



Hoosier Responder

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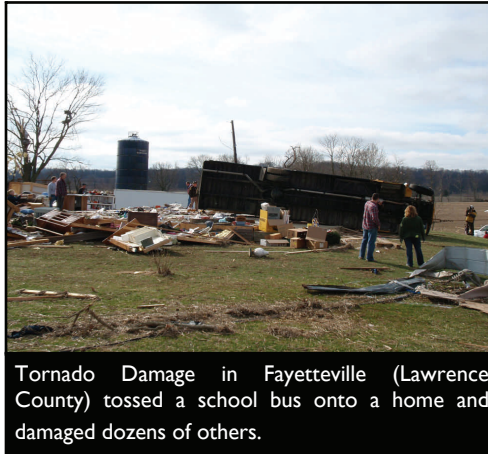
State Weathers First Tornadoes of 2009

A strong storm system brought severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and heavy rain to much of Indiana in early March. Areas of northern Indiana received 4 to 6 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. Widespread and heavy rainfall resulted in dangerous flooding conditions across the northern third of the State.

A second storm system moved through Indiana a couple of days later, bringing with it heavy rain and severe thunderstorms. An additional 1 to 2 inches of rain fell across most of northern Indiana. Areas of Fulton, Kosciusko and DeKalb counties received up to an additional 3-4 inches of rain.

Numerous rivers across northern Indiana experienced moderate to major flooding. The Oakdale and Norway Dams (White and Carroll counties) declared a flood emergency and areas downstream of the dams were evacuated. Additional evacuations and water rescues were also reported across northern parts of the state. Red Cross and privately operated shelters were opened as residents evacuated flooded areas. In an effort to respond to the widespread flooding and tornado damage, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Emergency Operations Center was activated to assist with emergency response and resource requests.

Several state agencies were involved in state response operations including IDHS, Indiana Department of



Tornado Damage in Fayetteville (Lawrence County) tossed a school bus onto a home and damaged dozens of others.

Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana National Guard, Indiana State Police and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. The Civil Air Patrol, FEMA, National Weather Service and the United States Geological Survey were among the federal agencies assisting, while the Red Cross and International Charter were the non-governmental agencies available for support.

Within the next couple of days, the National Weather Service confirmed two tornadoes in southern Lawrence County. Approximately 20 homes

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From the Director's Chair

Hazards are everywhere – they exist no matter where you live or work. These hazards can be natural, such as floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes to technological and man-made, such as hazardous material spills, computer crashes, power failures and the like. In any hazardous situation, public education is key. As part of the public safety community, it is our responsibility as first responders to address as effectively as possible, the knowledge needs of the public with respect to the risks faced, and the actions that can be taken, to help themselves and others.

The public should not hear preparedness

information for the first time when a disaster hits, at that point, it's too late. We must provide clear and consistent direction to citizens before, during and following disasters to ensure emergency preparedness and effective response.

The need for clear, consistent and actionable information about potential and impending disaster situations is vital to protecting public safety and welfare. As you know, the need to inform the public in advance of a disaster is not a new concept. Public education needs to become a higher priority and there are opportunities for improvement to better

educate the public, coordinate messages and initiate social change.

Confusion often lies between public education and public information. Public education is the process of making the public aware of its risks, preparing citizens for hazards in advance of a disaster and as a long-term strategic effort. Public education is a key component to an emergency management program, and includes goals, objectives and tasks not directly related to a single incident or response and recovery operation. Public



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IDHS To Celebrate “Building Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play”

National Building Safety Week is an annual tribute that reinforces the important public safety role that building inspectors play throughout Indiana and across the United States. “Building Safety: Where you Live, Work and Play” will take place from May 3 through 9.

First observed in 1980, Building Safety Week annually raises public awareness of critical safety issues that protect the lives of residents, occupants and emergency responders. These entail the structural soundness of the buildings where we live and work, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability.

Inspectors, plan reviewers and others in the Fire & Building Safety Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) work to ensure the safety of the structures in which all of us live, work, attend school, worship and play. These officials provide the first line of defense against building disasters. We are vigilant guardians who work daily to ensure safety in the built environment.

“Building Safety Week is a great time to recognize all the building and fire inspectors who work together to make the daily plan review and inspection decisions for the safety of the citizens,” said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal and IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety Director.

In order to ensure buildings are safe, there



must be active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

“Public safety is our number one concern,” said Greeson. “During Building Safety Week and all year long, building safety and fire prevention officials are here to help protect you and Indiana.”

For informational materials on Building Safety Week, visit the International Code Council website at: www.iccsafe.org/safety/BSW/.

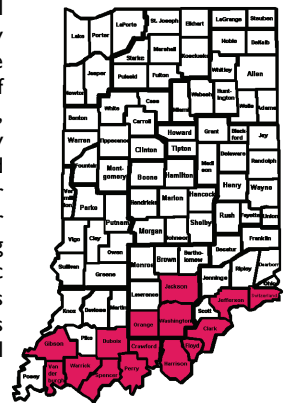
To help you promote Building Safety Week and the important role you play in your community contact IDHS to have your local event posted on our website at pio@dhs.in.gov.

President Obama Approves Public Assistance for 15 Indiana Counties

Governor Mitch Daniels received word on March 5 that President Barack Obama has approved 15 counties for federal public assistance for damage sustained by severe weather that began January 26.

The Indiana counties approved for federal public assistance are Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Gibson, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Orange, Perry, Spencer, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Warrick and Washington.

Public assistance means state government and local governments and certain non-profit organizations in these counties are eligible to apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and electrical cooperatives.



Calling for a Fire Investigator

By Rick Batza

Fire departments across Indiana respond daily to reports of residential and other structure fires. Unfortunately a certain amount of these turn out to be active incidents or what firefighters refer to as “working fires.” Initial concerns are about doing a thorough search for possible victims, securing an adequate water supply and protecting exposures so the fire does not spread beyond what has already been damaged. Once the fire is under control, the incident commander’s thoughts begin to migrate toward the responsibility under statute of finding an origin and cause to this situation.

Many communities are fortunate to have either their own investigators or a county or regional investigations task force to assist them. If that is not the case or more assistance is needed, members of the Fire Investigations Section of

the Division of Fire & Building Safety at IDHS are on call to support the local fire department.

If the Fire Investigations Section is needed, it is recommended that the incident commander make the request for Fire Investigations as soon as possible after the fire is brought under control. During business hours, the Fire Investigations Office in Indianapolis can be reached at (317) 232-6435. After hours, on weekends or holidays, requests may be made through the IDHS Emergency Operations Center at (800) 669-7362. A supervisor or senior investigator will return your call and ask some important questions. During the discussion, a joint decision will be made as to whether the fire investigator will respond immediately or on the next business day.

The determination of arrival time is based upon multiple factors, such as if a crime is known or

suspected, if anyone was injured, the nature of the structure that was damaged, evidence preservation and other issues. The IDHS staff member screening the request may also ask that the incident commander submit written consent for an authorized person permitting an investigator to enter the property at a later time. In more complex cases, it may be necessary for the investigator to coordinate with different stakeholders such as local law enforcement, the county prosecutor, the county coroner and private sector representatives from insurance carriers.

The fire investigations staff welcomes any questions you may have regarding our activities and are happy to meet in advance if you wish.



EMS Spotlight – Spencer County Emergency Ambulance Service



Spencer County Emergency Ambulance Service is a not for profit organization that provides emergency ambulance service to the citizens of Spencer County since 1977. Spencer County EMS has ambulance stations in both Dale and Rockport. They have 8 full-time employees and 42 part-time employees. Dr. Ted Troyer has spent 20 years as the medical director of Spencer County EMS. The department is currently certified at the intermediate level and are American Heart Association Basic Life Support and Advance Life Support Training Centers. In 2008, Spencer County EMS was named Intermediate Provider of the Year at the 2008 EMS Conference.

The Spencer County Emergency Ambulance Service provides cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to local fire, police, EMS, and county employees at no cost and is training the non-transport services in

the county on the SMART system. Assistance is provided with CPR training at local schools and stand-by service for 9 county fire departments.

Spencer County EMS works with local fire department to establish 8 of the 9 departments as BLS Non-Transport Units. This collaboration is a tremendous asset to the service and the communities that are served. One of the departments greatest accomplishments has been advancing the level of care from basic life support to advance life support in Spencer County. Spencer County EMS has acquired grants from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program to fund its intermediate training program and purchase new defibrillators with 12 lead capabilities.

The Spencer County Emergency Ambulance Service participates in Spencer County's Emergency Management Agencies Programs,



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District 10 Planning Committee, and District 10 Task Force.

The Interoperability Solution: People, Not Technology

By Timothy Loewenstein, Buffalo County, Nebraska

Throughout the last several years, the subject of interoperable communications has increasingly become a nationwide concern among citizens and Federal leaders. With the release of the National Emergency Communications Plan and the growing number of Federal and public groups lobbying for interoperable emergency response communications, the public has become more and more familiar with the need for improved communications among emergency responders. In the process of communicating the need for interoperable communications, however, a critical aspect of the solution has not been fully grasped. While citizens understand the need, they do not fully understand the root cause of interoperability problems. Just as emergency responders have done in the past, the general public often attributes all interoperability problems to technology.



Admittedly, technology solutions that connect public safety officials across disciplines and levels of government comprise a critical

component in improving interoperability nationwide. It is important to note that advanced devices and methodologies alone cannot fix the problem. The real solution lies in the relationships of people, not technology. Emergency responders who embrace interoperability as a priority and demonstrate a willingness to adopt new communications practices will foster an environment in which interoperable technologies can be optimized to their fullest extent.

The entirety of my professional career has centered upon communications. As a volunteer with local fire and sheriff departments and as chairman of various law committees, I have witnessed the failures and successes of communications in emergency response operations. Repeatedly, I see that the use of a "we" mentality is more effective than an "I" mentality. As an agency seeks to incorporate interoperability practices into their everyday routine, it is helpful to ask, "How can we collaboratively accomplish this goal?"

For example, a common challenge on the path to achieving interoperability is establishing or implementing plain language. I have seen firsthand that agencies from other regions do not understand the acronyms used by my own region's units. This raises the question: Even if multiple regions have a singular radio system, how do they intercommunicate so that they understand one another's terminology? It is the human element – not a technology solution – that is needed to resolve the problem here. Fostering a willing attitude among emergency

response groups to cooperate and establish a common language will achieve a heightened level of interoperability.

In addition to the advantage created by emergency response groups prioritizing the use of plain language, emergency response groups must incorporate both technology and the "we" mentality of cooperation into their day-to-day standard protocols. Available interoperable tools must become integrated into the typical daily routines of emergency response groups across the nation. When these tools are used on an everyday basis, emergency responders are better positioned to implement interoperability practices when disasters or incidents occur. Emergency responders should aim to work together in non-critical situations and cooperative environments that promote the use of all assets both technological and human.

Ultimately, the fundamental solution to address interoperability challenges: Establish trust! Agencies need to recognize that on the scene of an emergency, their work will not be compromised by exercising a "we" mentality; rather, it will be enhanced. Interoperability progress will develop quickly and soundly when members of the emergency response community understand that we are stronger together than we are individually.

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Employee Spotlight – Pam Schmalfeldt

Pam Schmalfeldt is the executive assistant for Executive Director Joe Wainscott at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. She started with the State of Indiana in 1989, but came to IDHS (known as SEMA at the time) in 1997.

Schmalfeldt provides clerical and logistical support functions to the executive director as well as serving as the primary point of contact for the private sector, governor's office, Lt. governor's office and all state agency heads as well as anyone doing business with the executive director.

Schmalfeldt also serves as clerical and logistical support to the Chief of Staff, Mike Garvey, and supervisor to the executive office receptionist, Dee Mickey. She is the program manager for the Emergency Management Performance Grant

(EMPG) travel fund for the director, chief of staff and division directors. Schmalfeldt enjoys working with the agency to help Hoosiers across the state in times of need.

In her spare time, Schmalfeldt enjoys sewing, reading and crafting. She belongs to the Irvington-Indianapolis Zeta Iota Chapter of Tri Kappa Sorority where she currently serves as vice president and will transition into president for the next 2 terms beginning in June 2009.

Schmalfeldt also currently serves as the vice chair of the Indianapolis American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Council overseeing the tri-county (13) local ABWA chapters. She is also an ABWA member of the Spirit of America Chapter and is responsible for the council newsletter and website.



She and husband Jerry have been married for 45 years. They have two daughters, Rhonda and Lora, and one son, Derek. Schmalfeldt enjoys being with her two grandsons, Jonah, 11, and Josh, 7, playing games, watching TV and eating.



EMA SPOTLIGHT – Hancock County

Larry Ervin is the director of the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). In the 13 years he has been the director, Ervin has seen the transition of the EMA from a small office in the basement of the Greenfield Police Department to a larger office with a communications room and part-time emergency operations center (EOC) facility to a brand-new \$3 million, 15,000 square foot 911/EOC. All county 911 and public safety answering points have been combined into this state of the art facility. The EMA has new larger offices, a larger communications room, its own radio tower separate from the 911 dispatching tower, and a large full-time EOC with multiple video monitors, projection screen, and emergency support function (ESF) workstations with phone and Internet connectivity.

An active EMA volunteer program has been developed with 22 personnel that receive annual training on topics such as haz-mat awareness, first-aid, damage assessment, traffic control, severe weather spotting, WMD awareness, and EOC operations. These volunteers also put in many hours working for EMA at such events as the annual Mt. Comfort Air Show, the Riley Festival, and the Hancock County Fair.

Multiple IDHS grants have been secured to purchase many items including WMD and haz-mat response equipment, interoperable communications equipment, two decontamination trailers, and two response vehicles.

Ervin has been a firefighter since 1981 and is currently serving with the Indianapolis Fire



Larry Ervin, Director

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Department as Company Captain at Station 45 on the east-side of Marion County. He also has international accreditation as a hazardous materials technician. Ervin has 15 years of law enforcement experience, 4 as reserve deputy with Marion County Sheriff's Dept., with 11 of those years as a reserve deputy with Hancock County Sheriff's Dept. He holds a bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University.

Ervin and his wife Diane have 4 daughters, 1 son, and 4 granddaughters. He enjoys playing the bass guitar and participating in his church's worship team.

Ervin's deputy director, Jeff VanderWal is a career firefighter with the Indianapolis Fire Department. Vanderwal is also a haz-mat technician and a team member with IFD Haz-Mat Task Force 44.

Paramedic Receives Award



A Paramedic for Delaware County Emergency Medical Services (DCEMS) received an award earlier this month for Heroes of the Heartland. Jason Rogers serves DCEMS as a Paramedic and also as commander of the medical task force. He is active in the District 6 Medical Task Force for the State of Indiana and, under his leadership, has engaged local medical personnel to become active participants in the state task force.

Rogers has been instrumental in developing the task force of 150 members from the 13 counties involved with District 6. The District 6 Medical Task Force is a state asset unit that responds to mass casualty incidents when needed. He has worked to implement a team of individuals, including EMS, fire, police, doctors and nurses to respond to casualty incidents in Indiana or across the nation.

He has been an integral part of the procurement of response trailers and putting together a team with aspirations of providing mobile facilities, multiple patient transports, and tents that can be used for workers to rest and rehab. In addition to working as a paramedic, he has set his sights on providing care to mass casualty incidents for the citizens of Muncie, the state of Indiana, and the United States.

From the Director's Chair—What is the importance of Public Education?

(Continued from page 1)

information, on the other hand, is used to indicate messages and delivery of messages to the public in anticipation of (when possible) and during an incident. Public information is incident specific and includes the development and release of messages in real time.

Social science research confirms what many emergency management experts have said previously, there is a positive correlation between a well-educated public and jurisdictions' capabilities to respond to and recover from hazards. Intuition leads many to believe that the outcomes of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 served as a wake-up call for citizens to begin making disaster preparations. A study by The Council for Excellence in Government and the American Red Cross, however, suggests otherwise; surprisingly, people are not making added preparations or getting to know their communities emergency alert plan.

An exceptional plan that the public doesn't understand or doesn't know about will not work. That is why it is so important to take a deliberate approach to public education. Doing so will likely require additional costs associated with research, planning, implementation and evaluation. There are, however, measurable and immeasurable benefits to life safety, injury prevention and property protection, as well as the public's added confidence in government leadership and capabilities, which will likely outweigh the programmatic investment.

The first step in the public education process is to figure out what hazards pose the most risk to citizens. A public education strategy should be closely tied to a jurisdiction's hazard identification and risk assessment process similar to mitigation activities and the development of exercises. For instance, those in districts 7, 8 and 10 should have information readily available with regards to an earthquake, but it is not as important for those in the other seven districts, as their risk is not as high.

The next stage in the public education cycle is to determine who needs to know the message and the means of delivery. The target audience for a message may be all citizens in the state, county or jurisdiction. It is important that citizens be made aware of personal responsibility for making individual preparations and responding to public directives. Special needs populations should be identified and public agencies should make plans for those individuals before a disaster strikes.

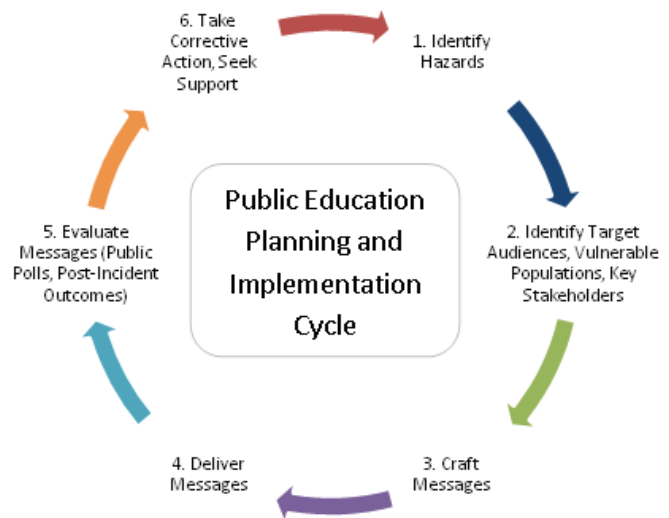
Determining how to deliver the message is important once the target audience has been identified. Television, radio, websites and print are conventional methods of delivery, however, the use of Internet social media to share disaster information with residents is becoming more common.

Once hazards have been identified and the means of communication with the public has been established, a message should be developed in coordination with key stakeholders. Steps to follow when crafting messages include: engage stakeholders and technical expertise in message development, identify and articulate objectives and guidance, keep the message simple, state the message as a call to action, tailor and personalize the message to the audience, and finally, test the message.

The next step is delivering your message. The old saying, "actions speak louder than words" couldn't be more true when it comes to first responders. Show the community leaders who you are and why you exist. If you get them involved as part of the process, the community will begin to understand.

Another suggestion to message delivery is by building trust with the next generation. How many times have you responded to an incident where the only one who spoke English was a school-age child? Children are mental sponges, and are often bilingual. I encourage you to work in your schools, summer programs, or anywhere children will be to get your message out. This can often times be done with little expense other than time spent. Information sent home can even be sent home in English without costly translations in some cases. Let the children become your advocates for safety. Once they understand your purpose, that trust will filter back to their senior family members and pay dividends when you have to next get a desired action from them during an emergency.

Evaluating the effectiveness of a message should be part of the long-term effort to improve safety in the public education planning and implementation cycle. One of the best ways to evaluate the effectiveness of a campaign is through a statistically valid



telephone survey to note the awareness of the project, changes in behavior, usefulness of the information and knowledge of the project.

The final step is to take corrective action and seek support. We must assess the information collected while evaluating the message and making changes to ensure the message is targeting the appropriate population and reaching those individuals.

It is important to remember that public education is not just doing presentations to groups of people, or distributing disaster preparedness literature at county fairs and other public events. Most people already have the general knowledge that disasters happen and that they should be prepared. The fact of the matter is that they choose to not be prepared. They are not motivated enough by a disaster's potential to become prepared or stay prepared. Our efforts need to focus on motivating people to do what they know needs to be done to protect themselves and their families, and to maintain that level of preparedness.

A wealth of public education materials exists on the IDHS website at www.in.gov/dhs/2918.htm. I encourage each of you to take a look at these items, tweak them as you see fit and distribute them to your communities. If you are looking for a particular item and cannot find it, contact our citizens preparedness and education section at (317) 232-6632. We want to make sure we have information for all of those who need it. Remember, public education is a primary responsibility that cannot be ignored, so be sure to keep public education and its importance on your "to-do" list.



Thousands of firefighters will visit the Indiana Convention Center from April 20-25 for the Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) annual meeting.

FDIC is synonymous with world-class firefighter training and universally recognized as the premiere fire industry conference and exhibition. From live burn to collapse rescue, from leadership training to recruitment issues, FDIC uniquely offers each and every firefighter critical new learning opportunities.

Whether you are new to the fire service, or a seasoned professional, FDIC 2009 provides a comprehensive range of courses and training options designed to improve the way you do your job, both safely and effectively.

To register for the training, please visit the [FDIC website](#).

Hagerstown Students visit IDHS Plan Review

Students from Hagerstown High School visited the Plan Review section of IDHS' Fire & Building Safety Division in March.

The students are part of a building trades class that will construct a storage building for the school. Bob Warner, city engineer, assisted the students in preparing and submitting a plan to the IDHS Plan Review section. After approval, the students will begin construction of the 3072 square foot storage building.

The students, along with their teacher, David Hobson, participated in a presentation by Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and Programming Specialist Raj Pulikal about submitting plans online. Plan reviewer Gerry Kelley explained to the students how he reviewed their storage building plan before students spent time with the plan review staff to see how the process works.

"The students were very engaged in the presentations by the marshal and Raj," said Dave Moses, Plan Review Section assistant director. "We thoroughly enjoyed having them here, and hope that we were able to provide some guidance on how the plan review process at the state level works."



Fire Extinguishers Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a voluntary recall of the Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers in March. Consumers are urged to stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Approximately 167,000 units are on the recall list from Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, North Carolina. According to the recall notice, the pressurized cylinders in the recalled fire extinguishers could lose pressure and fail to operate, therefore putting the consumer and property at risk.

The recall involves the Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC,

FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, XL2.5TCZ-3, XL5TCZ-1, E-340-3 and with manufacture dates between September 2007 and April 2008. "Kidde" and the model number can be found on the label on the front of the extinguisher. The manufacture year is on the bottom of the extinguisher. If your extinguisher is one of the listed model numbers and is marked with the year 07 or 08, contact Kidde to determine if you have a recalled extinguisher.

No injuries have been reported with this recall. Consumers are asked to immediately inspect

the pressure gauge. If it points to the red zone, contact Kidde to receive a free replacement extinguisher. If the gauge is not in the red zone, but you have questions about an extinguisher within the listed model numbers, contact Kidde at (888) 345-4407 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.Kidde.com.



Employee Spotlight – Heidi Greathouse

Heidi Greathouse is an accountant for the Support and Services Division of IDHS. She has been the primary assistant to the accounts payable manager for the past 5 months. Greathouse processes grant payments, prepares and maintains grant reconciliation spreadsheets, prepares quarterly reports for the grants, and prepares journal vouchers, ID bills and payroll in the general ledger. Greathouse enjoys the diversity of her job saying that she will "never get bored or run out of things to do."

In her spare time, Greathouse enjoys doing crafts. She owns a spinning wheel, so she spins



wool into yarn. She also helps her husband run his haunted attraction in October of each year. Her favorite food is sea scallops and states she is happily married with 2 almost grown children and 3 dogs.

EMS Week

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, May 17-23, will bring together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line. EMS week is a time of the year to honor and celebrate your EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, billers, supervisors and educators who help make the EMS service run smoothly all year long. For more information on EMS Week, visit the IDHS website at: www.in.gov/dhs/3177.htm.



Fire Department Spotlight – Hamilton County – Noblesville Fire Department



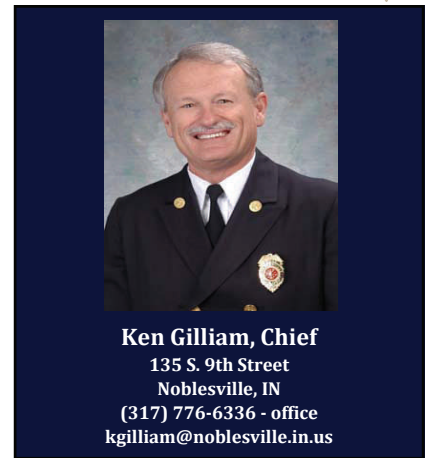
The Noblesville Fire Department is a full service career fire department providing fire, EMS, rescue, haz-mat, inspection, investigation, and public education services to approximately 50,000 residents over 55 square miles. The department responds to approximately 4,500 annual emergency response runs by 123 firefighters from six fire stations.

The successful acquisition of a Safer Act Grant in the amount of \$650,280 provides the opportunity to increase staffing to 129 in June 2009 with the opening of a seventh fire station.

The Noblesville Fire Department considers its greatest accomplishment the ability to achieve

its goal to minimize response times by constructing, equipping and staffing fire stations based on long term growth planning conducted in the mid 1980s. The completion of Fire Station 7 in 2009 will be the culmination of a 25-year commitment to maximizing service quality while using tax resources in a conservative manner consistent with citizen expectations.

The acquisition of the Safer Grant award provides the Noblesville Fire Department the opportunity to serve the citizens of Noblesville at an even higher level.

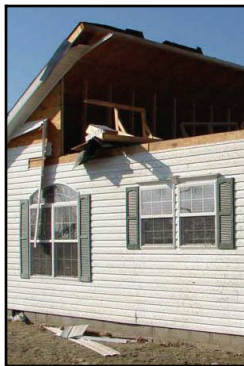


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State Weathers First Tornadoes of 2009

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were damaged and a school bus landed atop a building.



A weather service team determined that the strongest of the tornadoes hit near the community of Fayetteville and had winds of at least 135 miles per hour. The other hit two miles north of Bedford with wind speeds of 65 to 85 miles per hour. No serious injuries were reported.

A third tornado hit Columbia City in northeastern Indiana and destroyed three homes and damaged about 20 manufactured homes in a mobile home park. The EF1 tornado had a wind speed of 105 miles per hour. The storm that spawned this tornado also did damage near North Manchester in northeast Wabash County where two barns suffered roof damage along with tree damage. One serious injury occurred.

Hundreds of Hoosiers have reported damage online and via a toll-free number. IDHS damage assessment teams have evaluated damage in Carroll, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Noble, Pulaski, White and Whitely counties.

Additional counties may be assessed as damage reports continue to be received and flood water recedes.

ISP Provides Added Security to IGC



Indiana State Police is providing additional security at the Indiana Government Center

(IGC). The extra safety measures include positioning a trooper at each access door.

The troopers are randomly checking identification badges and ensuring that those entering are government employees that have allowable access to the building. The troopers are positioned at the doors through the rush hour(s) of employees reporting to work.

Prior to the holidays, several IDHS employees reported money and iPods being stolen. The additional security is in an effort to deter theft, and ensure the safety of all state employees.

Flood Victims Eligible to Deduct Damage from 2008

Flood victims from severe weather in 2008 may be eligible to deduct damage sustained from federal tax returns. Taxpayers who have sustained a casualty loss from a declared disaster may deduct that loss on the federal income tax return for the year in which the casualty actually occurred, or elect to deduct the loss on the tax return for the preceding tax year.

In order to deduct a casualty loss the amount of the loss must exceed 10 percent of the adjusted gross income for the tax year by at least \$100.

“This is a tremendous help for the thousands of Hoosiers affected by disasters throughout our state in 2008,” said Joe Wainscott, executive director of IDHS. “If the loss was sustained from a federally declared disaster,



the taxpayer may choose which of the two tax years provides the better tax advantage.”

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) can expedite refunds due to taxpayers in a federally declared disaster area. An expedited refund can be a relatively quick source of cash, does not need to be repaid, and does not need an Individual Assistance declaration. It is available to any taxpayer in a federally declared disaster area.

Calendar of Events

**1 APR**

Counter Terrorism & Security Council General Session
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room C
10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

3 APR

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room I
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

7 APR

Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room B
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

9 APR

Indiana Residential Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Public Assembly Room
Lawrence City Center—9001 East 59th Street—Lawrence, Indiana
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

27 APR

Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Meeting
Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department—201 S. Cullen Street—Rensselaer, IN 47978
6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

1 MAY

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room I
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

5 MAY

Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room B
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

6 MAY

Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center Meeting
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room B
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

6 MAY

Counter Terrorism & Security Council General Session
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room C
11:15 a.m.—12:00 a.m.

11 MAY

Indiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room 17
1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

19 MAY

Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Project Committee
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room 17
10:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

29 MAY

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South—Conference Room I
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Happy April Birthday!

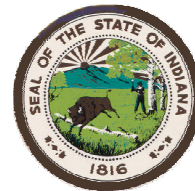
1 - Dave Moses	12 - Edward Boone	
4 - Bob Hipple	17 - Donna Saine	
8 - Carmen Spencer	18 - John Miller	
9 - Robert Miller	Clayton Kinder	
Beth Clark	Brad Chaplin	27 - Jim Abraham
11 - Kevin Whitesel	24 - Cindy Riley	Bob McCutchen
Ken (Woody) Woodall	25 - Joe Wainscott	29 - Bob Krzesinski



Indiana Department of Homeland Security



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