



## Safeguarding Hoosiers by Planning, Preparing and Responding

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# The Hoosier Responder

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## Alternative Heating and Candle Safety



Most Hoosiers have heating costs on the brain with the cold winter we are expecting to have. Whether primarily heating their homes with oil, gas or electricity, families are struggling to meet the challenge of record-high energy costs this winter. While the projected rise in heating costs this winter could be devastating for many wallets, increased use of alternative heating equipment – like pellet stoves, wood stoves and space heaters – could have an even more devastating effect on the home heating fire problem.

As a leading cause of home fires, heating is a concern every winter. This year, with the projected increase in use of alternative heating equipment, families need to be especially vigilant to use all heating appliances properly. Alternative heating sources are not inherently a greater fire risk; with caution they can be used safely. That's why the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's (IDHS) Fire & Building Safety Division is encouraging residents using pellet stoves, wood stoves, space heaters or any other non-traditional home heating

equipment this winter to follow this advice:

### Portable electric space heaters

- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Use and purchase portable space heaters with an auto shut off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Place space heater on solid, flat surface at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.

### Fuel-burning space heaters

- Always use the proper fuel as specified by the manufacturer.
- When refueling, allow the appliance to cool and refuel outside or in a well-ventilated area.
- If the pilot light of your gas heater goes out, allow 5 minutes or more before

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## From the Director's Chair



As we delve into winter weather, we must remember the importance of preparedness. Although the winter outlook issued by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) looks promising, with temperatures estimated to be above normal, it is important to take safety measures when preparing your home and vehicles for the winter months.

Many people do not realize

that ice and snow storms can cause severe damage



to homes. During winter weather, roofs risk collapse under the weight of heavy snow, and weak tree limbs coated with ice and snow

buildup can become dangerous hazards. A burst pipe can potentially ruin a home's interior. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary precautions.

It is important to be committed to personal improvement, including

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## Volunteers Help Train Emergency Responders

By Nancy Morris

"What did you do over the weekend?" That seems to be the question everyone is asked on Monday. Well, for two hundred citizens of Indiana and one from Kansas, they can talk about their experience participating in an exercise conducted in partnership with Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

The exercise was named Pandemic Response Indiana Defense Exercise (PRIDE). Volunteers were recruited from across Indiana to help assist in the training of emergency responders from Homeland Security Districts 6 and 10 and test policies and procedures from IDHS, ISDH and BOAH.

The exercise was conducted at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center



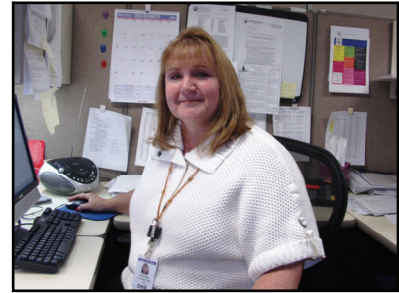
(MUTC) November 14-15. Transportation to MUTC for the volunteers was provided by the Indiana National Guard and the volunteers were housed in a building commonly used by the military while training at MUTC.

Volunteers were given roles to portray a day in the life of an Emergency Room, hostages, and civil disobedience. These roles helped in training emergency responders, hospital staff, and helped with testing a new bed tracking system used by hospitals.

These individuals provided the realism needed to prepare the state in the event of a Pandemic. This opportunity also helped the general public understand the need for an emergency preparedness plan for

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## Employee Spotlight



Rhonda Evans Barnsbee is the Accounts Payable Manager for the IDHS Support and Services Division. Barnsbee has been in her current position for just over one year and is responsible for supervising the payment process of all grants, travel vouchers, invoices and the daily accounts payable functions. She says her favorite thing about her job is the people she works with and the day to day learning experience of working for IDHS.

In her spare time, Barnsbee enjoys traveling and finding good restaurants. She also enjoys gardening and reading. Barnsbee says her favorite food is Mexican.

She adds that after living in Colorado for 25 years, she and her husband moved to Greenwood to be close to family. She says they miss the beautiful mountains, but enjoys living in Indiana.

## IDHS Prepares Grant Applications

On the heels of receiving Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 federal grant funding, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is already in the early stages of preparing FY 2009 grant applications.

In late September, Congress approved and President Bush signed an appropriations bill that provided full FY 2009 funding to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and select other federal agencies. This appropriation came much earlier than in previous years and also closely followed the

actual release of FY 2008 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds to the States.

The guidance documents for a total of 14 federal grant programs that fall under the US DHS umbrella were released on November 5. Indiana is eligible for several of these programs and IDHS is starting the process of putting the applications together.

In the coming months, Indiana will be submitting applications for the Emergency Management Performance

Grant (EMPG), the Buffer Zone Protection

Program (BZPP), the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP), and of course the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), among others. The deadlines for these grant applications fall between December 19, 2008 (EMPG) and March 20, 2009 (HSGP).

IDHS has already released a Request



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# EMA Spotlight



## Pike County

Ernest Hume is director of Pike County Emergency Management Agency. During his service in the Army during World War II, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge and in other areas. He was discharged as a Staff Sergeant, having received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, and the Belgian Fourragere. He was a Rural Letter Carrier for thirty-three years and has also been involved in television sales and service, real estate, and insurance.

As a concerned citizen, Ernest helped re-establish the (then) Civil Defense Department in Pike County during the 1960's. In 1983, he became the director...without salary until after the 1990 Petersburg levy break, with a tornado two weeks later. The levy break caused Petersburg and much of Pike and Gibson Counties to be without water. He has been on part-time salary since. Although there have been

several smaller tornadoes, there were no more major ones until 2006, when Otwell suffered the loss of 98 homes.

When he started, Hume had no office and worked out of his home. After the tornado, he had a small room in the courthouse basement. When the new jail was built, then sheriff William Scales said he would like to have the Emergency services in the jail. That office now has three computers, including mapping and reverse 9-1-1. About 1993, the commissioners asked him to get Enhanced 9-1-1 started in Pike County. Later, he, administrative assistant Tonda Dixon, and Sheriff Todd Meadors worked on establishing Reverse 9-1-1, which is now ready to be put into use.

Pike County has had a R.A.C.E.S. group and weather spotters for many years. There are now two CERT



Hume with wife Marilee who has been by his side for 62 years.

**Ernest Hume, Director**

100 S. 4th Street  
Petersburg, IN 47567  
(812) 354-6776 - office

[ehume@pikecountysheriffsoffice.com](mailto:ehume@pikecountysheriffsoffice.com)

teams. At the present time, Hume is working with Winslow Lions Club to educate the county's citizens about how to prepare to take care of themselves during an emergency. He expects one or two more CERT teams to develop from this contact.

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## Alternative Heating and Candle Safety

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trying again, do not allow gas to accumulate, and light the match before you turn on the gas to the pilot to avoid risk of flashback.

### Wood and pellet-burning stoves

- Wood stoves should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- In wood stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the live fire.

At best, not heeding this advice could result in superficial property damage. At worst, you could lose loved ones who may be unable to escape the rapid

course of a preventable fire, as well as the comfort and safety you've always felt in your home. Install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home to protect your family from this silent killer. Please join IDHS in ensuring that Indiana is safe from heating fires this winter.



Another concern during the holidays are home candle fires. These types of fires are more common around the holidays due to more candles being burned and decorations close by.

The IDHS Fire & Building Safety Division

estimates that open flame fires accounted for 7 percent of the total statewide fires in 2007. In an effort to decrease this number, IDHS suggests following these tips:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended
- Extinguish candles before leaving a room, leaving your home or going to sleep
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, including decorations, paper, wreaths and bows
- Keep all candles, matches and lighters out of reach of children and pets.

For more safety tips on alternative heating and candle safety, visit our website at: [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).





## From the Director's Chair

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being better prepared. Often times this is something we encourage others to do, but let's face it, emergency management professionals don't always practice what they preach. Preparedness could literally be a lifesaver. Someone one said that failing to prepare equals preparing to fail. For many of us, getting prepared seems like too much trouble. We think of the time and money spent looking for,

acquiring and storing the necessary items, or devising a family emergency plan as a pain.

Aesop's Fables states, "It is thrifty to prepare today for the wants of tomorrow." This is especially true when it comes to severe weather in Indiana. It is my hope that all of us appreciate the importance of constantly learning and preparing.

For a list of steps to ensure the safety of your home, please visit [www.in.gov/dhs/3068.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3068.htm). For a list of steps to

ensure the safety of your vehicle, please visit [www.in.gov/dhs/3069.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/3069.htm).



## Employee Spotlight - Karen Allen



Karen R. Allen is a Secretary III for the Certification Section of the IDHS Preparedness and Training Division. Allen has served as the Certification Team Leader for the past 5 years.

Allen's hobbies include collecting key

rings from different states. She states her favorite food is tacos.

She enjoys working in the Emergency Operations Center and the good feeling of accomplishments in providing care to our citizens in Indiana.

## Indiana Code Corner

IC 10-14-8-2

### Transportation of High Level Radioactive Waste

#### "High level of radioactive waste"

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "high level radioactive waste" means:

- (1) Irradiated reactor fuel;
- (2) Liquid wastes resulting from the operation of a first cycle solvent extraction system or its equivalent and the concentrated wastes from a subsequent extraction cycle or its equivalent in a facility for reprocessing irradiated reactor fuel; and
- (3) Solids into which liquid wastes described in subdivision (2) have been converted.

As added by P.L.2-2003, SEC.5.



## Indiana's Southwest Ambulance Assists in Hurricane Response

Wayne Scheutz and others with Southwest Ambulance in Washington, Indiana deployed to Louisiana to help with Hurricane response this fall.

The first couple of days Southwest Ambulance worked hand in hand with Acadia ambulance to load patients from a nursing home and transport them 200 to 250 miles north.

Southwest Ambulance was assigned to a triage and treatment area of a shelter at the agriculture center in Alexandria, Louisiana. They have set up camp in a large parking lot where buses are being used to bring people from shelters around the area that are to be taken home. Southwest Ambulance will assist in transporting patients to a hospital in



the area if they are in need of that level of care.

Scheutz and the others with Southwest Ambulance returned to Indiana in mid-September after serving in Louisiana for nearly 2 weeks.

## IIFC Monitors Online Terrorist Threats



A major jihadi internet forum has posted a terrorist plot to use chemical and biological agents to contaminate water resources in Europe in general and Great Britain and Denmark in particular, the latter in retaliation for insulting the Prophet Muhammad through publication of the infamous "Muhammad cartoons." The posting, entitled "Back Breaking Blow to Denmark, the U.K, and the European Union," discussed ways of poisoning water resources and reservoirs to cause mass killings (al-ekhlaas.net, August 16). While many forum participants consented to the plan and participated with ideas on the kind of chemical agents that might be used in such attacks, some forum members disagreed with the terror plan, arguing that mass killing has neither religious justification nor a fatwa (religious ruling) to authorize it. The anti-attack forum members appeared to have a strong case from a religious standpoint, leading to a protracted discussion lasting over a week.

A forum member nicknamed Baghdad al-Khilafa, with over a thousand postings, primarily on weapons and explosives, proposed the terror attack to retaliate for Denmark's mockery of the Prophet Muhammad, to terrorize

the enemy's ranks, and to ease the infidels' onslaught on Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, Morocco, Somalia, Eastern Turkistan (Xinjiang) and Chechnya. The objective of the plan was to kill as many civilians as possible by contaminating the main water supply pipelines in any of the major cities in Europe with chemical substances.

These types of internet postings are monitored by the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, even when no credible threat exists toward the state of Indiana. Although this forum focused specifically on Great Britain and Denmark, a similar attack could be carried out in the United States. The original postings were meant for a European audience. However, the forum is available for United States audiences to view. Therefore, similar forums could be posted targeting the American audience in the future. The use of the internet allows information to spread quickly and to a much more diverse audience than in the past. Any homegrown terrorists that may have read the forum or heard about it in international news could plan an attack or develop a posting specific to the United States.

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## IDHS Prepares Grant Applications

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for Proposals for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) portion of the FY 2009 HSGP. Proposals from state and local partners that are submitted by January 5, 2009 will be reviewed for inclusion in Indiana's HSGP application. These proposals will focus on the following state priority areas:

- Enhancing interoperable communications, information sharing, and collaboration.
- Enhancing Emergency Operations

Center (EOC) capabilities and functions.

- Enhancing Medical Surge/Mass Casualty programs.
- Advancing the capabilities of District Response Task Forces.
- Advancing local and district-wide planning initiatives.

It's anticipated that the actual funding for these programs will be awarded to Indiana at various times during the first half of 2009.

## Pan Flu Exercise

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their family and friends.

"THANK YOU for opening my eyes to what happens in the event of a d i s a s t e r (Pandemic flu

or otherwise), said Lori Garrison, one of the participants. "I have sat through a presentation and listened to "get yourself ready" speeches, but it was not until being part of a small demonstration like this weekend that I got a true wake up call. I got clear that I need to get a plan in place, not just lip service AND I'm passing that word on to others."

Don Becker, another volunteer who had the role of Governor of Death Valley, Indiana stated, "We learned a lot and left with a good feeling, all of you worked hard, and the public needs to know how much you do for us and Indiana."

The main goal in using private citizens to participate in the exercise was clearly achieved as everyone learned about the importance of an emergency preparedness plan. Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave of their time, energy and efforts. It was greatly appreciated!



## EMA Spotlight - Pike County

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Every year, White River floods north of Petersburg, and about thirty homes are flooded. He works with the Red Cross to determine each year how to handle the situations that arise.

Each of the eight Fire Departments, Spurgeon Law Enforcement, Winslow Law Enforcement, EMS, EMA and the entire Sheriff's Department has an 800 megahertz radio, obtained, through a grant. Hume and Dixon have obtained grants for a 4-wheel drive vehicle for the EMA, a vehicle and a "mule" for the Sheriff's Department, and laptops for each of the eight Fire Departments, two for the School

Corporation, two for the City of Petersburg, two for the Sheriffs Department, two for the Health Department, one for the Commissioners Office, two for the Town of Winslow, one for the Town of Spurgeon, three for the EMA and five for the EMS. Defibulators were purchased and distributed to various areas of the county. They have also provided emergency supplies to multiple first responders and the nurses of the three elementary schools.

He has been chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee since it was established in 1987.

Through the years, Pike County EMA's capabilities have improved as the County, State and Federal governments

have increased their attention and funding for Counties and as the public and County Commissioners have become aware of its purposes. One example of the added attention by the State of Indiana that greatly improved response time in 1990 for the Petersburg disasters was the then new practice of keeping SEMA open for contact 24/7. Both the levy break and the tornado occurred on a Saturday evening, about 6:00 p.m. Hume was able to immediately contact SEMA and have the National Guard in Pike County much more quickly than would have been possible had he had to wait until regular business hours on Monday morning.

## Firefighters Honored with Medal of Valor

Residents of Lyons, Indiana already knew three firefighters were heroes after they rescued a woman from her burning home.

Earlier this month the firefighters were publicly recognized and awarded several medals of valor. The honors came as a result of the action the three men took to save a life, at great risk to their own, during a house fire on September 20 in Lyons.

Ron Sparks and Charles Fish of the Lyons Volunteer Fire Department and Raymond Worland of the Switz City

(Fairplay-Grant Township) Volunteer Fire Department each received two distinguished awards during a special dinner in their honor.

Each man was ceremoniously presented with two Medals of Valor from the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA) and Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Approximately 85 firefighters, most from Lyons and Switz City, and their family members filled the fire station to honor



the three men.

IDHS was represented by Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Bennett and Deputy Fire Marshal Stan Capobianco.

## Employee Spotlight - Don West



Don West is the Communications Director for the IDHS Emergency Response and Recovery division. He

has been at IDHS for almost 2 years. West's job includes two different functions, 1) ensuring that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has the communications capabilities necessary to respond to emergencies, and 2) advising the IDHS staff and local government on technology and policy issues. West enjoys learning about new technology and working with other agencies to develop interoperable communications plans.

In his spare time, West enjoys spending

time with his grandchildren, amateur radio, snorkeling and scuba. He says his favorite food is pineapple upside down cake.

West and his wife Sheila reside in Greenwood and have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. He graduated from IUPUI in 2006 on the Dean's list and says he enjoys learning new things. West is a self described "sucker" for Modern Marvels on the History Channel.



## IIFC Monitors Online Terrorist Threats



(Continued  
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Using ideas  
gleaned from  
the recent  
forum,

terrorists could attempt to infiltrate a water supply facility in a major metropolitan area in order to cause more casualties than a smaller target. However, smaller facilities could become a target if located in remote areas or if the facility is less secure. Homegrown terrorists may attempt to infiltrate smaller facilities based on location and ease of access. At this time, there is no known U.S. target.

Because many water facilities are easily accessible to the public, suspicious activity may be difficult to detect. Terrorists could infiltrate a facility such as Geist Reservoir in Indianapolis by car, boat or private plane. However, an attack of this type would be difficult to carry out based on

the amount of material needed to cause harm to large amounts of people. Also, any chemical or agent put into a reservoir would have to pass through a filtration system before becoming part of the public drinking supply.

Smaller water systems such as fire hydrants are at larger risk of being contaminated. Thousands of fire hydrants are available for terrorists to attack. An average hydrant can hold up to 17 gallons of water or chemical agent. A terrorist wishing to cause mass casualties could tamper with the hydrant, causing backflow, which would allow the chemical or contaminated water to enter the water system. Less than a quart of anthrax or ricin will make one million gallons of water toxic. More than 100 miles of six-inch diameter distribution pipe is needed to accommodate one million gallons of water, allowing contaminated water to reach a large amount of houses and buildings.

There is no imminent threat to the water supply in Indiana. However, the public should be aware of the seven signs of terrorism: surveillance, elicitation, tests of security, acquiring supplies, suspicious people who appear out of place, dry runs, and deploying assets/positioning people. Being conscious of these indicators may allow authorities to detect and prevent attacks. The jihadi internet forum lists many of these activities in the proposed plot to poison the water supply in Great Britain and Denmark. Knowing and being able to identify these signs may aid in preventing an attack on critical infrastructure. Personnel should watch for any suspicious activity, including but not limited to, theft, surveillance, tampering with equipment such as fire hydrants, filters or water tanks, procurement of supplies or security breaches. Often times, attacks are planned months in advance and suspects are vulnerable and more easily captured during this time.

## Employee Spotlight - Lonnie Lagle

Lonnie Lagle has been the Assistant Director of Code Enforcement for the IDHS Fire & Building Division for the past 2 years. Lagle enjoys working with the public and doing his part to try and keep Indiana safe. He is also getting ready to take the test to get his Certified Building Official's license. He says that "in our agency continued education is very important and a constant challenge."

Lagle currently shares his home with his daughter Kim, her fiancée Jason and their 3 month old daughter Marley. When not working, he likes to fish bass tournaments. In 2008, Lagle was the tournament director for a national tournament trail named Fishers of Men. He states that this organization is not only an outreach program, it also gives fishermen the ability to fish tournaments on Saturdays and still attend church on Sunday.

Lagle attends Living Christ Lutheran Church and is currently serving as a trustee.



Lagle says that his current job with Code Enforcement is one of his most favorite jobs. He says that the Area 2 inspectors he supervises is one of the most dedicated teams he has ever had the privilege to work with. "Each one of them provide our agency with the same dedication and team concept that is required by the goals of the agency."

Prior to working for IDHS, Lagle served as an investigator in the arson division in the Town of Danville, Center and Marion Townships. As an inspector and investigator for Danville he said he felt very blessed to have had the opportunity to serve his community in so many ways.

Lagle also owned his own company called "Hoosier Microfilm then Digital Imaging" for 13 years. He states that September 11, 2001 was the ending of his business because one of his largest companies was United Airlines.

Lagle's 25 plus years as a volunteer firefighter/EMT gave him the bug for all types of emergency type work. He says, "although my life as had many ups and downs I feel so blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve in not only my many past positions, but also my current position."

# Indianapolis Becomes International Certification Test Site

Indianapolis, Indiana has become an International Code Council (ICC) paper-and-pencil test site.

In an effort to provide citizens of Indiana, the protection of life, health and property the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has entered into a joint venture with the ICC. This endeavor will not only benefit State Code Officials, but will benefit Local Code Officials by providing a central location for the paper-and-pencil test.

IDHS recognizes the public's trust bestowed upon individuals engaged in the administration and enforcement of fire and life safety codes. IDHS advocates commitment to a standard

of professional behavior that exemplifies the highest ideals and principles of ethical conduct.

The ICC certification program is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious credentialing program for construction code administration and enforcement professionals in the United States. The ICC certification examinations are maintained to the highest standards and include continuous review by committees of experienced professionals.

Becoming ICC certified is a significant personal and professional accomplishment. If you have the drive,



ability, and dedication it takes to earn a Code Council certification, you will join a select group of construction and fire safety professionals who have attained a high level of excellence and achievement validated through the certification process.

For a complete list of the exam dates in 2009, visit the IDHS website at: [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).



## Indiana Department of Homeland Security

302 West Washington Street  
Indiana Government Center South  
Room E208  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 232-3980 or (800) 669-7362

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to IDHS Public Information at (317) 232-8303.