



# The Hoosier Responder

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January 2008

*Safeguarding  
Hoosiers by  
Planning,  
Preparing and  
Responding*

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## Northern Indiana Flooding

Heavy rain and melting snow pushed rivers and streams over their banks killing at least three people, including two children in northwest Indiana earlier this month.

"I can only imagine the difficulties being faced by residents and business owners hit by the flood," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

Governor Daniels and Eric Dietz, executive director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), flew over White and Pulaski counties to survey flood damage to Hoosier homes and businesses, as well as local roads and other infrastructure.

"What we saw confirmed that the information coming into the state's Emergency Operations Center was correct," said Dietz. "I am hopeful the federal government will recognize that these Hoosiers have been hit hard and want to help."



Carroll County

IDHS is working closely with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist those Hoosiers who were affected by the flooding. In fact, FEMA sent emergency workers approximately one week after the flood to assess the damage in Carroll, White and Jasper counties. The teams knocked on doors and talked to people about property lost from the flood water.

On January 23, Governor Daniels submitted a declaration to President Bush

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## From the Desk of Director Dietz



The start of the New Year brought about severe storms, unseasonably like temperatures and dangerous flooding throughout several parts of the State. Through it all the Indiana Department of Homeland Security worked tirelessly in order to coordinate the State's response and damage assessment activities. Personnel manned the State's Emergency Operations Center around-

the-clock, for several days, in order to stay abreast of the situation, and continue to effectively help lead the flooded areas to speedy recovery.

The events which occurred during the first part of the New Year demonstrate how important it is for local officials to communicate with the State in a timely fashion during, and after such a disaster. Although we cannot predict when a

disaster may occur, we must gain the knowledge of how to be better prepared.

Dangerous storms, flash floods and multiple accumulations of snow are no surprise to the Hoosier heartland. Preparedness is not just the responsibility of the state and local officials but also the responsibility of each and every one of us. Families must establish a plan. Hoosiers should not

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## Flood Victims Asked to Report Damage

Victims of the flooding in northwest Indiana are encouraged to call a toll-free number (866-210-1945) to report damages sustained during the flooding earlier this month.

Phone lines will be open from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Monday –Friday.

“We need to conduct a thorough and comprehensive compilation of damage,” said Phil Brown, interim director of IDHS emergency response division. “To do this, we’re asking anyone with damage to make this very important contact.”

Callers will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number and type of damage the property sustained. Callers should also be ready to provide information regarding

unemployment or business losses because of damage due to flooding.

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI) is furnishing staff members to answer the toll-free phone lines for victims of the Northwest Indiana flooding.

Phone lines will be open through the end of February.



Sarah Fuchs is one of several OFBCI employees answering phones for flood victims.

## IDHS Hosts Regional Homeland Security Advisors

IDHS Executive Director, J. Eric Dietz hosted key Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel as well as the Homeland Security Advisors (HSA) and high level emergency management personnel from surrounding states on January 22-23. Director Dietz welcomed FEMA Region V Administrator Ed Buikema along with HSAs and state Emergency Management Directors from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin to discuss a wide range of issues impacting the states.

Opening the conference, FEMA Region V Federal Preparedness Coordinator, Jim Duncan, discussed the newly released National Response

Framework (NRF). The NRF presents the guiding principles that enable all response partners to prepare for and provide a unified national response to disasters and emergencies – from the smallest incident to the largest catastrophe. The NRF establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to domestic incident response. The NRF is written especially for government executives, private-sector business, and nongovernmental leaders and emergency management practitioners. More information on the NRF can be found at [www.fema.gov/NRF](http://www.fema.gov/NRF).

A second area of discussion focused

## Flooding

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seeking assistance that would qualify residents for individual and household assistance, disaster housing, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans, statewide hazard mitigation and other needs.

“We are not expecting an answer today, but believe that with the hard work FEMA teams are doing, and the initial assessment Governor Daniels and I observed, these counties will need federal assistance,” said Dietz.

According to preliminary assessments as of January 23, more than 800 primary residences have been damaged and 400 sustained major damage or were destroyed.

On January 7, IDHS activated its Emergency Operations Center, which provided 24-hour guidance, coordination and support to preserve Hoosier lives and monitor developing hazardous situations. IDHS is currently providing state coordination to direct assistance to local governments.

on the FY 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) and Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) programs. The HSGP provides funding to enhance the ability of states, territories, and urban areas to prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks and other major disasters. HSGP funds can be used for preparedness planning, equipment acquisition, training, exercises, management, and administration in order to obtain resources that are critical to building and sustaining capabilities. EMPG funding directly aids the emergency management community in Indiana with the majority of funding allocated to subsidize salaries in support of county

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# EMA Spotlight

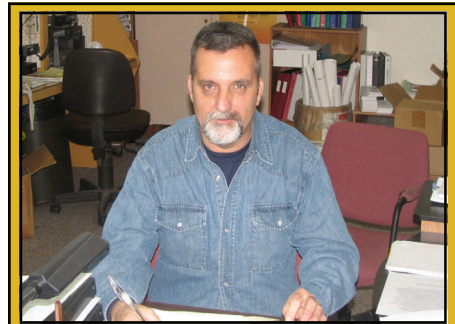


## Sullivan County

Jim Pirtle has been the Sullivan County Emergency Management Director since January of 2006. Jim is a part-time director and also serves as the Street Commissioner for the City of Sullivan. Jim is a former Sullivan County Commissioner and also was a member of the Sullivan County Emergency Management Advisory Council for eight years before assuming his current position as Emergency Management Director. Jim also serves as the Flood Administrator for Sullivan County and as the Vice President of the Local Emergency Planning Council. Jim is currently working to complete his Professional Emergency Manager Certification, and only needs one more class before he can complete his certification.

Jim participated in the Ardent Sentry National Exercise last spring at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center bringing Sullivan County's mobile command center to the exercise. Jim also has his sights on a new home for Sullivan County's Emergency Management Agency, which is currently in the county courthouse. If he can make this move happen, Jim is also hoping to develop an Emergency Operations Center.

Jim is most proud of the support he has been able to provide to the first responders of Sullivan County through grants from the IDHS and his agency's planning efforts. Through IDHS grants, Jim has been able to provide the first responders of Sullivan County with 800



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MHz radios for interoperable communications, laptop computers, GIS software, and night vision goggles for Law Enforcement. Jim is currently working on setting up a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) and a Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) team.

## Jackson County

After serving nearly 18 years in the Emergency Medical Services, Duane Davis wanted to explore how he could serve his community more. He asked Richard Gobin, then part-time director, "How do you get involved in Emergency Management?" Richard asked Duane to attend a meeting to learn more and during that meeting introduced Duane as the new part-time deputy director, non-paid. Over the several years Duane was able to move the position of part-time director and deputy director to a full time director with a deputy director, both paid positions.

Duane brings many background experiences to his position as director. He served as a volunteer fire fighter, fire chief, and as a first responder. He served as secretary/treasurer for the Local Emergency Planning Committee

for fifteen years. His emergency medical experience began as a dispatcher for the county's private ambulance service which he dispatched for three counties, emergency medical technician, and a paramedic.

Through IDHS grants various kinds of equipment have been purchased including: 800 MHz radios, air bags and struts, laptop computers, and detection equipment for a swat team. The biggest advancement was the purchase of a fully equipped decontamination unit. Working with the Jackson County Emergency Medical Services, all 35 personnel are trained at the operations level for hazard materials events. Since establishing the decontamination unit six members of the EMS have been trained to the



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technician level. Working with the IDHS training division, Duane helped develop the Professional Emergency Management certification program, and was one of the first to receive a basic certification, and has continued his educational opportunities and received his senior level certification.

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## From the Desk of Director Dietz

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focus on *if* a disaster will occur, we need to focus on *when* a disaster will occur. Depending on the level and type of a disaster it could take several days for help to arrive. Therefore, it is important to equip oneself with knowledge of all disasters which could possibly hit our State.

We do not wish for disasters, but we know that they do happen. When they

do, Hoosiers can never be too prepared. We need prepared individuals, families as well as communities. Assistance in creating preparedness kits can be found on IDHS's website at [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).

I also need us all to take one tough piece of advice. A disaster is just that. They cause us to change our plans and priorities. There is no local, state or federal program that completely negates the impact. It takes

cooperation to recover from a disaster including time and money and most importantly between us as responders.



LaPorte County



## Email Viruses and Scams

Many of the most common computer viruses are distributed through e-mail. An e-mail virus spreads as an attachment in the e-mail, and usually replicates automatically by mailing itself to people in the victim's address book. Some viruses launch when the attachment is clicked, others do not require the user to double-click and will replicate when the infected message is viewed.

E-mails are a common method to spread viruses for several reasons. Sending the virus by e-mail does not require any security holes in the computer's operating system or software. Most e-mail services are free and a majority of computer users have some form of an e-mail account. A large number of users lack the knowledge of e-mail viruses and trust the e-mails they receive, especially those sent by friends.

The internet has become a profitable business for hackers and scam artists who use e-mail for criminal activity. In October of 2007 thousands of complaints were sent to the Federal Trade Commission regarding a bogus e-mail that appeared to come from its

fraud department. The attachment to the email was able to download a virus and steal passwords and account numbers when launched. The scammers were able to use the virus to collect information from the infected computer. This is just one variation of a scam known as "phishing."



Phishing scams attempt to trick people into providing sensitive and personal information such as credit card numbers, social security numbers, or other banking information. Recipients of the scam receive an e-mail request for personal information from what appears to be a legitimate company's website. The fraudulent e-mail requests the user click on an included hyperlink that causes the fake website to open. Often the website is designed to closely resemble the company's

official site complete with the same logos, images and navigation menus. Once the "look-a-like" website is opened a form will request personal information that may later be used to steal the user's identity.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) released a warning to the public about a phishing website soliciting for charitable donations to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Another FBI report notified the public of a fake spam e-mail allegedly seeking donations for the Red Cross. The e-mail provided a link to click and enter credit/debit card information for a \$5 contribution. The actual website, however, does not link to the Red Cross organization, but a non-affiliated collection site.

With winter approaching a new e-mail phishing scheme has been launched that informs the recipient that an analysis of his or her heating bills shows they are due a refund. According to the U.S. Department of Energy the spam e-mail pretends to be from the federal agency and states the refund is for \$480.58. The recipient clicks a link

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# CCP Spotlight



## Monroe County

Twelve representatives from the Indiana University Junior Greek Council completed the five-week, 21-hour training course in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in April 2007, with another dozen students getting ready to start CERT training in spring 2008. This was the second "all-student" team trained by the Monroe County Citizen Corps and the fifth team trained in Monroe County.

In 2006, 15 IU students from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs were trained as part of an undergraduate government operations course. The largest portion of the training provides the students with the skills necessary to triage disaster victims, set wounds and provide basic disaster response.

"These students are not going to come out of this being a first responder, but it gives them the basics to treat on-site and better prepare for an emergency before the professionals arrive," said Mark Brostoff, Monroe County Citizen Corps and one of the CERT trainers.

John Hooker, Monroe County Emergency Manager, said that the goal of CERT training is "for citizens to be able to take care of themselves in an emergency because first responders are so busy and inundated."



By providing training to IU students, not only will the campus have more trained CERT members, but the students can educate fellow students on the pertinent safety and preparedness issues discussed in the training modules.

Another unique aspect of CERT training in Monroe County is the multi-jurisdictional approach with cooperation of the first responder community. In addition to John Hooker, students are introduced and trained by

firefighters from the Bloomington Township Fire Department. This interaction with members of the first responder community helps to forge a bond between the community and campus. The on-campus training also permits us to stage the final mock disaster simulation at one of the campus' 20 fraternity houses, using actual students as "victims."

From the beginning, Monroe County has reached out to various sectors of the local community to train CERT volunteers, including neighborhood associations, Ivy Tech Community College and workers from local manufacturing facilities. The first CERT trained Indiana State Representative Peggy Welch also completed the CERT training.



## IDHS Hosts Regional Homeland Security Advisors

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emergency management agencies. Guidance detailing the application and focus areas for both programs funding was published on January 30, 2008. The state will submit their application for funding in March and April.

Additionally, each state participating in the conference offered an update of current issues being faced, projects

underway and success stories to the group.

The meeting was a success and provided IDHS the chance to showcase state preparedness efforts. Attendees took advantage of tours of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) as well as the Executive Offices. Hosting this event ensured that key personnel across state lines were able

to openly and candidly discuss issues faced by states and communicate those issues to FEMA executives. Buikema committed to "leaning forward" in all aspects of FEMA's mission. This included pledging to keep lines of communication open and provide support quickly and efficiently when requested by the states.

## Use Caution with Alternative Heating Sources

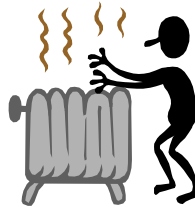
With temperatures dropping and people returning to their homes after flooding in Northwest Indiana, alternative heating sources will become more commonplace, and a state emergency response official is urging caution.

"Everyone wants to be comfortable in their homes," said Phil Brown, interim director of IDHS emergency response division. "Sometimes alternative heating sources are used, which can cause injury, death and property damage. We're urging caution and want you and your family to be safe."

According to NFPA, in 2005, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 62,200 reported home structure fires, 670 deaths, 1,550 injuries, and \$909 million in direct property damage.

The NFPA and CPSC recommend the following heating safety tips:

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.



- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect for cracked, frayed or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace before using.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home — when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- For fuel assistance, contact the National Fuel Funds Network at 1-202-824-0660.

## Troops Deployed



Indiana National Guard soldiers received a warm send off to Iraq earlier this month. Over 3,400 troops began the new year by saying good bye to their friends and family. More than 23,000 people gathered in the RCA Dome on January 2<sup>nd</sup> to bid farewell to the troops.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained at Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, and will receive additional training in Fort Stewart, GA before joining other U.S. troops in Iraq in March. The ceremony marked the largest single deployment of Indiana National Guard troops since World War II.



## Email Viruses and Scams

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in the message and a virus launches that is able to steal sensitive information, such as user names and passwords.

Phishing scams have been around for years, but a more sophisticated identity theft scheme where recipients call a telephone number rather than click a link has proved equally effective. The latest scheme

known as "vishing" instructs the recipient to call a telephone number where they speak to a live person who is really a scam artist. According to consumer and credit union groups, an e-mail targeting credit union members request the customer call a telephone number to confirm his or her personal information. Consumers are immediately disarmed by a specific warning about similar schemes. A link to the Federal Trade

Commission's identity theft prevention Web site and tips to prevent identity theft create further legitimacy. Consumers who call the number are more likely to let their guard down and provide their personal information to a live person who they believe to be a credit union employee. Not until their identity is stolen do they realize it was all a scam.

## State Provides Fire Service Training

All Indiana firefighters and EMS personnel are now being provided an opportunity to participate in a comprehensive and consistent training developed by the Indiana Firefighter Training System (IFTS). The IFTS is built around local firefighter training councils developing and implementing a training plan to meet their needs. Hoosier firefighters are provided this training to increase their education and certification without adding "contact" hours. In addition, the development and use of web-based training for various modules of the certification levels will increase the availability of training throughout the state without additional costs to the state, the department or the student.

This training system was developed by

the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) in August 2005 and provides a unique opportunity for Indiana's firefighters that is not available throughout the country. The state training system enhances the capability of a firefighter to assist



during domestic emergencies and terrorist events. IDHS also expects firefighter recruitment and volunteer fire service to increase because of the local availability of the training.

"We want to do all we can to offer firefighters the training and tools they need to do their job," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "This really is about dropping the barrier and encouraging each district to work together for one common goal, the safety of Hoosier firefighters."

Each of the 10 IDHS districts is eligible for funding to present the training in their area. The funding will be used for the delivery of certification training as well as making improvements to the training infrastructure. A fire training council in each district has been established to develop a training agenda, support training facilities, develop infrastructure plans, disburse

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## Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Smoke detectors can prevent damage to your home and serious injury to you and your loved ones, so it is imperative that they are installed correctly and maintained properly. A report from the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology indicates that individuals caught in a flaming fire have an average of three (3) minutes from an alarm's first warning to escape.

There are currently two types of smoke detectors, ionization and photoelectric. Ionization smoke detectors respond earlier to fast flaming fires and photoelectric smoke detectors respond earlier to slow smoldering fires.

An ionization smoke detector is most suitable in rooms that contain a lot of flammable or combustible materials such as grease or cooking oil, newspapers, cleaning liquids and paint. These types of materials burn quickly and can produce a searing

flame and less smoke. While a photoelectric smoke detector is most suitable in family rooms, bedrooms, and living rooms that contain sofas, chairs, mattresses and other large pieces of furniture where items burn slowly and emit more smoke before bursting into flames.

Experts recommend having an ionization and photoelectric alarm installed, or a dual ionization/photoelectric alarm in homes to make certain both flaming and smoldering fires are detected as quickly as possible.

To ensure the safety of your family follow these suggestions:

- Check each smoke detector at least one time **EACH WEEK**.
- Keep each smoke detector free of dust and insects by cleaning at least one time **EACH MONTH**.



- Replace the battery in any battery-operated smoke detector **EACH YEAR**.
- **NEVER REMOVE** a battery from a battery operated smoke detector.
- Replace the entire smoke detector every **10 years**.
- **Develop and regularly rehearse** an escape plan with all family members of your household.
- Parents should hold a fire drill **during the night** to assess their children's ability to awaken and respond appropriately to the sound of an alarm.

## LEO InfraGard System



The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) encourages everyone in a public safety discipline to join the LEO InfraGard system. InfraGard is a secure web-based system that gives public safety members access to information and intelligence products relating to crime and terrorism. Membership in InfraGard also includes members in public safety disciplines in a network that improves information sharing and contributes to the combined knowledge of its various members. Critical infrastructure businesses,

academic institutions, state and local law enforcement agencies, and other participants dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile criminal and terrorism acts are encouraged to apply for membership to the web-based system.

“Anyone in a public safety discipline can improve their access to terrorism related information and intelligence by becoming a member of InfraGard,” said Monte L. McKee, Executive Director of the IIFC. “In fact, we are currently establishing an InfraGard special interest group (SIG) to public safety entities in Indiana on the InfraGard system.”

The goal of InfraGard is to promote ongoing dialogue and timely communication between members and the FBI. Once approved, members gain access to information that enables them to exchange information concerning various terrorism, intelligence, criminal, and security matters to government that facilitates its responsibilities to prevent and address terrorism and other crimes.

For a membership application, visit [www.infragard.net/membership/pdfs/unified\\_application0104.pdf](http://www.infragard.net/membership/pdfs/unified_application0104.pdf) or call (866) 400-4432 for more information.

## Jackson County EMA Spotlight

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NIMS has been implemented into Jackson County for all emergency responders. A county Ordinance was adopted in May 2006. Duane continues to work with all emergency response agencies to maintain their compliance in NIMS including keeping their MIMSCAST up-to-date.

Duane worked together with the Jackson County Health Coordinator on the subject of Pandemic flu and attended several tabletop exercises pertaining to this.

Duane also assisted in the design of the full scale exercise for an Anhydrous release at a local school. Several departments were at this tabletop exercise. The main focus was the coordination and communications among the responders and the deployment of Jackson County Decontamination unit. More than 45 students and teachers were fully decontaminated and transported to Schneck Medical Center. This was completed for the Jackson County LEPC and Schneck Medical Center.

Duane has been a member of the Emergency Management Alliance of

Indiana for several years and currently serving as the Chair of the EMAI.

Duane enjoys working closely with the local emergency responders in Jackson County and District 8. It is important to have the continuity of among all responders to effectively respond and recover from emergencies and/or disasters.

Duane has been married to Lisa for 29 years and has two children, Greg living in Columbus Indiana, and Carl living in Knoxville Tennessee. He is also a proud grandfather of two, Jayse, and Miles.

## State Provides Fire Service Training

*(Continued from page 7)*

money, oversee adjunct instructors, evaluate course delivery, evaluate instructors, etc.

“The process of developing a state firefighter training system requires a long-term commitment from firefighters and elected officials,” said Joe

Wainscott, IDHS Director of Training. “We have used a process that encourages innovation and creativity at every level while determining where financial resources can be best utilized for the greatest return.”

The firefighter training is offered to ensure that national fire standards are met, quality of training and experience

of fire instructors are sufficient, and the core elements and foundation of an effective fire training system is established and maintained for future generations of firefighters.

For additional information visit the IFTS website at [www.in.gov/dhs/2504.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/2504.htm) or contact John Buckman, Branch Chief at 317-417-3695.



## Fire Hydrant vs. Flush Hydrant



A municipal water district provides water to be used by the fire departments for fire protection via a system of fire hydrants. In the rural areas where only limited water recourses are available smaller water mains are used to deliver only potable water to homes for domestic use. These smaller water mains are normally equipped with flush hydrants. These flush hydrants normally have only one outlet whereas a fire hydrant will have two or three outlets.

While a flush hydrant may look similar to a fire hydrant, they are not used for the same purpose. A flushing hydrant is used to clear the water line of silt, rush debris or stagnant water. Flushing hydrants are often used to reduce cost where fire fighting use is not needed or

practical and are typically installed at the end of dead end water lines. On the other hand, a fire hydrant is an active fire protection measure and a source of water provided in most urban, suburban and rural areas with municipal water service. The fire hydrant is used to enable firefighters to tap into the water supply to assist in extinguishing a fire.

Often times the water main that flush hydrants are attached to is not large enough to support a fire engine needing hundreds of gallons of water per minute. That is why fire departments in rural Indiana typically transport water needed to put out a blaze in rural locations on their large fire tanker trucks. Some housing developers have installed water

retention ponds or lakes that local fire departments may tap into to fight fires in a housing edition.

Homeowners can easily be confused as to which type of hydrant is in their subdivision, since flush hydrants are more common today. Because homeowners insurance rates are often calculated on the distance of a home to a fire hydrant and the quality of the local fire department, it is the homeowners responsibility to contact their neighborhood association, builder, etc. to verify which hydrant is in their neighborhood. It is ultimately the homeowners responsibility to contact their insurance agent to ensure they will receive the correct coverage and insurance rate.

## Basic Maintenance for Boiler Safety

Staying warm in the winter is a task for many. If your home or business has a boiler, it is necessary to make sure it is taken care of and maintained properly. Regardless of whether a boiler is used for steam heat, or hot water heat, one of the most effective things that can be done is to make sure that the system is as leak-free as possible. Any volume of steam vapor or water that is lost from the system has to be made up from water introduced from outside the system. There are multiple consequences that stem from that fact;

- The steam vapor or water that is lost generally has heat content that will be lost, hence energy will be wasted.
- The make up water that has to be introduced into the system will generally be much colder and will require additional heat (i.e., more fuel has to consequently be consumed).

- The make up water will contain additional impurities such as calcium and magnesium carbonate salts. Those salts will tend to form scale deposits on the internal surfaces of the boiler. Carbonate Scale deposits are a very poor conductor of heat, and consequently, there is a reduction in heat transfer efficiency and therefore an 1/8" thick scale deposit will result in an approximate 25% decrease in efficiency. In practical terms, that means that fuel costs would increase an approximate 25 cents on the dollar.
- Another consequence of the presence of this scale is that the cooling effect of the boiler water on the boiler metal is impaired, which will result in higher metal temperatures. If this condition goes on un-checked, it can result in metal temperatures greater than

the design parameters of the boiler, and could conceivably lead to catastrophic failure of the boiler.

Another often overlooked area is underground or buried piping, or piping that runs through rarely or never frequented areas. Often times, leakage under such conditions can go undetected, with potential results as noted above.

One possible way to keep track of how much water is being lost is to install an inexpensive meter on the water make up line that will keep track of the numbers of gallons that have to be added. Some minute system losses are inevitable, but once a baseline is established of normal usage, any significant increase above that amount would trigger investigation. Another possible indicator is significant increases in the amount of boiler water

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# Basic Maintenance for Boiler Safety

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treatment chemicals necessary to keep the boiler water within its established chemical parameters.

A boiler is a relatively complex piece of equipment that is comprised of multiple components. The interlocking system of controls and safety devices should be regularly gone through, cleaned, tested and adjusted (where

possible and necessary) by a knowledgeable heating and cooling contractor to assure that the control system is functioning properly.

It is also important to assure that periodic inspections are performed on your boiler by a licensed boiler and pressure vessel inspector. This is generally a requirement under Indiana Statute and Administrative Code rules, but equally important, the knowledge

that the BPV inspector brings to that inspection will help assure a long and safe operational life for your boiler.

End Note: The foregoing is an excerpt from a more comprehensive treatment of winter time operation of steam and hot water heating systems. The full article may be found on the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section pages of the IDHS website at: [www.in.gov/dhs/files/winterboilers.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/winterboilers.pdf).



## Mark Your Calendar!

**February 6**

10:30 a.m.

Counter-Terrorism and Security  
Council (CTASC) Meeting

**February 26**

10:30 a.m.

Indiana Homeland Security  
Foundation Project Committee

**March 18**

10:30 a.m.

Indiana Homeland Security  
Foundation

**February 7**

1:00 p.m.

Regulated Amusement Device  
Safety Board

**March 10**

1:00 p.m.

Indiana Emergency Response  
Commission

**Check out IDHS Division of  
Training's calendar for all  
training opportunities:**

[https://oas.in.gov/hs/training/  
public/calendar.do](https://oas.in.gov/hs/training/public/calendar.do)

**February 19**

5:00 p.m.

Citizens' Advisory Commission  
Meeting

**March 11**

9:00 a.m.

Indiana Electrical Code Review  
Committee of the Fire Prevention  
and Building Safety Commission  
Meeting



### Indiana Department of Homeland Security

302 West Washington Street  
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Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at (317) 232-6632.