



Hoosier Responder

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IDHS Hosts its First Virtual Tabletop Exercise with Other States

A virtual tabletop exercise on June 27 brought together local, state, and federal officials to discuss response and assistance activities in a mass casualty situation. Though the incident was tailored to Indiana, organizations from Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., participated in the exercise.



Held in the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC), this event marked the first time Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has participated in a virtual tabletop exercise, but more are planned for the future. Tabletop exercises allow participants to assess plans, policies, procedures,

and types of systems needed by key personnel in a certain situation. Joining IDHS in the exercise were representatives from fire, emergency medical services (EMS), emergency management, Indiana State Department of Health, information technology, planning, and the EOC.

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From the Director's Chair — Executive Director John Hill

Congressional hearing allows public safety professionals to tell Hoosiers' positive story

On August 6, a Homeland Security Congressional Subcommittee Field Hearing took place at Carmel City Hall with Congresswoman Susan W. Brooks.

Congresswoman Brooks was joined by Congresswoman Jackie Walorski, Congressman Todd Young, and Senator Joe Donnelly.

The hearing was a great state and local opportunity for a direct conversation with federal government

elected officials. The hearing gave the chance for a variety of public safety and healthcare professionals to be together in a room and provide information about Indiana's strengths and weaknesses mainly with regard to a mass casualty event in Central Indiana. Though the scope of the hearing focused on Central Indiana, nearly all of the answers applied to the state as a whole.

Two panels of public safety professionals, medical directors, and

government officials answered questions and shared their thoughts and expertise at the hearing.

Joining me on the first panel were Fishers Fire Chief Steve Orusa, Hamilton County Sheriff Mark Bowen, FEMA Region V Administrator Andrew Velasquez, and Indiana University Emergency Coordinator Diane Mack. On the second panel were MESH Coalition CEO Chad Priest; Dr. Virginia Caine, Director of Public

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Indiana Secured School Grant Fund Application Opens August 1, 2013

The Indiana Secured School Safety Grant opened for applications August 1, 2013. The deadline to submit proposals for grant funds is September 30, 2013.

The Indiana Secured School Fund was created to provide matching grants to school corporations and charter schools or coalitions of school corporations and/or charter schools to make schools safer by hiring school resource officers, conducting threat assessments, or purchasing equipment to restrict access to school property or expedite notification of first responders.

School corporations, charter schools or coalitions with an average daily membership (ADM) of at least

1,000 can apply for grants up to \$50,000 per year. Eligible applicants with an ADM of less than 1,000 can apply for grants of up to \$35,000 per year.

Schools must:

- Be located in a county that has a County School Safety Commission.
- The Commission must have specific members and perform certain duties described in IC 5-2-10.1-10. There is still time for County School Safety Commissions to be organized prior to the application deadline.

Important Dates

- August 1, 2013 – Grant

application period begins & Grant Program Guidance Released

- September 15, 2013 – Deadline to submit notice of intent
- September 30, 2013 – Deadline to submit proposal for grants funds
- October 1, 2013 to October 31, 2013 – Proposal review
- November 1, 2013 – Projected award start date
- October 31, 2014 – Projected award end date

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) administers the grant program.

For more information on the Secured School Safety Grant Program visit www.in.gov/dhs/securedschoolsafety.htm.

Online Training Videos

The Disaster Resistant Communities Group LLC (DRCG) has added 38 videos to the *Just In Time* Disaster Training Video Library. The focus of this online library is to make available a single, easy search source in which individuals, agencies and organizations can access.

These videos cover disaster related preparedness, response and recovery training for a wide variety areas.

The video library can be accessed at www.drc-group.com/project/jitt.html.

EMS Spotlight - Lee Turpen



Lee Turpen has been in Southern Indiana emergency medical services (EMS) for 30 years and has served on the EMS Commission since 2005. Turpen has also been vice chairman since 2007 and chairman since 2012. His start was in Civil Air Patrol. He has been a paramedic and an Indiana primary instructor for the past 26 years.

His passion in EMS is around improving services and advancing evidence-based practice through research and application of EMS data.

“We stand at a crossroads. Indiana can only continue to be a leader in EMS if we embrace and analyze the data and concentrate on patient outcomes. We must make smart decisions that improve patient care, decrease waste and stabilize all EMS provider types. We now have more data than we have ever had before. The challenge will be for us

to listen to what the data is telling us and to abandon things that the data tells us do not work. In some cases this will mean we will actually do less in the back of the ambulance. In other cases we will do far more than we ever dreamed,” said Turpen.

Turpen also serves on the advisory board for the Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency. He was awarded the Indiana Primary Instructor of the Year Award in 1998 and the Indiana Paramedic of the Year Award in 2004.

Turpen has worked full-time for American Medical Response for almost 26 years and has also worked for Perry County EMS, Harrison County EMS and Posey County EMS.



Preparedness Guide for Child Care Providers

Protecting Hoosier families and their children has taken another step forward with the release of a new comprehensive guide for disaster preparedness for child care providers. Currently, child care providers are only required to have a plan in case of fire or severe weather situations. However a need was expressed for a guide to help child care providers plan for all hazards.

“There are a few states that have a similar guide, but none that we found contain the amount of detail and collaboration from outside resources,” said Nancy Morris, Emergency Preparedness Planner, Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). “Indiana will also be the first to design a training program that helps providers really understand what they should have in their emergency plans.”

The guide was developed in partnership among the IDHS, Indiana School of Medicine – Emergency Medical Services for Children, Riley Children’s Hospital, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Education, Indiana State Department of Health – Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response, the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral and the Indiana Family Social Services Administration.

“The guide has been well received by the child care community,” Morris said. “The plan provides valuable resources to the people who take care of one of Indiana’s most precious assets.”

The Child Care Preparedness Guide can be found on either childcarefinder.in.gov or dhs.in.gov.

Virtual Tabletop Exercise (continued)

The exercise, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, represented a mass casualty bus crash in Indiana. The participating organizations had to determine appropriate response activities and find how and when to offer assistance in such an event. In addition, they had to keep in mind how the locals would respond to the situation, which affected their decision making and thought process throughout the duration of the event.

The organizations discovered areas where more coordination is required, which is crucial when a situation such as this does arise.

“Without working together and preparing for incidents, we will never be prepared for when an incident does arise,” said Liz Fiato, IDHS EMS

Training Section Chief. “Further, we can leverage our technological assets to our advantage and bring more people to the table that wouldn’t have been able to participate otherwise.”

All agencies involved have discussed working together in the future to build a rapport and an understanding not only of each other, but also how to operate in a crisis.

“The biggest takeaway,” Fiato said, “is that we need to keep talking to our partner divisions and agencies and keep practicing.” This interaction helps everyone to be prepared as best as possible, and is essential to aiding and protecting the public during emergency situations.

Director's Chair (continued)

Health Administration for the Marion County Public Health Department; Dr. Louis Profeta, Medical Director of Disaster Preparedness for St. Vincent Hospital; Dr. H. Clifton Knight, Chief Medical Officer of Community Health Network; Dr. R. Lawrence Reed, II, Methodist Hospital’s Director of Trauma Services; and Dr. Mercy Obeime, Director of Community and Global Health for Franciscan St. Francis Health.

Questions were wide ranging. Some points covered were grant funding trends, training and exercise, how volunteers help in recovery, and the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) process.

Local and state public safety professionals made clear the importance of training and exercise, because the activities provide responders with a wide base of knowledge and preparation for if and when an emergency situation happens. It is also imperative to have volunteers, working within a system, during and after a crisis to help the community recover.

The hearing also covered the THIRA process and the short timeline from the guidance document release until the report deadline. The goal initially was to plan meetings related to the THIRA in all 10 districts and have discussions with a large number of people from the surrounding communities, along with state level assessment. So far, there has been no guidance document released and time is running out to complete a whole, accurate community analysis. FEMA has assured us the guidance is going to be released soon.

Due to your past efforts, Indiana was able to demonstrate previous successes in emergency capability and response.

IDHS Coordinates Responders' Deployment to California Wildfires

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security coordinated the deployment of six responders to the Aspen fire in California, to shadow key positions and assist in operational response.

The Indiana team deployed on Friday, July 26 and returned Friday, August 2.

IDHS team members were:

- Troy Wymer – Wayne Township Fire Department Lieutenant
- Justin Sparks — Wayne Township Fire Department Lieutenant
- Stephanie McKinney – Deputy Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director in Gibson County
- David Stanley – Lafayette Fire Department Lieutenant
- Jason Hunt – French Lick Fire Department Chief & District 8 Operations Section Chief
- Paige Donaldson Connelly – Porter County 911 Communications Public Information Officer

All shadowed their designated positions and were very involved in operations. Responders and their positions were:

- Wymer, planning section chief, organized and develop resources and strategies, tactics, and objectives.



From left to right: Jason Hunt, Stephanie McKinney, Paige Donaldson Connelly, Justin Sparks, Troy Wymer and David Stanley

- Sparks, resource leader chief, was in charge of keeping track of received assignments, reporting location, reporting time and travel instructions for the entire span of the event.
- McKinney, logistics section chief, supported the operations, especially dealing with details of food, medical services, and communication.
- Stanley, liaison officer, was the direct link between the incident commander and the internal and external stakeholders.
- Hunt, operations section chief, focused on the implementation of the set plan and reports to the incident commander.
- Connelly, public information officer, focused on important communication link between public agencies and the community, working through traditional news media and new media.

Indiana Fallen Firefighters Annual Remembrance

On Friday, September 20, 2013, 9:45 a.m. from the Carmel Fire Department and end at the Indiana Law Enforcement and Firefighters Memorial. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. The remembrance will start with the R. Tiny Adams Fallen Firefighter's motorcycle ride at

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For more information, please contact Ron Meike at 260-433-2269.



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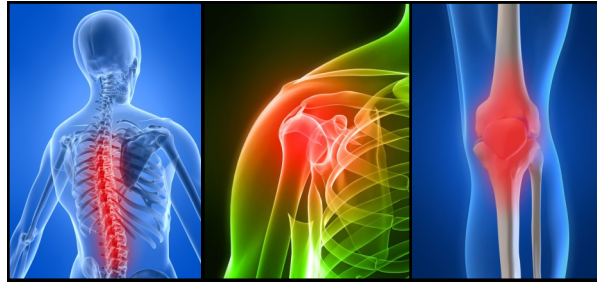


Research shows strong correlation between obesity and musculoskeletal injury among firefighters

Firefighters, as a group, have a high incidence of musculoskeletal (MS) injuries – like dislocations, sprains and strains.

The basic cause of these sprains and strains is due to some of the job's significant demands, like those related to heavy lifting. Now new research shows there may be other factors that "weigh in" as to why some firefighters experience MS injuries and others do not.

Results from a recent study show there is a strong correlation between obesity and musculoskeletal injuries among firefighters. In fact, having a body mass index (BMI) of ≥ 30 was a significant prospective predictor of



MS injuries.

BMI is a measurement tool that compares your height to your weight and gives you an indication of whether or not you are overweight, underweight or at a healthy weight. To calculate your BMI, you can find online BMI calculators or plot your height and weight on a chart next time you have a doctor visit.

The study, *Obesity and Incident Injury Among Career Firefighters in the*

Central United States, by Dr. S. A. Jahnke, et al, specifically explored the role obesity played on injury risk. The findings highlight the importance of focusing on firefighters' body composition, nutrition and fitness as a

means of decreasing risk for injury.

"We looked at a number of risk factors that have been found to be related to these types of injuries, things like demographic factors and health behaviors, but found only obesity status was significantly related," said Dr. Sara Jahnke. "Firefighters who were obese by BMI were more than five times as likely to have a MS injury."



District I Set-up Drill

On Saturday June 29, 2013 IDHS District Task Force I performed a set-up drill with district equipment which lasted from 8a.m. to 5p.m. The objective of the drill was for members to be trained on how to put together different pieces of equipment for practice in case of a crisis or disaster situation.

Several stations were established including the Mobile Command Center, tents, communications tower, generators and a light tower. All members present were taught how to set up and run the equipment.

On hand were Porter County Emergency Management Agency Director and Task Force Commander Russ Shirley, Deputy Director Mike Weber, Law Enforcement Leader Steve Scheckel, Logistics Section Chief Gary McKay, Emergency Medical Team John Jarka, several Porter County EMA volunteers and Indiana Department of Homeland Security District I Coordinator Angela Cloutier.

After the items were set-up, Porter County EMA created an updated inventory list.

14th Annual Indiana Fire Investigation Conference in Plainfield

The 2013 Indiana Fire Investigation Conference is taking place on August 19-21 in Plainfield at Primo West.

The section topics are:

- Juvenile Fire Setters
- NFPA 1033/921 Interface
- Interviewing
- Fire Scene Photography
- Case Studies
- Fire Pattern Damage Analysis

The interviewing session will be led by Tim Murray, an investigator for the State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland

Security. The sessions on case studies and fire pattern damage analysis will be conducted by Dixon Robin, a special agent with Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms

The annual conference is organized by the Indiana Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. The mission statement is "to promote education and excellence in the field of fire investigation, and, to utilize our collective knowledge and experience to promote safety, protect the public and seek the truth."

Registration can be found online at <http://iniaai.org/>.

Nationally-acclaimed documentary shown at NASFM conference

A film about burn victims was a part of this year's National Association of State Fire Marshals Annual Conference, taking place Aug. 7-9.

The documentary is called *Trial by Fire: Lives Re-Forged*, directed and produced by Megan Smith-Harris, who also spoke. The film focuses on the importance of fire prevention while celebrating the courage and resilience of burn survivors who reclaim their lives after suffering serious burns.

"Motivational speaker, wounded veteran and *Dancing with the Stars* champion, J. R. Martinez is featured in my documentary," said Smith-Harris, "along with others who prove, in a world that often prizes superficial beauty over depth of character, survival against all odds reveals the true strength of the human spirit."

Harris officially launched the Trial by Fire Educational and Community Outreach Initiative at the NASFM conference, promoting burn awareness and fire safety, including a "Detector in Every Home" campaign, which distributes free smoke detectors through local fire departments.

Bloomington Firefighters Receive Gift to Aid in Grain Silo Rescues

Bloomington firefighters recently received a gift of a grain silo rescue device from the Monroe County Farm Bureau.

The rescue wall is a set of metal panels that can be used to reduce the pressure of the grain against the victim, allowing the grain to be removed. A platform on the outside of the panels distributes the weight of the rescuers evenly, preventing them from falling into the grain themselves. The panels can be organized to fit many situations and additional panels can be used as added protection for rescuers.

While the city itself has no silos, the Bloomington Fire Department may be called to respond to entrapments in



Courtesy of The Great Wall of Rescue

other locations in the county or state.

Many times entrapment occurs when the victim walks on an encrusted surface in a grain silo. The surface can give way under the person's weight, causing the victim to fall through and sink into the grain. Once the victim is trapped, the grain acts much like quicksand; surrounding the victim as he or she sinks further into the grain.

As the victim sinks, the pressure of the grain immobilizes and makes breathing more difficult. With the addition of summer heat it can amplify silo, a long-lasting grain rescue can be dangerous for rescuers as well.

Grilling Safety Tips

Grilling and fireworks have the potential to cause sizable fires. Use caution when handling anything that produces heat or could produce a spark.

Some outside grilling tips are:

- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup.
- Never leave an outdoor charcoal or gas grill unattended.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under leaves and overhanging branches.
- Avoid placing the grill on dry grass or leaves.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



EMA Spotlight - LaPorte County

On Monday June 24, there was an explosion at a Co-Alliance Union Mills Facility in LaPorte County, which resulted in one fatality. EMA Director Fran Tibbot and Assistant Amy Bluhm were just leaving their office to head down to Indianapolis to attend the ESF-8 Conference. As soon as they heard the call they headed that way and immediately provided assistance to the responders.

There were many Agencies on scene including Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), police, IDHS and Co-Alliance Union Mills representatives. EMA called for

the District Mobile Command Center and contacted the Red Cross and Salvation Army to feed responders. On Tuesday and Wednesday, LaPorte County received significant amounts of rainfall, more than five inches, which resulted in flooding issues.

Bluhm remained at the facility day and night Monday and Tuesday. Tibbot only left to work the flooding issues including damage assessment. Bluhm continued operations by establishing communications, maintaining documentation with Incident Command System forms and assuring that responders had requests filled while updating the State through WebEOC.

Demolished Fraternity House Provides Training Opportunity

A multi-agency, multi-national exercise was held in June in Bloomington, Indiana. Three Bloomington buildings, including the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity house, were demolished for the exercise.

The exercise, "United Front II," was based upon the situation that an EF5 tornado had struck the Bloomington area and destroyed the buildings. At the fraternity house, search and rescue teams were told 70 students

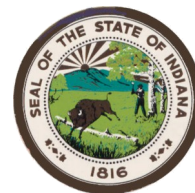
had been trapped by the tornado and needed to be rescued in real time.

About 250 members of several agencies participated in the exercise, including the Bloomington Fire Department, Indiana University Emergency Management and Continuity, Indiana National Guard, Indiana Task Force One, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Police, and Israel's Home Front Command.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana

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