

# Indiana Department of Homeland Security

## *District Planning Council Information Sheet*



## **Your participation as a local elected official is essential to effective regional disaster preparedness.**

Ten Homeland Security Districts have been created in the State of Indiana. These districts will provide the basis for regional collaboration in responding to natural and man-made disasters. Each District will be organized around a regional partnership. This partnership will consist of a District Planning Oversight Committee (DPOC), District Planning Council (DPC) and District Task Force (DTF).

The DPOC is comprised of the president of each county board of commissioners and the mayor or board president of the largest city or town in each county. These chief-elected officials provide oversight for activities conducted by the DPC and DTF.

The DPC is comprised of emergency management professionals, public safety officials, and other representatives from key agencies. They are appointed by their chief elected officials in each county. The DPC is charged with creating the plans for collaborative, regional responses to emergencies.

District Task Forces will consist of specialized teams of emergency personnel. They will be trained and equipped to respond to a variety of incidents. Core response capabilities of these Task Forces include incident management, search and rescue, mass casualty, hazardous materials and law enforcement.

### **Key Benefits of District Organization**

- ✓ Gain access to additional funding for regional response planning and equipment
- ✓ Provide more effective interventions for saving lives and property
- ✓ Reduce the levels of risk to critical infrastructure
- ✓ Initiate recovery efforts more quickly and effectively

More 

## IDHS District Organizing activities include:

- **Convening the District Planning Oversight Committee (DPOC):**  
The members of this committee are comprised of the president of the board of commissioners and the mayor or town board president of the largest city or town in each county.
- **Designating a legal and fiscal agent:**  
Agent will receive and audit funding on behalf of the District.
- **Appointing the members of the District Planning Council (DPC):**  
This membership will be appointed by the DPOC. Each county must have a minimum of two representatives and all counties must have equal representation.
- **Organizing subcommittees for the DPC:** These committees may consist of a much wider representation in addition to members of the DPC and will assist in its planning activities.
- **Establishing District Task Force:** Identify Task Force personnel and available response assets. Determine training, equipment and funding needs.

## IDHS District Planning activities include:

- **Conducting preparedness assessments in each county:**  
IDHS can provide a template and guidance for this process.
- **Reviewing progress on the assessments over four meetings:**  
IDHS can provide assistance in organizing and facilitating these discussions.
- **Hiring an interim administrator:**  
The administrator will be selected by a DPOC/DPC Interview Team or by the fiscal agent.
- **Creating four plans in the following areas**  
District Strategy for Homeland Security, District Mutual Aid Agreement, District Crisis Communication and Public Information Plan, District Training and Exercise Plan and Schedule

## Questions should be directed to:



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