike Team. This team includes students each semester who are trained and receive limited credentials to be on call should a real emergency occur and/or the Joint Information or Emergency Operations Center be activated. With the IUPUI campus within walking distance of the IDHS offices, students can provide the agency quick response should they be needed.

During their talk at the National Tornado Summit, Erickson and Vincent encouraged other agencies and states to reach out to nearby colleges and universities that have journalism or public relations programs to see if a similar partnership could work for them.

Agencies Support Indiana's Safety at NCAA Final Four, Beyond

Federal, state and local agencies met on March 5 to support the NCAA Final Four on the weekend of April 3, but also to assist in ongoing radiological and nuclear detection collaboration.

"For obvious reasons, we can't discuss a lot of detail, however, there are short- and long-term goals," said Laura Dresen, Indiana Department of Homeland Security Radiation Program Director. "Indiana is home to many large events, and we're always looking at ways to

work together to optimize safety and coordination at these events, but also in an ongoing way for overall state security."

Participants included experts in radiological and nuclear detection, intelligence, investigation, response and recovery, and responders who would be involved if a situation arises. The goal is to develop capabilities to enable participating agencies to protect Indiana's residents, economy, critical infrastructure

and natural resources against threats posed by unauthorized use of nuclear or other radiological materials.

Participating agencies included homeland security, emergency medical, firefighters, hazardous materials professionals, public health, healthcare, law enforcement, military, emergency management, port security, higher education, natural resources and others from the public safety community.

#HackINvTX Competition Announces Winners

Teams compete by using technology to improve state capabilities

The winners of the #HackINvTX Challenge were revealed March 2 at The Speak Easy in Indianapolis as the first event of the Hack Indiana Series comes to an end.

The series, sponsored by Techpoint and the Indy Chamber, named Red Alert as the winner of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) challenge, and the combined teams of Agency360 and RebornCode as the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) challenge winners.

"Innovation and the desire to serve the public are both traits that Hoosiers share and they are definitely on display during this event," said State of Indiana Chief Information Officer Paul Baltzell. "We received many tremendous entries to solve problems that the State is encountering serving its citizens. The two winning solutions definitely offer a way for state government to deliver services in ways that better meet public needs."

Red Alert Indiana took first place in the challenge from IDHS, creating a dynamic form that serves as a means to direct those affected by emergencies or natural disasters to the proper agencies or non-profits to receive assistance. The application guides users through a checklist of potential services that can be administered at one-stop-shop locations, and also streamlines the process for the providers by storing contact information in a database for quick reference.

Two teams joined forces to win the IDEM Challenge: Agency360 and RebornCode. The IDEM challenge called for a centralized, streamlined and secure platform to eliminate its paper-based permitting process. The winners created a system in which administrators can create preset tasks that can be assigned to complete in order to move the permit application through the process. The system also has the ability to create templates based on the permit type.

The two winning teams will face off against two winners from Texas to

determine the #HackINvTX overall winner. This competition is the first of its kind to pit two states against one another for overall civic good through the hacking and developer community.

A national judging panel will convene to determine the overall winner to be announced later in March.

More information on the series can be found at techpoint.org/Indiana-Hack-Series.

The Hack Indiana Series, sponsored by Techpoint and the Indy Chamber, is an extended hackathon designed to invigorate an entrepreneurial culture and equip participants with marketable skills while encouraging relationship formation and camaraderie across states. The Challenge will engage students and professionals already actively contributing to the Indiana tech space and will potentially lead to seeding new ventures and job-creators.

Indiana National Guard Receives Cyber Team

One of three teams; others in Georgia and California

The Indiana National Guard (INNG) received approval for a Cyber Protection Team (CPT) to be added to the Fiscal Year-16 force structure.

Indiana is one of three states to receive this new force structure. Georgia and California will also each receive a CPT. Indiana will join with Michigan and Ohio to collectively resource and maximize utilization and capabilities of this new team.

The CPT will be trained on information technology and cyber-specific skills. If mobilized, the CPT will provide surge support to the Army Cyber Command and support defensive cyberspace

operations as assigned. When deployed in support of state active duty, the CPT will be used to provide support to law enforcement, homeland defense and support to civilian authorities.

The Indiana Army National Guard is uniquely postured to support the CPT mission based on skill-sets and experiences already present in Indiana, according to a release from INNG. INNG has strong partnerships with the cyber community in the fields of research, security and law enforcement. Key academic resources in Indiana include Purdue University's Cyber Center and Indiana University's Center for Applied Cyber Security Research, which is a

leader in the Army Cyber-Security Collaborative Research Alliance.

Indiana's fully accredited 10,000 square foot Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility and the Muscatatuck/Atterbury cyber range made Indiana a strong competitor in this new force structure decision according to INNG. The Indiana cyber range is a premier training facility for both public and private cyber endeavors and will host the 2015 Cyber Shield national-level training exercise.

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 well-being and protection of our citizens, property and economy.

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