



Hoosier Responder

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MAGNITUDE 3.8 EARTHQUAKE STRIKES INDIANA

Most Hoosiers are aware of the magnitude 3.8 earthquake centered five miles southeast of Greentown in Howard County on December 30th.

While earthquakes do not happen as often as other natural disasters in Indiana, this serves as a reminder that they can strike Indiana and it is important to be prepared.

"There are many simple steps you can take to make your home more earthquake ready, such as placing large items on lower shelves, and hanging heavy pictures away from beds," says IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "But many other steps, like assembling a disaster kit, and establishing family communication and home evacuation plans, are the same whether you're preparing for a winter storm, tornadoes, or an earthquake."

The vibrations from the earthquake were felt by Hoosiers across the state according to the "Did You Feel It?" map from the

United States Geological Survey. "Due to several geological factors, such as consistent bedrock composition, energy waves travel much faster in our area compared to other regions, such as California," noted Walter Gray of the Indiana Geological Survey.

Some newer laptops may have the ability to detect vibrations from an earthquake. Many newer laptops, like those from Apple and Lenovo, come equipped with accelerometers, which are motion sensors, [\(continued on page 2\)](#)



INDIANA
2010 12 30 12:55:21 UTC 40.43N 85.89W Depth: 4.9 km, Magnitude: 3.8
Earthquake Location

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From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott 2011 INDIANA LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

As a new year begins, we at IDHS look forward to new opportunities to speak with you, discuss your ideas and communicate our vision for 2011 and beyond.

Indiana's district system has created a dynamic environment for cooperation and collaboration, and we are planning, largely within the framework of your regular district meetings, to meet face to face with many of you in the local public safety community.

First up in this overall outreach is Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. He will begin a series of three fire leadership seminars later this month. See [page 7](#) for

details.

If you cannot attend the appropriate public safety meeting, we, as always, welcome your suggestions, for IDHS contact information, go to www.in.gov/dhs/ and click "About IDHS."

Other significant opportunities for education and to gather and interact can be found in the agencies training opportunities. To find out more, click [here](#).

Last year, more than 15,000 firefighters took advantage of offerings in fire suppression, hazardous materials, leadership and more. The agency also

offers a year-round schedule of valuable courses in emergency management, EMS, law enforcement and incident command.



It is my sincere hope, we will all take fullest advantage of these ongoing opportunities for education and interaction with the goal of coming together to learn, align ourselves with common goals and objectives, openly discuss and strategize ways to move towards those goals and ultimately enhance our collective ability to better serve our constituents. ■

NEW TREATMENT FOR CARDIAC ARREST VICTIMS SHOWS PROMISE

Inducing therapeutic hypothermia by Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel in the field can potentially decrease the odds of neurological damage to victims. Therapeutic hypothermia is a medical treatment that temporarily lowers the body temperature of a victim of cardiac arrest in order to reduce the risk of ischemic injury, or injury caused from a restriction in the blood supply.



“This therapy definitely shows promise,” said Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) EMS Certification Branch Chief Rick Archer. “Providing treatment to the patient as soon as possible is extremely important when dealing with a cardiac arrest. Therapeutic hypothermia bears research and consideration, but we have to be sure we have the capabilities to perform this correctly in the field.”

Archer is an EMS professional with 35 years of experience as a firefighter and paramedic.

However, there are factors that are limiting the implementation of this technique. Ending induced hypothermia prematurely can cause harm to the patient, so it is essential for EMS personnel that the

hospital has the capability to continue the treatment. Currently, only six hospitals in Indiana have the ability to perform this technique. Thus, EMS providers can only use this if the hospital that they are taking the

patient to has the capability to continue the treatment.

“We used to always think that when the brain didn't get enough oxygen, cells died, but we think now that it's more that the brain is stunned,” said Dr. Matt Sutter of Emergency Medicine of Indiana and Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. “The cooling slows the process, allowing injured, but not dead, cells to get healthy.”

Every year, more than 200,000 people in the United States suffer from a sudden

cardiac arrest. A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine by The Hypothermia after Cardiac Arrest Study Group stated that 55 percent of individuals studied showed a favorable neurologic outcome six months after the cardiac arrest when given therapeutic hypothermia treatment, compared to 39 percent with a favorable outcome when not given the treatment. It also showed that the rate of death was 14 percentage points lower in the therapeutic hypothermia group than the non-therapeutic hypothermia group. The study concluded “In patients who have been successfully resuscitated after cardiac arrest due to ventricular fibrillation, therapeutic mild hypothermia increased the rate of a favorable neurologic outcome and reduced mortality.”

The idea of lowering body temperature to reduce injury is not new and can be traced back to the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates. However, recent studies have shown that using inducing mild hypothermia (90-93°F) can act as a general neuroprotectant during restricted blood flow. The body's metabolic process is slowed and cellular breakdown and the release of toxic chemicals are hindered. ■

EARTHQUAKE (continued from page 1)

to detect when a unit has been dropped and brace hardware for impact.

By adding seismograph software to a computer with an accelerometer, such as the Quake-Catcher Network developed by Stanford University, users can collect vibration data and send it to a world-wide database of other users to help detect earthquakes more quickly in areas without professional-grade seismometers. Information on this software can be found at <http://qcn.stanford.edu/>.

If your laptop or computer does not come equipped with an accelerometer, a USB-connected accelerometer can be used to provide the same ability to use seismograph software.

For more information about how to respond to and prepare for earthquakes and other disasters, visit www.in.gov/dhs.getprepared. ■

465 FREE SMOKE DETECTORS REMAIN FOR HOOSIERS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office is continuing to request assistance from local public safety professionals to get the word out about free home smoke detectors for Hoosiers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

“Applications are moving along, but we would appreciate your help to spread the word in your community,” said Jim Greeson, state fire marshal. As of January 3, there are detectors that have not yet been spoken for.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office is a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, a \$300,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program-Fire Prevention and Safety Grant

will be used to purchase the alarms. The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters against fire and fire-related hazards.

The smoke alarms consist of a strobe light and bed shaker to allow the deaf or hard of hearing individual to be awakened at night or see the strobe light while awake. The alarms will be installed in homes by local fire departments free of charge to recipients.

Individuals who are interested in receiving one of these specialized smoke detectors, and who cannot afford to purchase one on their own, should apply online at www.in.gov/dhs by clicking on "Application for Smoke Alarms." ■

NEW CPR METHOD STRESSES CHEST COMPRESSION OVER MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION

New guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, released by the American Heart Association (AHA), emphasize chest compressions over rescue breathing. Instead of teaching untrained rescuers to follow A-B-C, Airway-Breathing-Compressions, the new guidelines instruct rescuers to begin with compressions, at a new recommended compression rate of at least 100 beats per minute, *before* opening the airway and giving rescue breaths, C-A-B.

All victims in cardiac arrest need chest compressions. Research shows that rescuers who started CPR with opening the airway took 30 seconds longer to begin chest compressions than rescuers who began CPR with chest compressions.

These guidelines may inspire more people to perform CPR, says Michael R. Sayre, MD, chair of the emergency cardiovascular care committee for the AHA and co-author of the executive summary of the 2010 AHA guidelines for CPR and emergency cardiovascular care. "Mouth to mouth is hard if you're not trained," he told WebMD.

IDHS Certification Branch Chief Rick Archer agrees that the new guidelines may improve the quality of care CPR recipients get from untrained civilians. "There is always a little oxygen left in the lungs," he says. "Starting CPR with chest compressions gets that oxygen circulating



throughout the body more quickly. A little CPR is better than no CPR."

Archer is an EMS professional with 35 years of experience as a firefighter and paramedic.

The American Red Cross has adopted the new guidelines and is already teaching them in classes. While studies show that Hands-Only CPR is very effective, the American Red Cross says that full CPR with chest compressions and rescue breaths is still the best method. Medical professionals trained in both methods should continue to perform full CPR when possible. ■

HOOSIERS ATTEND 2010 AHIMT CONFERENCE

The 2010 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Training and Education Conference was held in Denver, Colorado on December 7th-9th. This conference was developed to provide policy and decision makers, AHIMT members, training coordinators, and team managers detailed information regarding the development of the program as well as the best practices and lessons learned from their experience.



Many Hoosier emergency responders were able to attend this conference, including IDHS District 10 Task Force Leader and Evansville Fire Department Chief of Inspections and Prevention Cliff Weaver.

"The AHIMT Training and Education Conference was a great opportunity for the Indiana attendees to meet and network with other AHIMT members at a national level," said Weaver of his experience. "The question and answer portion with other members was extremely beneficial as it gave us the opportunity to discuss the problems that other AHIMTs are facing. After discussing issues, state support, and funding with several other teams from around the country, it makes me personally appreciate our Indiana DHS AHIMT program."

The conference targeted personnel involved in the AHIMT program, including

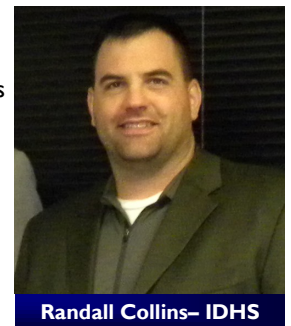
team members, coordinators, and managers, and offered a unique opportunity for those personnel to dialog with AHIMT program management personnel regarding the priorities for National Incident Management System (NIMS) products that support the AHIMT program.

Jay County EMA Director and District 6 AHIMT member Ralph Frazee found the networking to be very beneficial. "Being able to interact with teams across the United States and the world was very helpful. We were able to discuss many issues regarding the management of AHIMTs."

When communities are faced with disasters like wildland fires, blizzards and tornadoes, the AHIMTs often are the first called in to bring order to the chaos. According to an association press release, more than 250 members have already joined the new association which will promote, support, improve and enhance their mission by providing educational opportunities, setting standards and promoting the cooperation of federal, state, local and tribal agencies as well as non-governmental agencies in all phases of emergency management. The organization also seeks to make teams and communities stronger. ■

IDHS BRANCH CHIEF NAMED TO AHIMT BOARD

Indiana Department of Homeland Security Branch Chief on Board Randy Collins was also elected to the All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Board of Directors. This board is made up of 11 members from 10 regions across the country, plus a director at large. Collins was named 2nd vice president, and will be tasked with internal issues to the board.



Randall Collins- IDHS

"Being named to this board is a great honor," said Collins, "I appreciate being able to serve on my agency's behalf, and having the opportunity to help form the direction of this new organization."

The national association conducted the elections at its training and education conference this month in Denver. It was incorporated in Colorado on Dec. 1, and will provide leadership and education to Incident Management Teams throughout the country. The board will meet monthly via teleconference and in person during the annual conference. ■

WEB-BASED SOFTWARE TO ASSIST INDIANA IN ARSON INVESTIGATIONS

New web-based arson software is providing Indiana an effective way to become more integrated in sharing information and investigating suspicious fires.

As of January 3, 2011, the Indiana Fire Marshal's Office fire investigators will be using the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS), a web-



based case management system which provides state and local arson and explosives investigators access to current arson and explosives data from across the nation.

The BATS application is provided by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for fire investigators to share information with other investigators across the nation to discover trends, patterns, and leads in active fire, arson, explosion, bombing, or explosives cases.

The State Fire Marshall is a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

"Using this system will help Indiana gather

information about arsons and help investigators catch the person responsible for setting the fire," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "The impact of arson is astounding. The destructive force that fire produces can change the course of a person's life in a matter of seconds; their whole world can be destroyed."

Arson investigations require investigators to gather large amounts of evidence from the scene of the fire. These efforts can provide a great deal of information that can be used to determine the source of the fire and how it was started. In many cases, a neighbor or passerby may have seen something or someone that can help investigators solve their case. It is important for anyone with information on a fire to share that with authorities. This can be done through the Arson Hot Line by calling 1-800-382-4628. ■

FIRE SPOTLIGHT: Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department

The Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department (RVFD) was formed in 1896, making it one of the oldest continuously operating volunteer fire departments in the state of Indiana. Headed by Fire Chief LeMoyne Koehler, the department staffs 25 full time members who serve an area of 212 square miles in Jasper County. The department provides fire service to the city of Rensselaer, as well as Marion, Barkley, Hanging Grove, Jordan, Milroy, Newton, and Union Townships.

In 2003, RVFD joined forces with Keener, Remington, and Wheatfield fire departments to create the Jasper County Firefighters Association. This association was designed to provide better coverage to all of Jasper County through cooperation between departments.

RVFD purchased a fire and severe weather safety trailer in 2005 to simulate fire and severe weather conditions in a controlled atmosphere. This trailer is used to provide valuable training to residents throughout Jasper County. ■



DEADLINE FOR NFA WEEKEND TRIP IS JANUARY 14

Indiana firefighters have the opportunity to take part in this year's free National Fire Academy (NFA) Weekend Trip on February 26th and 27th. The deadline to register for the trip is January 14th.

Sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the two day trip will be held in Emmitsburg, Maryland and will give 150 firefighters the opportunity to take part in five classes that will teach leadership, safety, training operations, and decision making. These courses strengthen a state's fire service community through education, personal networking, and a shared collegial experience. They also offer students an opportunity to grow professionally through a quality educational experience

and to increase their knowledge and skills to provide a safe and effective response to their communities.

"This is a great opportunity for Indiana firefighters to receive high level training from some of the highest level instructors in the country," said John Buckman, Fire and EMS section chief of the IDHS. "In addition to the quality training received, participants can earn college credit and network with other members of the Indiana firefighting community."

Each year, between 150 and 200 Hoosier firefighters from more than 60 fire departments take advantage of this training opportunity. "This trip is something that many firefighters look forward to each

year. It's a great chance for them to take part in a variety of training courses," says IDHS Fire Training Manager & Cloverdale Volunteer Firefighter Steve Walters.

Any person with substantial involvement in fire prevention and control, emergency medical services, or fire-related emergency management activities is eligible to apply for academy courses. However, all National Fire Academy on-campus students must complete ICS 100 level and ICS 200 level training before arriving at the National Emergency Training Center. To register for this trip, visit the Indiana Firefighter Training System before January 14th at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/2423.htm>. ■

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES LISTED ON IDHS ONLINE TRAINING CALENDAR

Providing training opportunities to emergency responders throughout Indiana is a priority for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). These courses are listed on the IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar which is continuously updated as new courses become available. To access this calendar visit the IDHS Preparedness & Training Division webpage and click the Consolidated Training Calendar link at www.in.gov/dhs/ngbranch.htm or click [here](#).

This online resource provides a thorough listing of training courses for EMS, fire, law enforcement, search and rescue, and emergency management personnel, as well as other members of the public safety community.

Recent additions to the IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar include:
ICS Position Specific All Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT)
 March 14-18, 2011, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Lafayette National Guard Armory
 5218 Haggerty Lane
 Lafayette, IN 47905

This course focuses on the importance of developing and operating as a functional All Hazard Incident Management Team. This course will emphasize the nature and purpose of an AHIMT so that others in the community and emergency services are more willing and able to assist within various components of their local AHIMT. It also provides a basic framework for building and maintaining critical interpersonal communications and for working together as a team member of an AHIMT.

ICS Position Specific All Hazard Logistics Section Chief

April 4-8, 2011, 8:00 am-5:00 pm
 Seymour Police Department
 205 N. Ewing St
 Seymour, IN 47274

This course is designed to provide local and state-level emergency responders with a robust understanding of the duties,

responsibilities, and capabilities of an effective Logistics Section Chief on an All-Hazards Incident Management Team. These responsibilities fall into two categories: Logistics Section Chief duties (1) responding to the incident and (2) effectively fulfilling the position responsibilities of a Logistics Section Chief on an All-Hazards ICS Incident Management Team. Exercises, simulations, discussions, and a final exam enable students to process and apply their new knowledge.

Contact information for each course is listed on the calendar. Any general training questions about the Consolidated Training Calendar may be directed to Ashlee Grisel at agrisel@dhs.in.gov or Robert Puckett at Ropuckett@dhs.in.gov.

INDIANA ASSISTS NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY ORGANIZATION

As more people turn to the internet for news, entertainment, and communication, it is extremely important to keep your computer safe from a cyber attack. For individuals, installing a virus scanner and practicing safe internet surfing practices can help keep your computer free of infection and running smoothly. Protecting entire networks and computer systems is a more difficult task.

“As our dependence on web-based technologies increases with each step forward in innovation, so does our responsibility to protect our security and our privacy,” said Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Executive Director Joe Wainscott. “We at the IDHS are committed to a cyber security strategy that keeps Indiana and America protected and Prosperous.”

The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) is a non-profit organization that provides a central resource for gathering information on cyber threats to critical infrastructure and providing two-way sharing of information between and among all 50 states, the District of Columbia, territories and local

government. The MS-ISAC provides a common mechanism for raising the level of cyber security readiness and response.

The MS-ISAC has progressed quickly since it was established in January of 2003. The Department of Homeland Security has praised its proactive approach to cyber security, noting that it has helped to quickly and efficiently provide critical cyber risk, vulnerability, and mitigation data to state and local governments.

“I’m grateful that we’re in a time and place and moment that this new organization -- this new not-for-profit -- is helping to fulfill part of the need [for threat monitoring], and to help support the private sector and public sector going forward,” said Will Pelgrin, chairman of MS-ISAC and the head of the Center for Internet Security.

Communication between all levels of government and the private sector is a primary goal of the MS-ISAC. As cyber

threats emerge quickly, it is essential to provide information about the threat as soon as possible. The MS-ISAC collaborates with multiple organizations as most critical cyber infrastructure is owned or controlled by the private sector. By working with the National Council of ISACs, it is able to communicate effectively with private sector information sharing and analysis centers across the nation.



One of the resources provided to the public by the MS-ISAC is the Cyber Operations Center Dashboard. The digital dashboard was developed as a central resource to provide valuable, real-time data regarding the current cyber security environment. It features a variety of sources, including cyber attack information, cyber alert threat levels, and the latest advisories and news to assist organizations in the cyber security efforts. This dashboard is available to view at www.msisac.org/apps/dashboard.

CDC REPORTS PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS HAS IMPROVED THROUGHOUT THE NATION

A recent report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) noted that public health preparedness has improved throughout the nation in recent years. The report, *Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening the Nation's Emergency Response State by State*, reviewed multiple factors to determine the ability to respond to a major health emergency.

This report will be used to identify any gaps in preparedness and help rectify these problems. According to Dr. Ali Khan, director of the CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, "It's got to be data for action, and we have to act on what we are learning to continue to improve what's going on with the state and local health departments."

Indiana fared particularly well in the report; receiving high scores in chemical laboratory capabilities, communication,

planning, exercises and incidents, and evaluation. The report recognized that Indiana's continuity of operations plan (COOP) included biological laboratory operations, and noted that the lab passed all 4 proficiency tests for CDC Laboratory Response Network labs.

However, the state of Indiana received its highest marks in the Response Readiness: Planning category. In the event of a major public health emergency, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will assist the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) distribute and dispense medical assets from the Strategic National Stockpile and other sources. A technical assistance review (TAR) score is given on a scale from 1-100, with 69 or higher indicating an acceptable range. Indiana was given a TAR score of 100, a perfect score. In addition to state capabilities, the CDC issued TAR scores to various metropolitan areas. Indianapolis scored 83 TAR; but

other cities in the region did not fare as well. Chicago received a score of 80, Cincinnati received a 62, and Louisville received a 68.

This report shows that Indiana is prepared for a multitude of public health issues. This does not mean that there is not room for improvement. The CDC's information will help Indiana assess its shortcomings and work towards making improvements. The CDC notes that, in order to develop an effective response plan, a state must consider the unique needs of its own population. Local Emergency Management Agencies (EMA) across the state can help improve public health preparedness by establishing strong partnerships and lines of communication with local health departments. These ties can ensure that in the event of a public health emergency, resources will be able to be distributed to those in need as quickly and efficiently as possible. ■

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOURS SEARCH AND RESCUE FACILITY

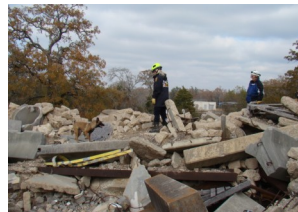
Indiana State Representative Randy Frye recently toured the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center (CAJMTC) with Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Search and Rescue Training Manager Lillian Hardy and



CAJMTC Post Commander Col. Todd Townsend. In addition to being a state representative, Frye also serves as a lieutenant with the Indianapolis Fire Department.

During the tour, Col. Townsend showed the

search and rescue capabilities at the facility, including a demonstration of canine search and rescue with Hardy and K-9 Synder. For



more photos of the training visit the IDHS Facebook page by visiting www.in.gov/dhs and clicking the Facebook link on the lower right side of the page. ■

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) wants every Hoosier to be prepared in the event of a disaster. When the unexpected occurs, public safety officials will respond promptly to assist those affected by the disaster. However, being prepared can make the moments before emergency responders arrive much more manageable for you and your loved ones.

The "Get Prepared" section of the IDHS website contains various resources to help get ready for a disaster. To get prepared, visit www.in.gov/dhs/getprepared. ■

EMA SPOTLIGHT: Jay County Emergency Management

Ralph Frazee has been director of the Jay County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) since 2004. In that time, Frazee has worked to keep his community prepared through various proactive approaches. In addition to his duties as EMA director, Frazee has spent 14 years as the Pennville Town Marshall and 25 years as a member of the Pennville Volunteer Fire Department. This wide range of experience in public safety and government helps guide him as EMA director.

Jay County EMA is currently working on an all hazard mitigation plan for the county. By identifying vulnerable areas,

efforts can then be made to reduce the potential impact caused by a natural disaster.

With only three employees, cooperation between the EMA and other public safety officials is essential to providing emergency management to Jay County. However, Frazee works to ensure that all divisions of public safety are on the same page when it comes to keeping citizens safe from disaster. ■

INDIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S LEADERSHIP SEMINARS START THIS MONTH

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's leadership seminars are scheduled to kick off the 2011 Leadership Series later this month. Similar conferences are being coordinated for emergency medical service and emergency management professionals across the state, so please look for additional information on those shortly.

Fire chiefs of both volunteer and career departments, elected officials and any other individuals who work closely with fire chiefs are all invited to attend one of the

Indiana State Fire Marshal's leadership seminars. If you are able to attend, I strongly urge you to do so and be a part of this vision casting and networking process.

Among the notable individuals expected to speak are Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and President of the Indiana Fire Chief's Association Dan Sink.

A wide array of presentation and discussion topics includes fire investigation, technical rescue capabilities, grants, training and operating strategies for small volunteer fire

departments.

The Fire Marshal's seminars are scheduled to take place on January 29 in Brownsburg Fire Territory, February 12, at the Habig Center in Jasper, and March 5 in Warsaw.

A total cost of \$10 is payable at the door and receipts will be provided. To register, visit www.indianafiretraining.com/District7. Please contact Cindy Cleveland at 317.232.2419 or ccleveland@dhs.in.gov with any questions. ■

ONLINE EMS & FIRE TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH INDIANA FIRST RESPONDER ONLINE TRAINING GUIDE

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Division of Preparedness and Training has developed an online source for training, continuing education, and exercises for the state's public safety practitioners through the Indiana First Responder Online Training Guide.



This resource currently provides training in emergency management, emergency medical and fire services, as well as hazardous materials. The Division of Preparedness and Training also maintains certification records for all Indiana firefighters and EMS personnel.

"We see online training as an important and integral add-on to our current services," said IDHS Division of Preparedness and Training Director Jim

Bennett. "It helps us reach a broader audience quickly and efficiently."

As budgets for public safety departments are tight, it is often very difficult to find funds for training. Because of this, IDHS offers many training courses online, in addition to regular face-to-face workshops.

Some of the courses currently offered online include: Suspicious Packages and Substances, Standard Operating Procedures, Effective Communications, Meeting Facilitator, Damage Assessment, as well as many others.

To access the Indiana First Responder Online Training System, visit www.indianafirstresponder.org. ■



Indiana Department of Homeland Security



Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

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Please direct any questions or comments to the

IDHS Public Information Office at 317.234.4214 or pio@dhs.in.gov.