

THE **HOOSIER RESPONDER**

AUGUST 2021



**Grand Opening
for Academy's
New Home**

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In true Indiana fashion, Mother Nature continues to throw her weight around the state.

It's a good reminder of our normal roles at IDHS, including disaster response and recovery. The spring and summer storms typical to Hoosiers this time of the year brought considerable damage to Jefferson and Monroe counties and the surrounding area in June, and some tornado touchdowns also impacted northern Indiana recently. In all cases, IDHS had boots on the ground working to assess the damage and worked closely with local officials to help residents in need.



The damage in the areas of Monroe and Jefferson counties resulted in a U.S. Small Business Administration declaration, which triggered some federal assistance becoming available to these residents. Many of these impacted folks visited the disaster loan centers, which were established in key areas and combined resources from local, state and federal entities.

Indiana also opened the State Disaster Relief Fund for those residents who are uninsured or did not qualify for SBA assistance. To date, IDHS has helped nearly 40 families apply for SDRF assistance, and in-person inspections of those properties for damage are continuing. Response and Recovery staff members are working closely with impacted Hoosiers to help them become whole again following the June 18-19 storm event.

While it is important for us all to protect and mitigate as much as possible from disasters, we are never truly 100-percent protected from a natural disaster. However, there is solace in the fact that our system of government educates, invests in and works alongside communities to limit damage and injuries. Even small yet destructive storms like the ones in June require months of follow-up and intense collaboration between levels of government and homeowners to recover.

So much of our lives and work recently has focused on the pandemic that it is easy to lose sight of other safety measures taken on by the agency. Emergency response is a key part of that work, but so are the countless hours spent inspecting amusement rides to prepare for the Indiana State Fair and other festivals and the buildings IDHS staff members inspect and certify before deemed safe for entry.

I am proud of the service IDHS brings the state, and I am specifically proud of the way our employees take on these roles. Also, I am thankful for the resilience of Hoosiers and our commitment to helping one another — no matter what the challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray background that features a faint, stylized graphic of a quill pen.

Steve Cox
Executive Director

IN.GOV PROGRAM SUPPORTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Indiana Office of Technology (IOT), through its Local Government Initiative, offers local government entities the advantages and protections of a free "in.gov" domain as well as options to upgrade to a full-service website management system. The low cost of the program could be a benefit to small agencies in need of a big boost to their website presence.

The IN.gov Program is a partnership between the state and its IT vendor that is responsible for the design, development and maintenance of more than 225 state websites and 125 online services. Highly experienced, local professionals handle onboarding and ongoing customer service, while locals retain hands-on control of the content of their websites. All Indiana governments are eligible. This includes county and municipal fire departments, EMS providers and emergency management agencies.

"Coming from a law enforcement background (retiring from Indiana State Police in 2019), I recognize that a lot of law enforcement agencies as well as other local first responder agencies are in need of support for their web presence," said Mike White, IN.gov Program director for IOT. "Many do not have a website and others use a '.com' or '.org' domain, making it difficult for citizens to verify the legitimacy of a government site.

The website tool gives locals an easy way to manage their websites on their own. Users can edit and create pages through a simplified user interface. Plans start at \$100 per month and also include migration from an existing site, training for the local website managers and ongoing customer support.

Aside from the website service, the IN.gov Program also can set up agencies with official "in.gov" domains at no cost. Agencies still manage their own website in-house or through a third party, and the domains also can be used through agencies' own email providers. This helps first responders and officials conducting official government business to avoid using less-trusted, personal or commercial email addresses.

For more information, contact the Indiana Office of Technology at its [Local Government](#) webpage.

IN.GOV OFFERINGS

WEBSITE SERVICE

PAID: Any Indiana local government entity can sign on to the state's website service for as little as \$100 a month. This provides an easy-to-use website management system for a professional-quality website, official domain trustworthiness, online security, ADA compliance and attentive customer support. No coding is necessary, and training on the tool is included. For more information, contact the Indiana Office of Technology at its [Local Government](#) webpage.

DOMAIN NAMES

FREE: Any Indiana local government entity can request an official "in.gov" domain name. This can be used to change website URLs from using ".com" or ".org" to using "in.gov." Email addresses can also use the "in.gov" domain name once established. These domain records can be managed by the IN.gov team on an agency's behalf, or the records can be delegated for locals to handle. [Get started today!](#)



After a year off due to COVID-19, FDIC International is happening right now in Indianapolis August 2-7, 2021. FDIC International teaches and demonstrates the newest technologies and techniques for fire and rescue professionals. This year 10 Hoosiers will be representing Indiana as leaders of workshops and classes. Detailed below are dates, times and summaries of what Hoosiers have presented and will be presenting at FDIC.

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE FOR THE FIRST-DUE COMPANY

Speaker: Mark Litwinko, lieutenant, Ft. Wayne (IN) Fire Department
Date and Time: August 2, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
August 3, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
August 4, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM



HEAVY VEHICLE EXTRICATION

Speaker: Todd Taylor, captain, Wayne Township (IN) Fire Department
Date and Time: August 2, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
August 3, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM



LIVE FIRE: THE SIX SKILLS FOR SUCCESSFUL VEIS

Speaker: Eric Dreiman, chief of training, Indianapolis (IN) Fire Department
Date and Time: August 2, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
August 3, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM



LARGE TRUCK EXTRICATION

Speaker: Steve White, battalion chief, Fishers (IN) Fire Department
Date and Time: August 4, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



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RETHINKING DECON: DILUTION IS NOT THE SOLUTION

Speaker: Robert Wagner, private, Indianapolis (IN) Fire Department

Date and Time: August 4, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Speaker: John Shafer, chief of training & safety, Washington Township/Avon (IN) Fire Department

Date and Time: August 5, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM



FENTANYL, SPICE AND BATH SALTS – OH MY!

Speaker: Tobias Frost, captain, Lafayette (IN) Fire Department

Date and Time: August 5, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM



SURVIVE ALIVE: THE ULTIMATE PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Speaker: Aleatha Henderson, director of public education/firefighters Survive Alive - Fire & Life Safety Division, Indianapolis (IN) Fire Department

Date and Time: August 5, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM



HOW PFAS CAN IMPACT FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Speaker: Graham Peaslee, professor of physics, University of Notre Dame

Date and Time: August 6, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



LEADERSHIP FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Speaker: Dr. Candace Ashby, battalion chief, Indianapolis (IN) Fire Department

Date and Time: August 6, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM





BOILERS SAFETY CONTINUES TO ADVANCE

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Boilers and Pressure Vessels Section is responsible for inspecting, certifying and enforcing various boiler and pressure vessel laws, rules and regulations statewide. In keeping with Gov. Eric Holcomb's Next Level agenda, the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Section continues to modernize and improve processes.

Recent changes have been the result of revised state laws and rules. Starting in 2019, insurance companies have been authorized by state statute to perform initial inspections on regulated boilers and pressure vessels. IDHS also is no longer required to inspect all boilers and pressure vessels, but the agency still inspects all state-owned devices.

"With about 80,000 devices in the state, we had developed a backlog of inspections," said Matt Cronley, section chief of IDHS Boilers and Pressure Vessels, who noted that IDHS can and still does inspect non-state-owned devices when

necessary. "Allowing authorized third-party inspection agencies to handle initial inspections has helped tremendously, and it has never been easier for stakeholders to get their devices inspected."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, several processes changed: Variances now go through the Fire Prevention and Building

Safety Commission; IDHS fines and sanctions can be issued via online notification only; and the Public Safety Portal began serving as the state's new inspections and permitting database for all boilers and pressure vessels stakeholders.

"The transition to online notifications and using the Public Safety Portal has been

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DID YOU KNOW?

- IDHS no longer uses aluminum tags to signify a device has been inspected. IDHS now uses stickers instead, similar to those used for license plate tags. The switch saves the state more than \$10,000 a year.
- IDHS has had no fee structure changes for many years and remains one of the states with the lowest permitting fees.
- The most common safety violations found by IDHS are relief valves that are broken, leaking or not the correct size.





a big shift, but once insurance companies and device owners create their accounts in the system, they can manage all their devices in one place," said IDHS Chief Inspector Roger Boillard.

Stakeholders who have not done so should still create an account at <https://publicsafety.dhs.in.gov>, and those needing assistance can visit the [Public Safety Portal Help page](#) on the IDHS website.

Since July 1, 2021, dozens of updates to the statewide boilers and pressure vessel rules have taken effect, resulting from the work of the Indiana Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules Rewrite Committee in recent years. The revised rules are now available at the [Indiana Administrative Code](#) website and the IDHS [Boilers and Pressure Vessels](#) webpage. Highlights include IDHS no longer inspecting

instantaneous water heaters (aka, tankless water heaters) and any applicable pressure relief valve for thermal fluid heaters may be used.

Fire departments that have questions about boilers, want to learn more about how boilers and pressure vessels work or have knowledge of an incident with a boiler or pressure vessel should contact bpv@dhs.in.gov. IDHS staff would be happy to field a call or send an inspector to have a training session for locals. These lessons would include information about what is required of boiler and pressure vessel operators, what items IDHS inspectors look for, common violations, what IDHS permits look like, who to contact after an incident and the associated timeline, and which inspectors are working in the local area.

SAY HELLO TO PEDIATRIC HAL



IDHS is proud to announce the newest addition to the Mobile Sim Lab – Pediatric Hal. Hal is a 5-7 year-old test subject that can be put through many procedures, including intubation, a cricothyrotomy and needle decompressed IV/IO therapy. Like his bigger version, he can be programmed with any scenario.



If interested in training with Hal, you can request the Sim Lab through the [State website](#) or through the Sim Lab Manager – Tim Layton at tilayton@dhs.in.gov.



GRAND OPENING FOR ACADEMY'S NEW HOME

The MADE@Plainfield multi-use site opened recently to a large crowd excited about the new educational pathways and careers ahead for Plainfield and all of Indiana.

The collaborative site is anchored by the Plainfield Community School Corporation, the Town of Plainfield, Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University. Additionally, industry and governmental partners such as the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy offer unique ways to train and recruit people to public safety roles while also offering many options for people to receive hands-on training and classroom education.

"This has been a very exciting day for me personally and professionally," said Indiana

Fire Marshal Joel Thacker. "As a resident of Plainfield, I've seen this project go from vision to fruition."

Thacker added that having the Academy as a central figure at the facility helps to solidify a strategy in the public safety community for decades. "We've had many conversations across the state about the need for the Academy to have a central location for training. Formal studies have been done but not much action to this point. This site will serve as a certification

office for some 50,000 firefighters. We will be able to host advanced-level courses for public safety personnel, including the first fire chief leadership program ever offered in the state, right here in this building."

Local officials officially cut the ribbon on July 29 to open MADE for business, and things should begin picking up soon. Many tenants are ready to get going on an adventure to explore job skills and pair them with local opportunities

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for growth. All tenants have the same focus: to support the Hoosier economy.

"This project is about strengthening the state's economy, but even more important, it is about helping people build their own economy," said Scott Flood, board president of the Plainfield Community School Corporation.

MADE stands for Make, Achieve, Design, and Educate. The project is open to all ages for specific training and educational needs. It builds a bridge for continued education and training to meet the needs of local employers for highly skilled and trained employees to fill high-demand, high-wage jobs.

Accessibility, the facility is located just off I-70 and near the Indianapolis International Airport, is key factor for how MADE intends to impact the community. The new building



features lab and classroom space, a robotics laboratory, computer and science laboratories and flexible space to accommodate any needs. It also has a life-sized motor bay

for large equipment training and work.

Beginning this fall, courses offered at MADE will include accounting, business, CDL training, career development, industrial maintenance, information technology, logistics, medical assisting and specialized public safety training.

The site will allow Plainfield "to integrate education into our lives," said Brandy Perrill, executive director of Hendricks College Network.

For more information, visit the [MADE@Plainfield website](#).





STOP THE BLEED PROGRAMS GROWING IN HOOSIER SCHOOLS

Imagine being in the first crew to respond to a school shooting. Broken glass and shell casings on the floor. The smell of gunpowder in the air. The faces of frightened people sheltering in classrooms.

Jacob Cox lived it. A paramedic, he responded to Dennis Intermediate School in Richmond in 2018 when a former student attempted

an attack. The shooter died by suicide, and no one else was hurt, but the experience responding to the incident left a big impression on Cox. At the time, he recently had started a new position in injury prevention at Reid Health and had begun developing a Stop the Bleed training program. Immediately afterward he set to work trying to get even more bleeding control kits in his area's schools.

"Bleeding control kits in the AED cabinets are good but not sufficient, because there may only be one or two per floor or in a whole building. In an active shooter situation, everyone is locked down, and no one is in the hallways. If I'm running away, I'm not going to run to the other end of the hallway to get a kit," Cox said. "It was a big eye opener."

Now the manager of EMS and injury prevention, Cox trains community members in eastern Indiana and western Ohio how to perform bleeding control first aid. Some sessions are for local businesses, churches, factories or law enforcement agencies, but most have been school systems. He said the school shooting solidified what he was teaching was important. He now tells about the experience at the beginning of his trainings because uninterested attendees take the sessions more seriously once they hear his personal story.

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Cox says he has now trained about 10,000 people in Stop the Bleed, primarily through trainings in schools, but getting the program started was a challenge. Some places he approached about the trainings did not want to hear about the topic, and at times it was difficult to reach the right person at an organization. He recommends program managers to just be persistent.

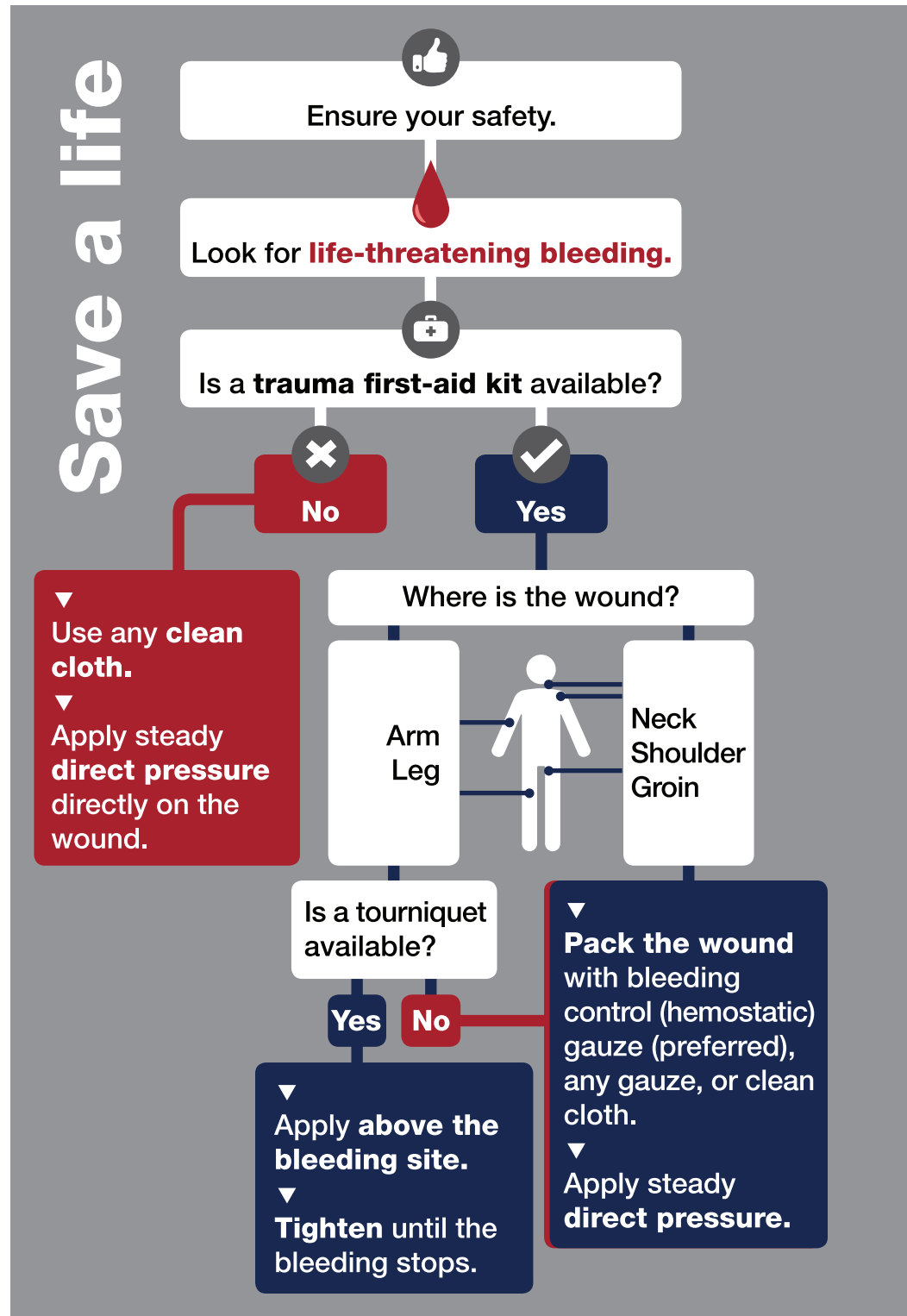
"Do not give up. Try to reach out again after a while. It can definitely be rewarding," he said.

Parkview Trauma Center in Fort Wayne started a Stop the Bleed program in 2017 and, similar to Reid Health's program, the most successful aspect of Parkview's has been in the schools.

The health system sent a letter to schools in its coverage area offering the training. Sessions started with just teachers and staff attending, but they later expanded to include students. In multiple northeast Indiana school districts, Parkview now teaches Stop the Bleed to all 10th graders as part of their health class curriculum.

"They are so socially motivated to help their peers and don't have the same fear factor as adults. They are usually excited and less nervous," said Parkview's Stop the Bleed Coordinator Lauren Quandt.

Training students already has proven worthwhile; a week



after one of Parkview's Stop the Bleed trainings a 10th grader severed an artery in his arm with a piece of metal during a shop class, and a fellow student used a tourniquet to save the day.

More schools statewide are stocking bleeding control kits and their staff members are being trained on how to use them, in accordance with a new [Bleeding Control Program state](#)

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[law](#). Steve Balko, the director of school building security for the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), says his agency has been advocating that schools shift from only thinking of the kits being used in active shooter situations.

"We want to emphasize the value away from active-shooter and worst-case scenarios to an all-hazards approach and injury care," he said, adding that schools should think of the kits for general emergency preparedness, such as for use in student injuries on the playground or vehicle accidents near the school.

Toward that end, IDOE encourages strategic placement, so the kits are

spread out and not limited to the nurse's control, instead pairing them with AEDs, fire extinguishers or pull stations located around a facility. The new law requires the bleeding control kits to be located in areas of the school determined by local first responders or the school safety specialist, and IDOE recommends schools include first responders because they are the ones who may be responding to an incident and can coordinate with the school safety specialist. Reid Health's Cox offers to walk the buildings with school staff to place kits in helpful areas, often an industrial arts classroom, near the football field and by the athletic trainer or nurse offices.

As for staff members learning how to use the kits, IDOE advises schools to contact whichever agency responds when they would call 911.

"We tell them to build collaboration ahead of time so first responders are not dealing with this on 'doomsday,'" Balko said.

IDHS Mobile Simulation Manager Tim Layton, a paramedic, has used Stop the Bleed bleeding control techniques in the field, for a shooting victim and for someone who accidentally cut his arm with a machete. He along with other IDHS staff have experience training locals how to do Stop the Bleed programs. Indiana first responder agencies, businesses and organizations that are interested in a train-the-trainer class (or training kits) can contact the IDHS [EMS district managers](#) stationed around the state.

"It doesn't take much to do the classes and they are about the least costly training you can do," he said, also recommending those interested visit the [Stop the Bleed](#) website or even other programs' sites to familiarize themselves.



Find [STOP THE BLEED](#) kits online and place these trauma kits in public gathering areas.

BEWARE! HAUNTED HOUSES SETTING UP NOW



Haunted house season is a couple months away, and haunted house owners will be setting up their spooky operations over that time.

Communities should know that all haunted houses operating in Indiana are required to have an Amusement & Entertainment permit from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Additionally, all haunted houses must be inspected and determined to be compliant before opening their doors.

KEY POINTS

- Exit signs should be installed at all required exit/exit access doorways.
- Obvious/marked exits should be located every 50 feet.
- There should be no dead-end corridors.
- Fire extinguishers should be every 75 feet or less.
- Groups no larger than 20 people are allowed at a time and must be supervised by a staff member 18 or older with a flashlight.
- Fire sprinkler systems are required unless the floor area of the haunted house is less than 1,000 square feet and travel distance from any point of exit is less than 50 feet.
- No open flames, temporary heaters or smoking is allowed.
- Automatic smoke detectors are required and must be interconnected.
- Maze areas must be at least 3 feet wide and 5 feet high, and one 4x2x2 section is allowed every 50 feet.
- All materials used must be flame-resistant, or flame retardant, and proof must be shown to code officials.

PERMIT TAKEAWAYS

- Permits must be applied for and buildings must be inspected prior to opening.
- Locations may not be allowed to open to public if major violations exist.
- Locations without required sprinkler and fire alarm systems will not be allowed to open.





INTRODUCING STOPRANSOMWARE.GOV

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), along with other federal partners, has launched a new website to help businesses and communities reduce their risk to ransomware attacks.

[StopRansomware.gov](https://stopransomware.gov) is the new ransomware homepage for all federal government agencies to pool resources to provide businesses and organizations of all sizes the opportunity to better protect networks. The website also highlights the latest ransomware-related alerts from these agencies.

Ransomware is a form of malware designed to encrypt files on a device, rendering any files and the systems that rely on them unusable. Malicious actors then demand ransom in exchange for decryption.

Cases of ransomware are on the rise: Roughly \$350 million in ransom was paid to malicious cyber actors in 2020, a more than 300-percent increase from the previous year. Despite making up about 75 percent of

all ransomware cases, attacks on small businesses often go unnoticed, according to DHS.

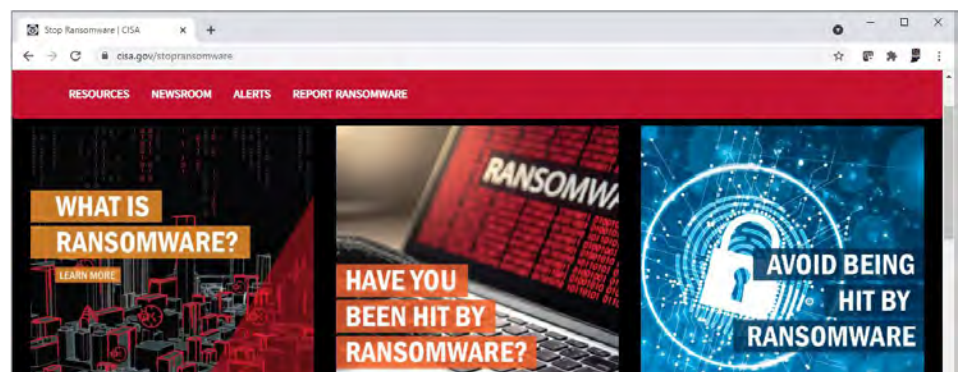
STOP RANSOMWARE

These ransomware incidents have become more destructive and impactful in both nature and scope. They target critical data and can propagate ransomware across entire networks. Cyber criminals also increasingly use tactics, such as deleting system backups, that make restoration and recovery

more difficult or infeasible. The economic and reputational impacts of ransomware incidents, throughout the initial disruption and, at times, extended recovery, have also proven challenging for organizations large and small.

StopRansomware.gov will help organizations, [K-12 educational institutions](#) and many more to take simple steps to protect their networks and respond to ransomware incidents, while providing enterprise-level information technology teams the technical resources to reduce their ransomware risk.

Additional cybersecurity guidance, including a response plan template, is available in the Emergency Manager Toolkit at the [Indiana Cybersecurity Hub](#).



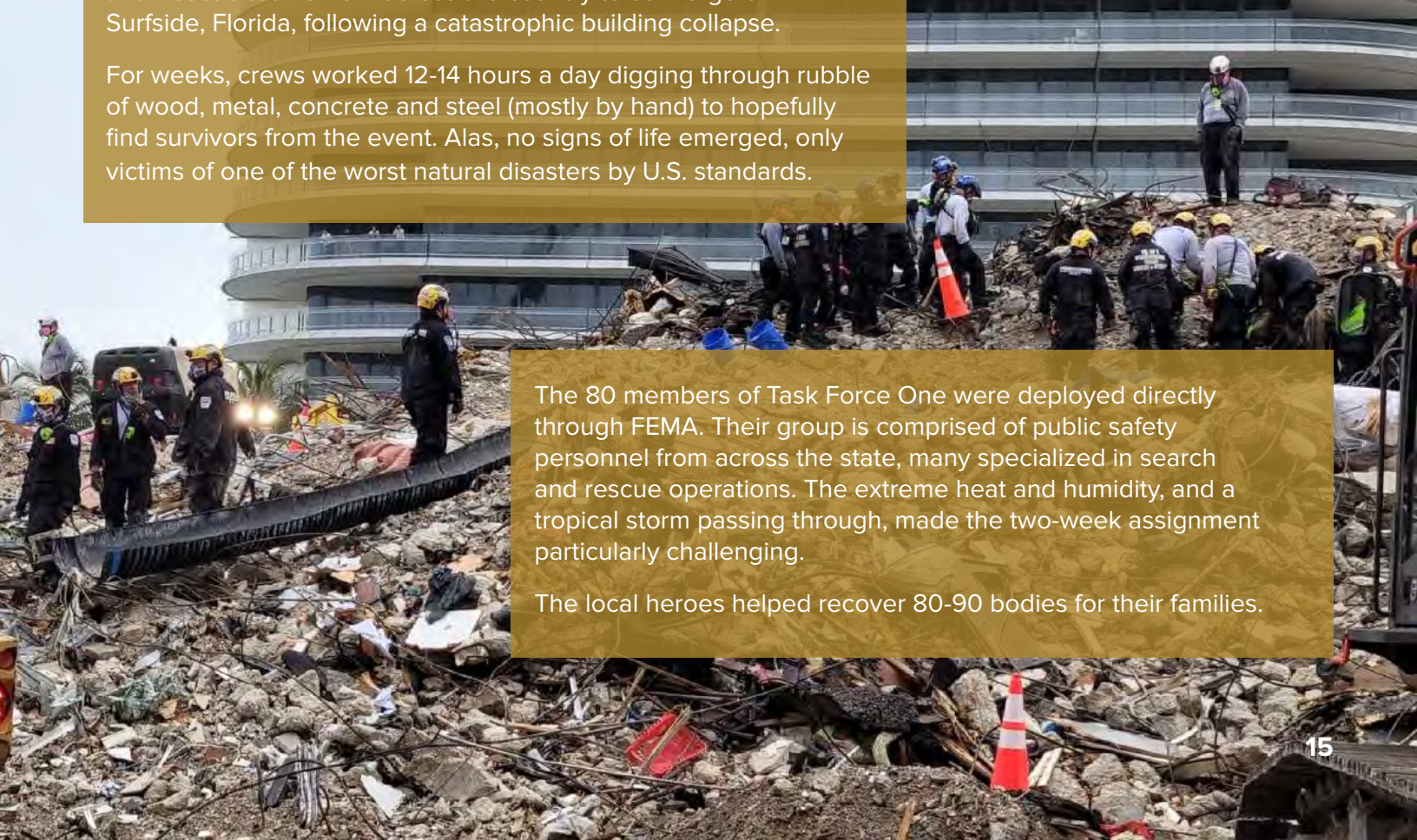


INDIANA TASK FORCE ONE DEPLOYED TO SURFSIDE, FLORIDA



Indiana Task Force One was among the 28 FEMA Urban Search and Rescue teams from across the country to converge on Surfside, Florida, following a catastrophic building collapse.

For weeks, crews worked 12-14 hours a day digging through rubble of wood, metal, concrete and steel (mostly by hand) to hopefully find survivors from the event. Alas, no signs of life emerged, only victims of one of the worst natural disasters by U.S. standards.



The 80 members of Task Force One were deployed directly through FEMA. Their group is comprised of public safety personnel from across the state, many specialized in search and rescue operations. The extreme heat and humidity, and a tropical storm passing through, made the two-week assignment particularly challenging.

The local heroes helped recover 80-90 bodies for their families.



NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE PERSONNEL

New minimum requirements for volunteer emergency responder personnel could create a pathway to better recruiting and strengthen the overall response of volunteer departments that keep countless Hoosiers safe during emergencies.

The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy has implemented a new curriculum requirement for the Emergency Response Support (ERS) function. This position will be critical to the emergency response, although his/her training does not authorize entry into an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) environment or a burning building or any life safety response.

"Traveling around the state, we consistently hear of the challenges volunteer departments have been having with getting new recruits in the door," said Indiana Fire Marshal

Joel Thacker. "People who were interested were required to complete several hours of training (104) and also could wait for months to be accepted into a course."

Instead, potential volunteer personnel now can opt to pursue qualification as ERS. This 30-hour program will put additional boots on the ground at response scenes while also freeing up certified firefighters with volunteer departments to attack an active fire instead of focusing on other emergency response tasks.

The ERS role will include training on forcible entry, ventilation, apparatus, driver safety and more.

"This should give volunteer departments some needed flexibility in recruiting and deploying personnel while at the same time giving our department a state-

recognized way of certifying and professionalizing support personnel," said Brad Stott, chief of the Otter Creek Township Fire Department in Vigo County.

Two areas where response support is most needed in Vigo is for EMS runs and equipment drivers, Stott added. This creates a pathway for people interested in the fire service to be able to respond and help on the scene and get a real taste of the firefighting life.

"Responding to fires is much more than putting water on a structure," said Wade Walling, director of the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy. "This would eventually replace the (minimum) mandatory firefighting training and replace it with training to fill roles such as drivers, or emergency responders helping with water supply, medical response and other fireground support needs."

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"This opens up a new pool of volunteers to individual communities," including some of Indiana's Amish communities looking to play an active role in public safety, Walling added.

Recruiting could see a major boost. When someone approaches a volunteer department with interest, the hope is he/she will not be scared away by the 104-hour minimum for Firefighter 1. Additionally, the training can be local, allowing departments to immediately begin bringing support personnel in for training rather than waiting on a scheduled course.

"The requirements to become a fully certified firefighter have limited our ability to hire, train and deploy personnel who otherwise bring other desired skills and abilities to the department in a more limited role," Stott said.

Thacker added: "Once we get new recruits into the fire service, then we need to figure out new and innovative ways to get them to stay and continue on as fully trained and certified firefighters."

The ERS role is utilized in several states, including Ohio, and is supported by the U.S. Fire Administration.

EMA HONORED



EMA Mick Newton recently was honored with receiving the Sagamore of the Wabash, one of the highest civilian awards that can be presented by Governor Holcomb.

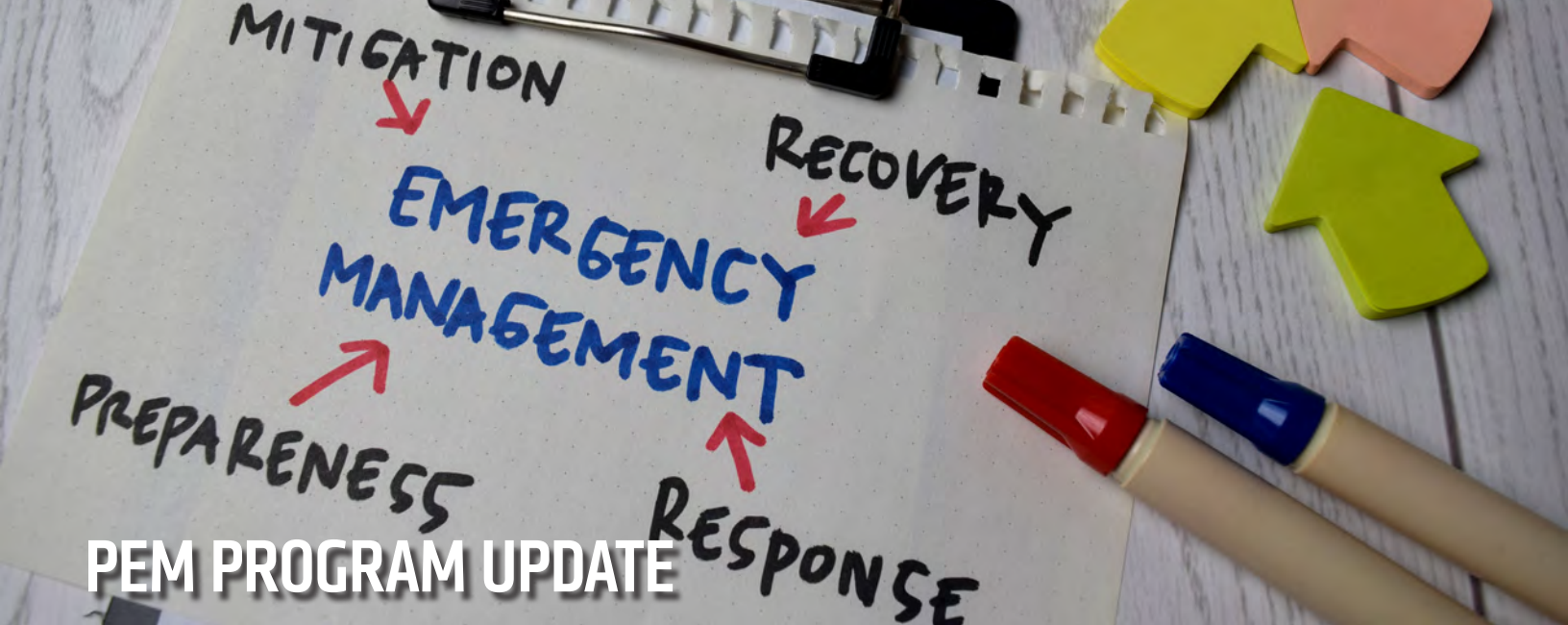
IDHS Director Stephen Cox was thrilled to present it to him for his 14 years of service increasing the resilience of Indiana through response, recovery and mitigation.

RECOVERY RECKONINGS

Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Public Assistance staff members are still working with FEMA to administer grants associated with the COVID-19 disaster, also known as DR4515. As of July, 127 public assistance project applications worth more than \$26 million in funding have been obligated by FEMA across the state. In addition to what has been obligated, another 522 project applications worth more than \$45 million are still under review.

While the vast majority of project applications likely have already been submitted, FEMA and IDHS are still accepting submissions for review, as the disaster event is still considered open and ongoing. Government entities and certain private nonprofits are still able to submit their disaster-related expenses for review and should also be able to register for assistance if they have not already done so.

Project applications and requests for public assistance can still be submitted through the [FEMA Grants Portal](#). For questions related to this disaster event, or about the Public Assistance program itself, please contact pa@dhs.in.gov. HS PA staff



PEM PROGRAM UPDATE

With the state returning to in-person classes, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is excited to promote the much-anticipated schedule of the FEMA National Emergency Management Basic Academy courses for 2021. These courses must be completed to obtain the state Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) certification. Hotel accommodations will be made available on a first-request basis for a limited number of people that live further than 50 miles from the training location. Registration is available in the [Acadis Portal](#).

08/16 - 08/20	L101 Foundations of Emergency Management	HENDRICKS COUNTY
08/30 - 09/01	L105 Public Information Basics	PULASKI COUNTY
09/07 - 09/08	L146 HSEEP	HENDRICKS COUNTY
10/04 - 10/06	L102 Science of Disaster	ELKHART COUNTY
10/12 - 10/13	L103 Planning: Emergency Operations	HENDRICKS COUNTY

All 11 Independent Study Courses must be completed before submitting an application for L101

- IS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System
- IS 120: Introduction to Exercise
- IS 200: ICS for Single Resources
- IS 235: Emergency Planning
- IS 240: Leadership and Influencing
- IS 241: Decision Making
- IS 242: Effective Communication
- IS 244: Developing and Managing Volunteers
- IS 700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction
- IS 800: National Response Framework, An Introduction

More information about the requirements for PEM certification can be found at: <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/Professional-Development-Worksheet-2020.pdf>

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL

It's a good month to be a Hoosier now that the Indiana State Fair has returned this year.

In fact, our Code Enforcement and inspection staff are busier than ever right now making sure the various festivals and fairs across the state are safe and focused on fun and community. In a typical year, Indiana State Fire Marshal [staff inspects thousands of buildings](#), boilers, elevators and amusement rides to ensure Indiana citizens are protected.



The Indiana State Fair is a major operation, with just under 1 million people walking through the gates each year. All amusement rides that appear at the fair have already been inspected once during the year if they have come into Indiana; however, they are re-inspected in the days leading up to the Indiana State Fair as an extra precaution. That amounts to 46 rides being inspected in a couple days, with an inspector being on site each day the fair is in operation.

Before you board a ride, make sure it features an Indiana State Fire Marshal certification sticker, and use the toll-free number listed to report any issues. A ride will not operate, at the Indiana State Fair or any other fair, unless it is certified.

The same holds true for stages and structures featuring entertainment and presentations at county fairs. Code Enforcement typically inspects more than 5,000 structures a year, with a sharp increase during the summer months.

I share this information for a couple of reasons. First, these men and women work hard to ensure all rules and regulations are followed, with safety being the top priority. Many of our residents are unaware of the work that takes place well before an event. I'm proud of the work and the service provided by our code enforcement and amusement ride inspection team.

Secondly, local public safety partners are critical to the safeguards implemented by Indiana. We work in collaboration with countless local officials—neighbors, friends and family members in your communities—to protect the public in a variety of different ways.

The [IDHS website](#) and social media channels share a lot of the stories about the work we do every day. I encourage you to take a step back and think about those folks working for you. On behalf of all Indiana State Fire Marshal staff, we appreciate the opportunity.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Thacker'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joel Thacker
Indiana State Fire Marshal



UPCOMING EVENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

OBSERVED: AUGUST

Practicing and observing school safety should happen the entire school year. However, Back to School Month offers school staff, parents and local first responders the opportunity to emphasize the importance of all-around safety practices.

The Indiana School Safety Hub is a great resource for educators and first responders for all forms of school safety information: www.in.gov/schoolsafety.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

OBSERVED: SEPTEMBER

2021 theme: "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

GetPrepared.in.gov has an abundance of safety tips that Hoosiers can follow to prepare for any form of emergency.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

OBSERVED: SEPTEMBER

Every year, due to the trauma they regularly face, many first responders make the decision to take their own lives. The National Alliance on Mental Illness encourages everyone to use Suicide Prevention Awareness Month as an opportunity to share resources, learn and discuss suicide prevention and treatment options. IDHS encourages every first responder to complete the mental health awareness course available in Acadis (search for "suicide").

For more information, visit www.nami.org.

PATRIOT DAY

OBSERVED: SEPTEMBER 11

2021 marks the 20th year since the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of many individuals on Sept. 11, 2001. Remind Hoosiers if they plan to host or attend a celebration that honors the brave men and women who were injured or lost their lives, that safety should be their first priority.

IDHS's "[Ready: Whenever. Wherever.](#)" public service campaign has provided safety tips on practicing awareness and developing a plan of action during emergencies at public gatherings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING" AWARENESS DAY

OBSERVED: SEPTEMBER 25

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security encourages citizens, private-owned and government organizations to help spread the message of reporting suspicious activity. Taking the time to learn and actively monitor for suspicious activity, will help keep communities safe. Sharing information about the importance of suspicious activity reporting on social media is one way to help keep communities safe.

For more information about what suspicious activity is, visit www.dhs.gov.

UPCOMING TRAININGS

AUGUST

08/16 - 08/20	Foundations of Emergency Management (L101)	DANVILLE
08/25 - 08/27	Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS300)	ELKHART
08/28 - 08/29	Advanced Land Cadaver Techniques for K-9s (K9410)	BRAZIL
08/31 - 09/02	Public Information & Warning (L105)	WINAMAC

SEPTEMBER

09/07 - 09/08	Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (L146)	PLAINFIELD
09/14 - 09/16	CBRNE Response-Sampling Techniques & Guidelines (PER222)	BLOOMINGTON
09/24	K-9 Pretest (K9600)	BRAZIL
09/25 - 09/26	K-9 Credentialing (K9650)	BRAZIL

OCTOBER

10/02 - 10/03	Advanced Tracking/Trailing Techniques for K-9s (K9420)	BRAZIL
10/04 - 10/06	Science of Disaster (L102)	ELKHART
10/05 - 10/06	Social Media Tools & Techniques (PER344)	VIRTUAL
10/12 - 10/13	Planning: Emergency Operations (L103)	DANVILLE

Register for all classes on the [Acadis Portal](#).

*The Indiana Department of Homeland Security works 24/7
to protect the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.*



*The Hoosier Responder is a publication of
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Please direct any questions or comments to the
IDHS Office of Public Affairs at 317.234.6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov*

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
302 West Washington Street
Indiana Government Center South
Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317.232.2222 or 800.669.7362

