

# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

DECEMBER 2019

## HELICOPTER AQUATIC RESCUE TEAM

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Hazards in the Heartland
- Holiday Fire Safety
- PEM Transition and Update
- First Responder Dementia Education
- Swine Farms - Emergency Preparedness

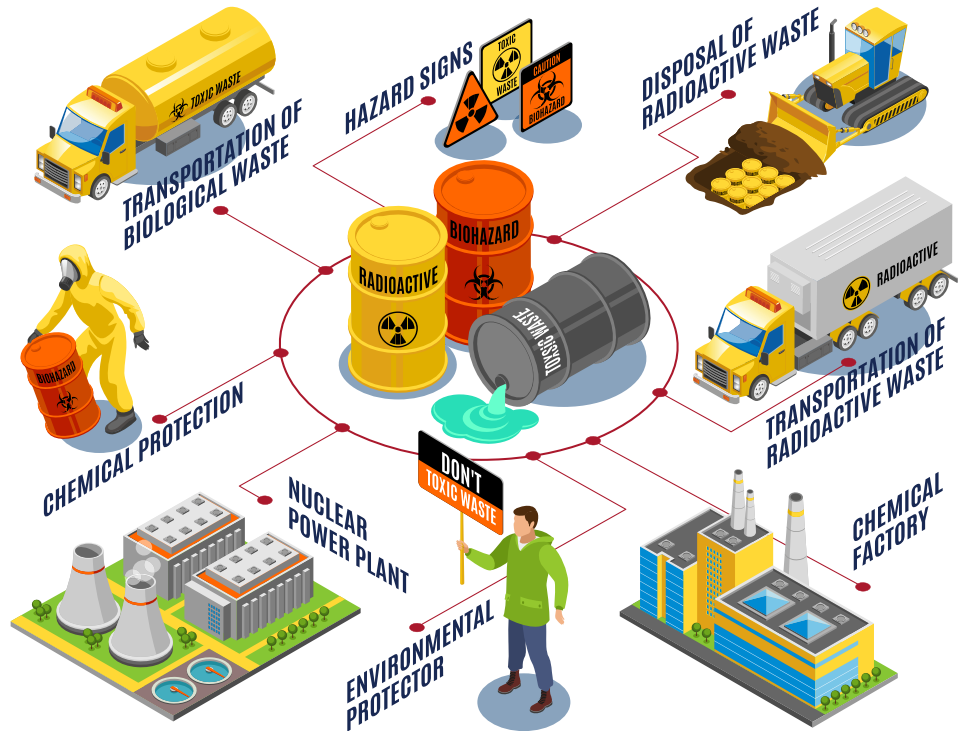


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# HAZARDS IN THE HEARTLAND

The Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC) Fall 2019 meeting took place in Indianapolis, Ind., this November, kicking off with a tabletop exercise. The scenario focused on the transportation of spent nuclear fuel across several midwestern states, and the challenges and requirements that may occur from the state, local, tribal and federal perspectives.



The two-day meeting allowed states to discuss further topics, including planning, future timelines and interim storage.

Organized in 1989, the Council of State Government's MRMTC brings the Midwestern states together to identify, prioritize and work with the U.S. Department of Energy to resolve regional issues related to the transportation of radioactive waste and materials, including spent nuclear fuel. The committee includes representatives of the executive and legislative branches of government in the 12 midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Indiana's representative, Kaci Studer of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, is a co-chair of the committee.

# GARY FIRE DEPARTMENT MAKES PUSH FOR HOME FIRE SAFETY LEADING INTO THE HOLIDAYS

Now is the time of year when home fires become a more common occurrence. From cooking fires around the holidays to home heating fires, November through February historically sees a larger number of home fires across the U.S.

The Gary Fire Department is taking a proactive approach to keeping citizens safe during the winter months. During an installation blitz on Nov. 9, the department partnered with the American Red Cross Indiana to install 150 smoke alarms in Gary homes.

“The success of the blitz was definitely a team effort,” said Pamela Perez with the Gary Fire Department. “We could not have been this successful without the work and dedication of all those involved. We really have some amazing people in our city and in the Red Cross.”

During one installation, a volunteer also noticed a smell of natural gas coming from the kitchen. The department brought out detection gear and confirmed there was a gas leak. The gas was immediately shut off and the gas company came out to make the repair, potentially saving the homeowner’s life.

“Because of the blitz, we were there and were able to make one more home safe. It made us all feel like heroes,” said Perez.

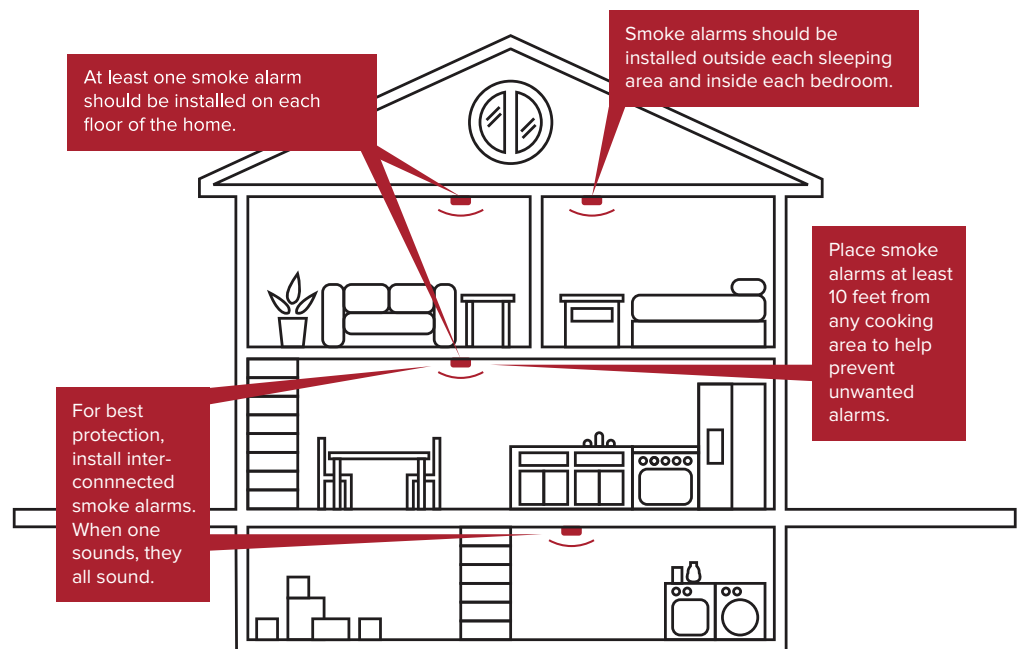
In addition to the Red Cross blitz, the Gary Fire Department has worked with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s (IDHS) *Get Alarmed* program to install an additional 109 smoke alarms in homes since the launch of the program.

“Pamela has been so incredibly supportive of our program, and you can truly tell she has the heart and passion to help her community,” said *Get Alarmed* Program Manager Nikki Lee. “She and her department are

just one of many across the state that has really been a blessing to our program.”

IDHS would like to highlight more fire departments across the state for their efforts in keeping Hoosiers safe from home fires. The agency encourages any department that installs smoke alarms and supports fire prevention efforts in its community to share pictures with IDHS by sending an [email](#) or tagging us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

To learn more about the *Get Alarmed* program, visit [GetAlarmed.in.gov](http://GetAlarmed.in.gov).





# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MEASURE SURVEY COMING SOON FOR INDIANA EMS AGENCIES

In January 2020, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program will send a statewide survey to all Indiana registered EMS agency directors. The objective is to understand the following:

- What methods are EMS agencies using to assess provider skill with pediatric equipment (for example, direct field observation, skill labs, simulation)?
- How frequently are these skills assessed?
- How is pediatric emergency care coordinated at individual EMS agencies?

The Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children Program (iEMSC) focuses on improving the quality of emergency care for children with serious injury and illness by integrating children's interests into the existing hospital and EMS system. iEMSC represents the unique needs of children within the health care community throughout

Indiana and works to ensure all children have timely access to appropriate emergency medical care. A critical component of this mission is supporting those individuals – nurses, paramedics, EMTs and physicians – who provide that care. This includes working to provide tools and resources to more than 800 EMS agencies within the state.

*“Prehospital pediatric care is a vital component of any emergency medicine practice,” said Michael Kaufmann, EMS medical director for Indiana. “This survey is an opportunity to gather pivotal information and will shed light on the ways that local programs can be supported more effectively.”*

Over the past year, the EMS section of the Indiana Department of Homeland

Security (IDHS) has asked each EMS provider organization to name a pediatric emergency care coordinator within its agency. This position is identified on the EMS provider organization paperwork.

[A recent study](#) found EMS agencies with an individual or individuals who coordinated pediatric emergency care had an increased frequency of skill-checking of pediatric equipment.

The goal with this survey is to help EMS providers be better prepared to face pediatric calls. This requires data on the current capacity of agencies to care for ill or injured children.

EMS agencies will receive an email from The National Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center ([NEDARC-emsc@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:nedarc-emsc@hsc.utah.edu)) asking organizations to complete the survey. The survey should only take six minutes to complete.

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The assessment is conducted on a secure, web-based system. The survey will be available beginning on Jan. 7, 2020, and accessible for 90 days. Please complete as soon as possible to avoid additional phone calls and emails requesting completion of assessment. Organizations also may access a paper version of the assessment at [emscsurveys.org](http://emscsurveys.org).

“Completing this survey will allow us to help you be better prepared to care for your pediatric patients,” said Margo Knefelkamp, iEMSC program manager. In the future, iEMSC plans to provide an education and resources workshop for the prehospital-based PECC.

Subscribe to the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) quarterly newsletter to connect with pediatric education opportunities, or ask any additional questions by contacting Margo Knefelkamp at [margo.knefelkamp@indianapolisems.org](mailto:margo.knefelkamp@indianapolisems.org) or 317.523.4636.



# PUBLIC SAFETY PORTAL - PHASE II

The second phase of the Public Safety Portal (PSP) integration will go live by the end of 2019. The Public Safety Portal is an online, one-stop web portal resource for Hoosiers to control all of their IDHS-required documentation through a single sign-on location. It also provides an easy method for online payment of permit-related fees.

PSP Phase II continues the modernization of the permitting and licensing processes handled by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The portal allows for applications by outside entities and includes the supporting structures needed to ensure their completion. Any supporting inspections are recorded electronically AS THEY OCCUR, making the results available more quickly.

The Phase II rollout includes:

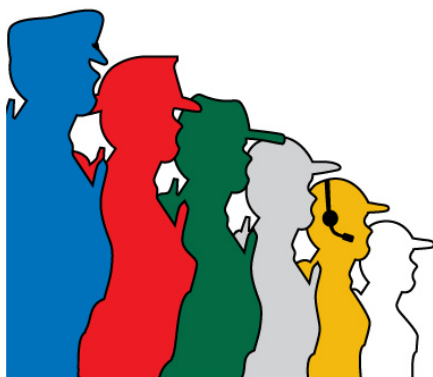
- Fireworks (Wholesale)
- Fireworks (Retail)
- Fireworks (Existing tent licenses)
- Firework displays
- Code enforcement inspections
- Construction design release inspections
- Daycare ministry and child care institution inspections

The first phase, which focused on elevator and amusement ride permits, came online in March. The portal can be found online at <https://publicsafety.dhs.in.gov/>.



# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

By purchasing a First Responder license plate from a local BMV branch, you can show your dedication to the importance of careers in public safety and volunteerism in Indiana. Just ask for a Secure Indiana license plate the next time you renew your vehicle's plate.



SAVING LIVES



# PEM TRANSITION AND UPDATE

The Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) program is Indiana's program to help raise and maintain professional standards in emergency management and recognize individuals who have demonstrated basic competencies in the field.

To bring the program into line with national standards, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is transitioning to the FEMA National Emergency Management Basic Academy curriculum. The Basic Academy is certified by FEMA, and individuals who complete all five courses with an EMI course completion certificate will receive a National Emergency Management Basic Academy certificate from FEMA.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the requirements for the Professional Emergency Management Certificate will be as follows:

- Six professional contributions
- Exercise – Type: operations-based (drill, functional or full-scale) Role: evaluator, simulator, controller, facilitator, designer
- Work experience – two years for EMA staff, five years for other
- PEM curriculum – National Emergency Management Basic Academy



The Basic Academy includes the following classroom courses. Attendance at each course is required.

- E/L0101, Foundations of Emergency Management, should be taken first but is not required (*Note: Individuals may attend the National Basic Academy courses without applying for the PEM*)
- L0101, Foundations of Emergency Management (40 hours)
- L0102, Science of Disaster (approximately 24 hours)
- L0103, Planning: Emergency Operations (16 hours)
- L0146, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) (16 hours)
- L0105, Public Information and Warning (16 hours)

**Total course hours: 112 hours**

More information is available at:

<https://www.in.gov/dhs/emermgtngpgm.htm>

Current requirements to receive PEM certification are:

- Complete the PEM examination
- Six professional contributions
- Exercise – Type: operations-based (drill, functional, or full-scale) Role: evaluator, simulator, controller, facilitator, designer
- Work experience – two years for EMA staff; five years for other public safety
- PEM curriculum
  - Legal Issues
  - Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
  - Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning (CEMP)
  - Introduction to Emergency Management
  - Damage Assessment
  - Debris Management

IDHS will conduct one session of the following courses:

- Damage Assessment
- Debris Management

These courses are scheduled for Jan. 7-9, 2020, in Indianapolis, Ind. Registration is available on [Acadis](#).

L0103 Planning, Emergency Operations will substitute for the above-mentioned Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning (CEMP). None of the other Indiana curriculum (see above) will be conducted in the future.

*\*\*The final delivery of the PEM examination was held at the 2019 EMAI Conference. The new PEM program will not require an exam. If you believe you still need to take the PEM examination, send an email to [training@dhs.in.gov](mailto:training@dhs.in.gov).*

# INDIANA DEDICATES A STRONG HART FOR WATER RESCUES

Flooding remains one of the most threatening weather hazards across Indiana, but now the state has a valuable resource to help rescue victims and quickly get them any medical help they may need.

Indiana's recently formed Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (HART) will conduct missions to save Hoosiers and will be available during major disasters to help other states if necessary. Formed earlier this year, the HART team was requested and deployed in September to South Carolina during Hurricane Dorian.

Ultimately, the helicopter team never had to make rescues during the deployment. But the request for help is a good indicator of how valuable these teams can be. Indiana is now one of only nine states to have a certified HART program, formed through a collaboration of the South Bend Fire and Rescue,

the Indiana National Guard and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

"Discussions about this team started as much as four or five years ago," said Chris Baker, battalion chief with the South Bend Fire Department and the lead search and rescue technician for Indiana. "We started looking at the need for this type of resource in Indiana. Especially south of Indianapolis, it's a predominantly rural area, and those places don't have the

equipment they may need to make this type of rescue."

Those discussions led to additional collaborations between the Guard and IDHS. South Bend is recognized nationally for its swift water rescue team, and the department also trains regularly with the Guard Medivac helicopter team. HART represents the logical next step to expand training and elevate the type of resources necessary for when flooding events strike.

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“This puts us on the scene fairly quickly,” Baker added. “A rescue that might take 30 minutes, if someone was stranded in swift water in a car, for example ... we can do a hoist operation in about 10 minutes. The helicopter team can act as a backup to a boat rescue team and can be on the ready if the lives of rescuers or victims are in jeopardy.”

Indiana Fire Marshal Stephen Cox, former chief of South Bend, played an integral role in the creation of the team along with IDHS Executive Director Bryan Langley and Response and Recovery Director Erin Rowe.

“The HART team adds another tool for first responders, especially in a disaster situation, when hard-to-reach areas or areas that become flooded require a water rescue asset to perform rescues, Cox said. “Indiana has experienced serious flooding events over the past few years that make the inception of this team critical. In addition, it is a great example of collaboration between civilian and military rescue assets. It’s a

true force multiplier.”

“This is an asset not only for the citizens of Indiana but to other states as well,” Rowe said. “Life safety is the top priority in any flooding or rescue incident, and HART provides another important tool to help our state be ready when called upon.”

Because this is an Indiana asset (not a South Bend asset), the team expects to be involved in more training and rescue operations very soon. In late November, the team was certified by the South Carolina HART team during a training exercise at Indiana’s Muscatatuck Urban Training

Center, which features a flooded village that is ideal for water rescue training.

“This is a really big deal for Indiana,” Baker added. “We have six people trained as HART rescue technicians, and we plan to add three more to that. Indiana can now respond directly to requests from other states when that expertise is needed.”

Indiana counties in need of HART operations should contact the state’s Emergency Operations Center operated by IDHS. The county EMA can request a response when necessary.

“We’re going to continue to train and work with other states with HART teams, such as Texas, North Carolina and South Carolina. They have been at it the longest,” Baker said. “It’s very impressive and humbling to know that now we are certified and recognized by one of those programs (South Carolina).”



# FIRST RESPONDER DEMENTIA EDUCATION

In an emergency, body language, maintaining eye contact and even the tone of voice can help calm patients. For someone with dementia, the nuances are even more important.

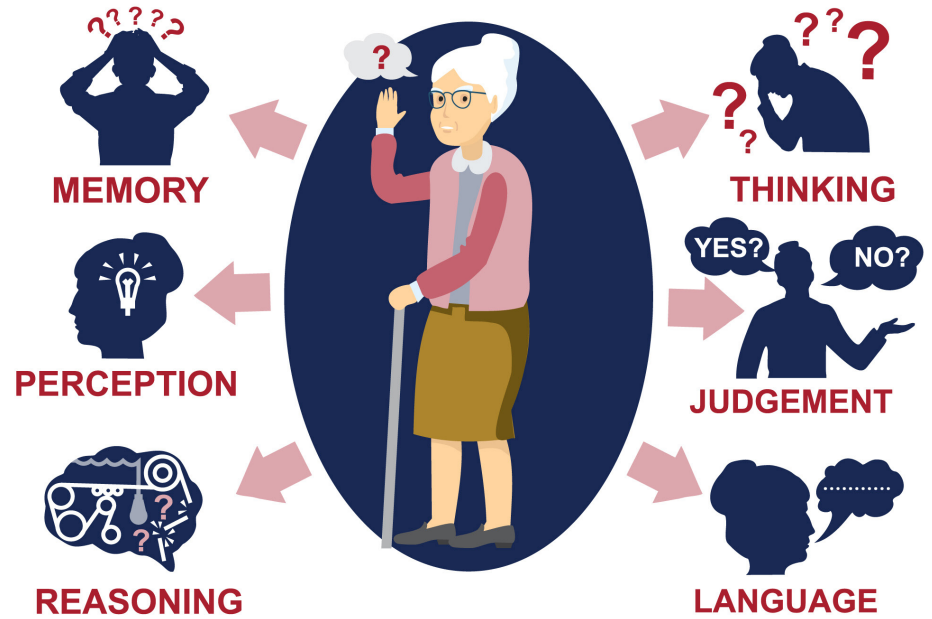
First responders across Indiana now are learning how to identify and better assist someone who may have dementia. In an emergency, every second counts.

The Carmel Fire Department was the first in the state to make Dementia Friends training mandatory. Noblesville also recently mandated its department take the online course and become partners with Dementia Friends Indiana.

The online training, found on [Acadis](#), is thanks to a partnership between the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Dementia Friends Indiana and Central Indiana Council on Aging (CICOA).

“As more and more seniors are living with dementia and more are aging in place, we find we’re interacting more frequently with people who have dementia,” said Dr. Michael Kaufmann, state EMS medical director for Indiana.

People with dementia can become easily agitated or even combative, especially during a crisis. They can appear confused and not be able to



answer questions. However, understanding dementia signs, such as it may take someone with dementia 20 seconds to be able to process a question, helps first responders better communicate and care for those with dementia.

Noblesville Fire Department has been working the last couple of years with the Shepherd’s Center of Hamilton County to improve care among the elderly population. When the Shepherd’s Center suggested the Dementia Friends Indiana training, Fire Chief Greg Wyant jumped at the chance to bring the program to his department of about 135 firefighters and EMTs.

One of the most challenging things for a first responder is to identify what’s going on, he said.

“There are so many things that

can affect a person’s cognitive ability. For example, have they taken the wrong medication? But if the person says they have dementia, then it helps us help them,” Wyant said.

Kaufmann and Wyant both praise the work CICOA is doing to collaborate with first responders and community organizations. A long-term goal is to have public safety partners take the training one step further and begin talking about dementia at safety fairs and other community events. When communities better understand dementia, it creates a higher quality of life for those living with the disease.

“The goal is to be able to reach people in their community, so we can help people age in place in their communities. That way they can lead happier, healthier, more productive lives,” Kaufmann said.

*CICOA contributed to this story.*

# EMAI/IERC AWARDS



## **IERC Chairperson's Award**

Lori Mayers (Allen County)

Lori Mayers is the secretary for the Allen County LEPC as well as the assistant director for the Allen County Office of Homeland Security. Lori not only goes out of her way to assist her LEPC but also the Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

## **Outreach to Facilities Award**

Hamilton County

During the first quarter of 2019 the members of the Hamilton County LEPC worked together to build the committee membership. A letter was drafted and sent to 10 facilities with the goal of introducing the committee, educating the facilities on applicable regulations, discussing the importance of emergency planning and inviting the facilities to become a member. Through outreach, an additional four industry members have been added to the committee.

## **Meritorious Award**

James L. Greeson

The Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC) recognized retired Indiana Fire Marshal James L. Greeson for his 11 years of outstanding dedication and commitment to the IERC mission, to enhance environmental protection and public health and safety related to chemical hazards in Indiana.

## **Hazardous Materials Response Plans Award**

Dubois County

From the nomination: Dubois County has developed a robust and detailed process for the yearly update to their LEPC plan. The program focuses on individual outreach, allowing the county to reach out to facilities and response agencies to ensure updated information within the entire plan. This process allows an efficient update process to provide the safest possible environment for county residents. In addition, the county has offered to educate other counties on the process and assist in updates across the state.

## **Hazardous Materials Exercise Award**

Grant County

In October 2018, Grant County agencies collectively worked together to exercise emergency plans within the county. Included were responders from multiple law enforcement agencies, fire departments, hazardous materials, emergency management, amateur radio, emergency medical and Marion General Hospital. Indiana Wesleyan University nursing students acted as impacted citizens to increase the realism of the scenario.

Each year, Grant County works to develop a multi-agency, federally compliant exercise to ensure the county's readiness for any situation.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!**

## IVY TECH SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT RECRUITMENT FOR FIREFIGHTERS, EMS



Ivy Tech Community College will begin offering a scholarship program in January 2020 to pay the tuition for first responders across Indiana working toward a two-year degree.

The college is partnering with the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association (IVFA) to help address the shortage of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel throughout the state, especially in rural communities. The scholarships, which will cover students' tuition and technology fee expenses for two years, are intended to be an incentive for interested individuals to become a volunteer firefighter or EMS responder.

"First and foremost, our hope is

to get more firefighters," said Paul Holcomb, IVFA president. "There is a huge cost-savings that volunteer firefighting provides for the state of Indiana. Our goal is to continue the volunteer firefighting service, because it is quite a big asset to our state."

The number of volunteer firefighters has been on a downward trend for years, with the IVFA having lost more than 1,400 members from 2010 to 2019, about a 9 percent drop during that time period.

About 75 percent of Indiana's fire departments have an all-volunteer firefighter workforce, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. The Indiana State Fire Marshal, part of

the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, aids these departments by providing messaging, training and legislative support to help incentivize volunteering.

State Fire Marshal Stephen Cox said volunteers are especially needed in rural counties, where citizens rely heavily on them. The shortage puts more stress on current volunteers because they have to respond to more calls for help. In addition, the lack of volunteers affects career fire departments too, he said.

"The impact on larger career departments in the state is that often individuals start their career in the volunteer service and move over to a career department once they realize

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this is what they want to do for a career. This impacts recruitment for career departments as this stream of recruits reduces,” he said.

Not only are overall numbers for volunteer firefighters decreasing in the state, but also the workforce is aging, according to IVFA lobbyist Larry Curl. He said he hopes the new scholarship program will attract both new and young firefighters and EMS personnel. He said he refers to the program as a “golden ticket” for volunteer recruitment.

*“This could result in a new look at public safety in Indiana.”*

“In conversation at a department meeting, I was presenting the Ivy Tech offer and a young person in the room made a comment: ‘This could change my life,’ he said. “I come from a farming family with several kids in our family and had no hope of being able to get a college degree.’ With this opportunity, we could see hundreds of new members joining the ranks of our volunteers.”

“I think it could change the entire public safety outlook,” Curl said. “All public safety agencies today are struggling, and this could result in a new look at public safety in Indiana.”



Indiana Department of Homeland Security Chief Operations Officer Jeff Groh and Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann sign a partnership agreement to support statewide public safety training.

The Volunteer Firefighter Scholarship is available to any new or current volunteer firefighter or EMS personnel, and it is open to both prospective Ivy Tech students and those currently enrolled (existing students must have no outstanding balance with Ivy Tech and must meet academic eligibility). Students can attend part-time or full-time, and there is no credit-hour requirement per semester. Students can seek a degree at any Ivy Tech campus in all programs except aviation/flight and general studies.

Applications are now being accepted for the scholarships, which will be awarded beginning with the 2020 spring semester. Those interested in

applying should visit [ivytech.edu/volunteer](http://ivytech.edu/volunteer) to learn more and to begin the application process. Time to apply may be of the essence, though, as the scholarship program’s pilot program funding is limited to a total of \$250,000 over the next two academic years.

“Ivy Tech will continue to find ways to be good partners to the state and the communities as a way to help recruit, retain and credential Hoosiers,” said Kelsey Batten, Ivy Tech assistant vice president for marketing and communications, adding the long-term sustainment of the program will require state funding support.



# SWINE FARMS - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Like other Hoosier business owners, farmers need to plan for natural disasters. However, raising livestock and poultry presents an entirely different level of disaster risk: high-consequence disease.

Indiana has experienced its fair share — like the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) event in Dubois County in 2016. Currently, pork producers across the country are watching the movement of a disease that could be just as devastating if it makes it way to North America.

African swine fever, or ASF, is a viral disease that causes illness or death within days of exposure. While ASF does not threaten human health or food safety, the disease is devastating to farms, where pigs will get high fevers, diarrhea, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing. The impact is most evident in China (the world's largest pork-producing country), where ASF losses are estimated at half of the nation's pig population since August 2018. Some data suggests the number of pig deaths in China exceeds the total U.S. hog population.

U.S. hog farmers are understandably nervous. With no vaccine and no known cure,

ASF has spread in Eastern Europe and another 15 Asian countries in the last year. As the nation's fifth-largest pork-producing state and the home of two of the country's major pork-processing plants (Delphi and Logansport), Indiana has a lot at stake.

Drawing on lessons learned from the HPAI event in 2016, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) staff is working closely with pork producers and veterinarians to encourage disease prevention and readiness with a modified version of a national response plan, referred to as Securing Indiana's Pork Supply (IN SPS). IN SPS focuses on five action items for producers: premises validation, on-farm biosecurity assessment and training, certified sampler training, an in-person meeting with BOAH and electronic movement permit training.

In September, BOAH, along with key partner agencies including IDHS and Indiana Department of Environmental Management, participated in a four-day, national exercise hosted by USDA. The exercise quickly revealed the need for a multi-agency, multi-level response. Much like the HPAI event,

depopulation and disposal of hogs, particularly larger operations, will be a significant challenge.

BOAH has applied for a USDA grant to fund research on efficient and effective methods to accomplish depopulation safely and quickly. In addition, BOAH is working directly with 13 other states (which make up the majority of U.S. pork production) to coordinate continuity of business practices to allow animals and products to continue to move during a disaster.

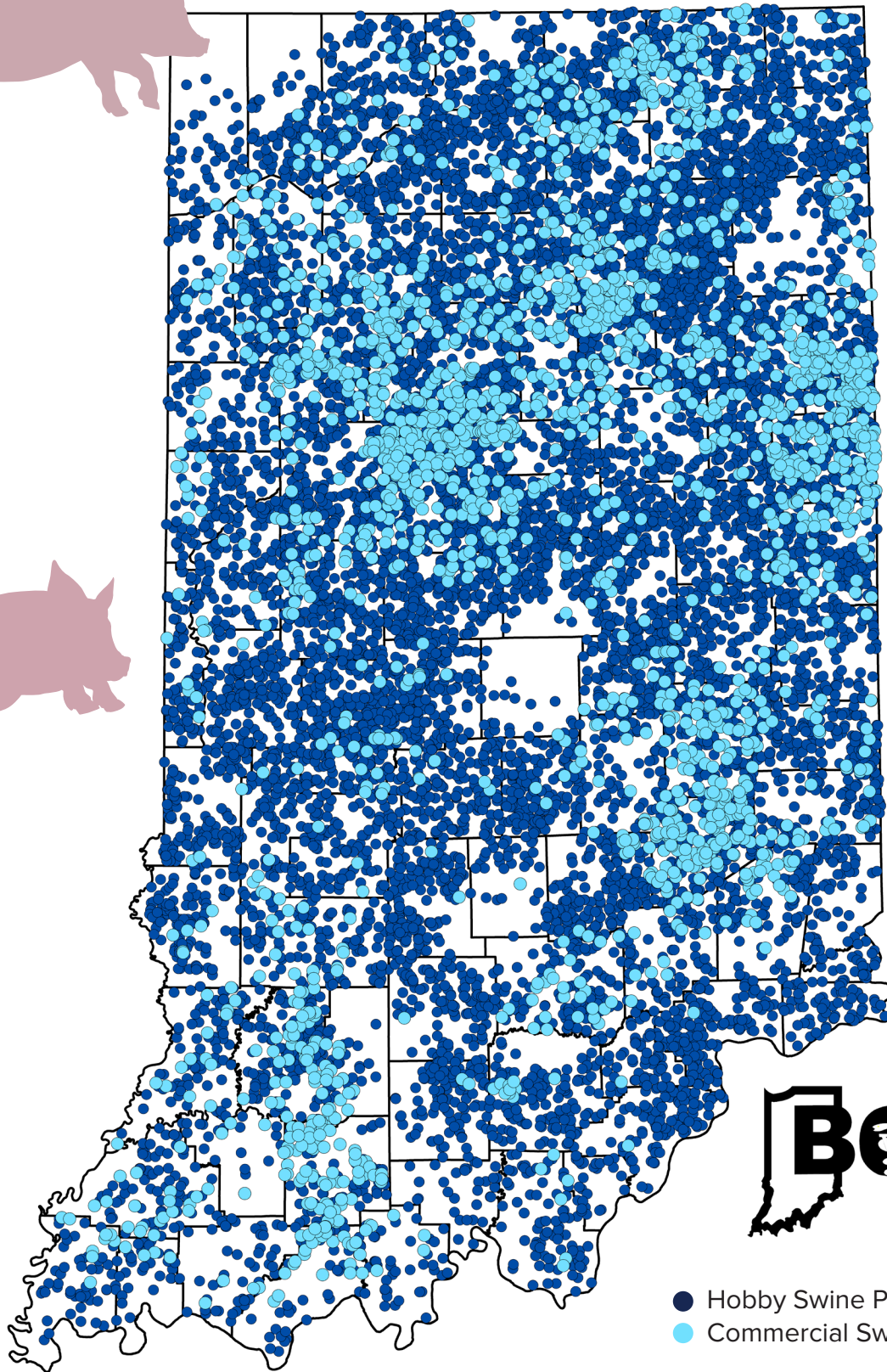
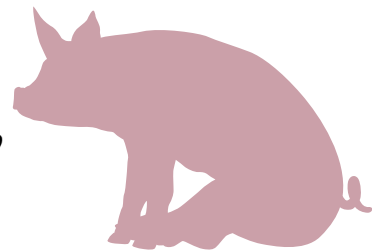
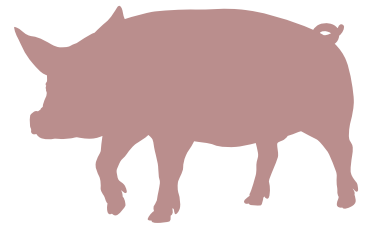
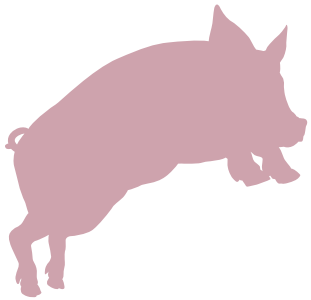
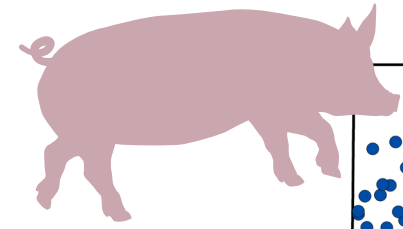
EMA directors who want more information — particularly those in hog-dense counties — should reach out to BOAH about ASF preparedness. Early in 2020, BOAH will be partnering with the Indiana Pork Producers Association to host regional meetings for farmers to discuss IN SPS. Public safety staff are welcome to participate to gain a better understanding of local impact.

More information is online at: [www.in.gov/boah/2857.htm](http://www.in.gov/boah/2857.htm).

See map on next page.

*Story contributed by BOAH.*

# INDIANA SWINE PREMISES



- Hobby Swine Premises
- Commercial Swine Premises



## LOCAL EFFORTS IN TACKLING OPIOID ABUSE

The opioid epidemic in Indiana caused more than 1,700 overdose deaths and accounted for \$4.3 billion in economic damage in 2017, according to new data from the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. To help combat opiate addiction, two Indiana counties developed programs that focus on the economic, medical and personal toll of substance abuse.

To overcome a large portion of the county's population living in rural areas, the Clark County Overdose Response Project is utilizing technology and data to develop a rapid response framework. According to Eric Yazel, Clark County health officer and emergency room physician, it is not uncommon for a 15-minute emergency medical services (EMS) response time for multiple areas due to the county's population distribution.

"We took technologies like Pulse Point and Everbridge that many communities have available and used them in unique ways to make an impact

on the overdose and substance use disorder population," Yazel said. "These programs will dramatically decrease our time in responding to individuals with acute overdose, which could be the difference between life and death."

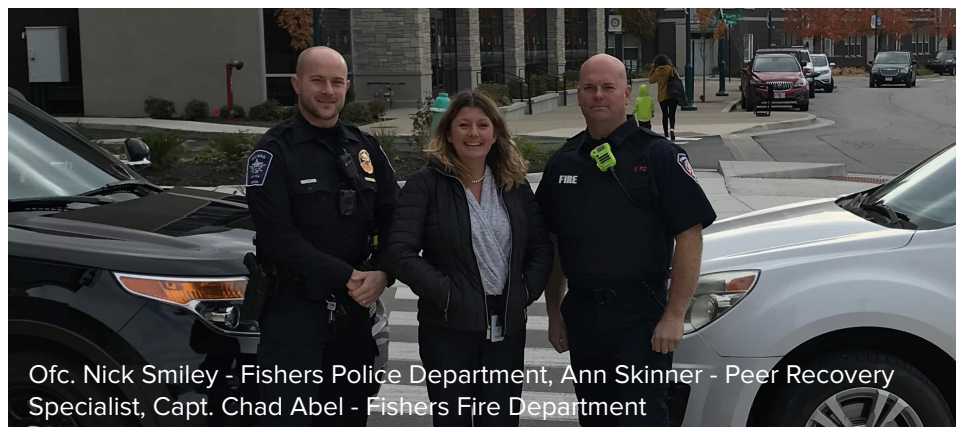
In addition to emergency responders, the software will notify CPR and Narcan-trained community members who signed up for the programs, so they will also have the ability to respond to reports of acute overdoses.

When a patient arrives at the hospital's emergency department, the patient is

evaluated and is then admitted to the appropriate detox therapy process. Once the therapy is complete, the Addiction Transition Team, which consists of community stakeholders, will help the patient with any additional medical treatments, providing resources to help the patient from relapsing and providing loved ones with Narcan training.

"Since the implementation of our program, our emergency department visits related to opiate use and our overdose deaths have gone down over 40 percent," Yazel said. "We also have an increase in the number of CPR trained

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individuals and involved community members.”

After some research, the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (HCCOAOD) Board and community members agreed that a mobile integrated health (MIH) program approach with Community Opioid Prevention Efforts Quick Response Teams would work best for the county’s substance abuse situation. With Indiana EMS organizations’ continual adoption of similar programs, Gov. Eric Holcomb signed Senate Enrolled Act 498 into law, which creates a MIH program operated under the EMS Commission.

Response teams consist of an off-duty law enforcement officer, off-duty emergency medical

services (EMS) member and Ann Skinner, a peer recovery specialist from Aspire Indiana who is undergoing addiction treatment. Within 48 to 72 hours of a reported overdose patient revived with Narcan, the three-member team will visit the individual at the person’s home. Monica Greer, executive director of HCCOAOD, explained the trips involve “checking on the individual and discussing available treatment options with the patient and the household.”

“The goal is to enroll them into a recovery program, but we also want to remove the stigma they may feel of being an overdose survivor,” said Eryn Green, a Westfield Fire Department paramedic. “We try to get to know the

patient, ask about their personal situation and even see if they need assistance with other areas of their life.”

Patient referrals come from fire/EMS runs, reports of Narcan usage by law enforcement officers or the patient can sign a visitation consent form at the end of their hospital stay. Since the program began, 24 patients have been referred and four have enrolled in recovery programs.

For information on how the state of Indiana is assisting with the opioid epidemic, visit [in.gov/recovery](https://www.in.gov/recovery).

The Naloxone Administration Heatmap can be found at <https://www.in.gov/>.

## IDHS STAFF CONDUCTS GRANTS PORTAL TRAINING

Staff members with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security’s (IDHS) recovery section conducted a training session for local emergency management agencies (EMAs) and government officials in District 5 to familiarize users with the FEMA Grants Portal system. Participants were provided access credentials and a lesson on the basics of the systems features and functionality.

The system, which was implemented in Indiana just

prior to the 2018 flood, allows users to upload and maintain disaster information and documentation both during and after a disaster event. IDHS recovery staff encourages all potential public assistance disaster applicants to get access to the system ahead of time.

“Getting new users set up in the system before a disaster is extremely important to us,” said Susan Shearer, Public Assistance program

director. “This just helps to mitigate some of the time-consuming issues that are often encountered when a disaster event happens, both for the applicants and for the state who help in the recovery efforts.”

For more information on the public assistance program, visit the [IDHS Public Assistance webpage](#). To request a similar Grants Portal training, contact IDHS Public Assistance staff at [PA@dhs.in.gov](mailto:PA@dhs.in.gov).

# WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

The National Weather Service reports [36 Americans died due to cold weather](#) in 2018. Prolonged exposure to bitterly cold conditions can increase the chances of suffering from illnesses such as frostbite and hypothermia. Practicing safety and understanding the warning signs of cold weather illnesses can help decrease the danger of severe winter weather.

## COLD WEATHER SAFETY

- Stay indoors as much as possible and try to minimize travel.
- If alternative heating sources such as space heaters are used, follow the manufacturer's instructions and turn them off before going to bed or leaving home.
- To prevent the likelihood of carbon monoxide poisoning and other hazards, never use ovens as an alternative heating source.
- If working outdoors, take frequent breaks in a warm shelter, work in groups, drink warm beverages – but avoid caffeinated drinks – and eat high-calorie foods.
- Never leave animals, especially pets, outside without adequate shelter.
- If traveling, create a vehicle emergency kit in case of an accident or becoming stranded.

## WINTER WEATHER WEAR

Try to stay indoors when weather is extremely cold, especially if winds are high. If you must go outdoors, make trips as brief as possible. When outdoors, try to wear:

**A hat**

**Several layers of loose-fitting, thermal wear**

**Sleeves that are snug at the wrist**

**Boots or shoes that are waterproof and have a flexible sole**



**A scarf or knit mask to cover face and mouth**

**A water resistant or tightly woven coat**

**Insulated or waterproof mittens or gloves**

**Two layers of socks**

## HYPOTHERMIA/FROSTBITE

Symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite can vary based on age, health, diet and amount of outdoor activity. Individuals suffering from one of these illnesses can show all or a few of the following symptoms:

- Uncontrolled shivering
- Slurred speech
- Clumsy movements
- Fatigue
- Confused behavior
- Discoloration of the skin
- Numbness
- Swollen face

Find out more at [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

# HOW TO SURVIVE A FALL THROUGH THE ICE



1

## KEEP CALM

As soon as you realize you're falling through the ice, hold your breath so you do not breathe in water. Try to keep calm. Panic is your worst enemy.



2

## STAY AFLOAT

Keep your head out of the water. Get to an edge that you can reach. Snap off thin ice until you reach thicker ice.



3

## PULL YOURSELF OUT

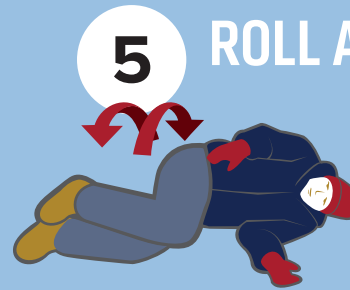
Lean forward onto the ice and kick your feet as you would if you were swimming. Use your arms and elbows to lift yourself up.



4

## CRAWL FORWARD

Don't stand up right away. The ice around the hole may be weak.



5

## ROLL AWAY

Roll away until you are several feet away and are certain you are out of danger.

# VEHICLE EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

With cold weather here, it's the perfect time to make sure Hoosiers have everything needed in case of emergency. Use this list as a guide when preparing emergency kits for vehicles.

- Portable phone charger
- Extra blankets/sleeping bag
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Bag of sand
- Non-perishable food
- Water
- Spare clothes, mittens, scarves, hats
- Shovel





# FIREFIGHTER PHYSICAL FITNESS CERTIFICATION COURSE OPENS IN SOUTHERN INDIANA

A new firefighter Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) course opened in October at Vincennes University in southern Indiana. The CPAT, which is the nationally-recognized standard for measuring an individual's ability to handle the physical demands of the firefighting position, features eight separate tasks to be completed in 10 minutes and 20 seconds.

Throughout the test, candidates wear a protective helmet, gloves and a 50-pound vest that simulates the weight of firefighting equipment.

## THE TASKS OF THE ABILITY TEST INCLUDE:

- Stair climb
- Hose drag
- Equipment carry
- Ladder raise and extension
- Forcible entry
- Search
- Rescue drag
- Ceiling breach and pull



The new course is located at the Vincennes University Gibson Center in Fort Branch, just north of Evansville. Any firefighter or firefighter candidate interested in completing the course for certification can visit the [Vincennes University website](#) to register and learn more about the test.



Photo Credit: Vincennes University

# UPCOMING TRAININGS

## DECEMBER

|       |   |             |
|-------|---|-------------|
| 12/07 | Fire Officer Strategy & Tactics (FOST0110)                | TERRE HAUTE |
| 12/09 | ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command & General Staff             | FISHERS     |
| 12/10 | HSEEP/Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation               | VALPARAISO  |
| 12/10 | Fire Instructor I (INST0147)                              | NEWBURGH    |
| 12/12 | REP Post-Plume Awareness Course (AWR-351)                 | ELKHART     |
| 12/17 | Tactical Combat Casualty Care - All Combatants (20191217) | GREENWOOD   |
| 12/18 | Tactical Combat Casualty Care - All Combatants (20191218) | GREENWOOD   |

## JANUARY

|       |   |              |
|-------|---|--------------|
| 01/04 | Building Search (K-9)   | ATTERBURY    |
| 01/04 | Vehicle Machinery Rescuer Operations (VMR00057)                             | TERRE HAUTE  |
| 01/07 | Damage Assessment (20200107)  | INDIANAPOLIS |
| 01/08 | Debris Management   | INDIANAPOLIS |
| 01/11 | Basic Cadaver Search (K-9)  | ATTERBURY    |
| 01/12 | Basic Air Scent (K-9)   | BRAZIL       |
| 01/13 | Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards & Education (FB0004)               | INDIANAPOLIS |
| 01/15 | Basic Public Information Officer & Joint Information Center Planning        | GREENSBURG   |
| 01/16 | Leadership in Supervision: Creating Environments for Professional Growth    | INDIANAPOLIS |
| 01/28 | Basic Public Information Officer & Joint Information System/Center Planning | DANVILLE     |
| 01/28 | Hazardous Weather and Flooding Preparedness (G271)                          | MADISON      |
| 01/29 | K-9 First Aid   | BRAZIL       |

Register for classes on the [ACADIS Portal](#)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## HOLIDAY SAFETY

**OBSERVED: ALL HOLIDAY SEASON**

The holiday season is packed with fun festivities; however, it is also filled with potential safety hazards. Whether Hoosiers are hosting or attending parties, decorating homes or traveling to see loved ones, it's important to encourage everyone to review safety tips before the celebrations begin.

For holiday safety tips, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS MONTH

**OBSERVED: DECEMBER**

Every year Prevent Blindness America sponsors the Safe Toys and Gifts Month campaign to raise awareness of age appropriate gifts. In 2017, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission [reported](#) more than 250,000 children were injured from a toy. Before the shopping begins, share toy safety tips to help ensure everyone has a fun and safe holiday.

For more toy safety information, visit [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org).

## HOLIDAY SEASON DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION PROGRAM

**OBSERVED: DECEMBER 13 - JANUARY 1**

Dashing through the snow can already be dangerous before someone adds drinking and driving into the mix. The National Highway Traffic Safety Association [reports](#) 885 individuals lost their lives during an accident involving drunk driving. To help keep this statistic low this season, remind individuals to celebrate responsibly before the season's festivities begin.

More information about the campaign can be found at [nhtsa.gov](http://nhtsa.gov).

## FIREWORKS SAFETY

**OBSERVED: DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 1**

Many Hoosiers ring in the New Year with fireworks. These demonstrations brighten the night sky but also can be a safety hazard for everyone involved. Sharing safety tips and local ordinances regarding proper fireworks use will help ensure individuals don't begin the New Year in the emergency room.

Visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov) for more information on fireworks safety.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DAY OF SERVICE

**OBSERVED: JANUARY 21**

Each year on the third Monday in January, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) encourages individuals to have a “day on, not a day off.” In honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream of strengthening communities, Hoosiers are asked to spend the day volunteering at an organization of their choice.

For information on how to register an event or participate, visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov). Volunteering safety tips can be found at [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov).

## DATA PRIVACY DAY

**OBSERVED: JANUARY 28**

Millions of people are unaware of and uninformed about how their personal information is being used, collected or shared in our digital society. Data Privacy Day aims to inspire dialogue and empower individuals and companies to take action.

Visit [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org) for more information on how to protect your data.

## WINTER WEATHER SAFETY

**OBSERVED: ALL WINTER SEASON**

The current Farmer’s Almanac [predicts](#) this winter will be long and chilly. Even though Hoosiers may be used to the snow, ice and cold temperatures, it is still important to share winter weather safety tips. Sharing information about creating a vehicle emergency kit will help ensure individuals are prepared for any type of weather.

Visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov) for more winter weather safety information.

# HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY!

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7  
to protect the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.*



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Please direct any questions or comments to the  
IDHS Office of Public Affairs at 317.234.6713 or [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)*

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