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and resilient Indiana.*



ANNUAL 2021 REPORT

Indiana Fire and
Public Safety Academy



INDIANA FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



JANUARY 31, 2022



A letter from the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy's Director:

2021 was a remarkably busy year for the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy (the Academy).

The Academy's accomplishments were numerous, and the work continues into 2022. First, I would like to recognize the Academy staff. They are amazing people and have shined in their ability to get things done in 2021. Through their hard work and dedication, they moved the Academy forward to face the many challenges of today's firefighter and public safety training needs. The staff's ability to roll with changes and take on and complete multiple projects was nothing less than outstanding.

Academy staff spent countless hours communicating with IDHS customers, partners and leadership to provide the best customer experience possible. This report demonstrates the Academy's 2021 major accomplishments but does not account for all of them. The Academy is well-positioned for continued success in 2022 and beyond, and it looks forward to sharing those achievements with you.

Sincerely,



-Wade

Wade E. Walling | Director
Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy|

2021 TRAINING ADVANCEMENTS

NEW TRAINING SITE MADE@PLAINFIELD

The Academy successfully added a new training site at the MADE@Plainfield Higher Education building in Plainfield, Indiana. All Academy fire certification staff are now located in this building. This new training facility offers the IDHS team flexibility and space to provide high-quality trainings for fire personnel.

Office space includes:

- One large classroom
- One medium classroom
- Three offices for Academy staff
- One small conference room
- Access to shared classrooms and a shared conference center space



NEW PUBLIC SAFETY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Executive Leadership Development program was restructured into the new Public Safety Leadership Development program, and it was reduced from a five-block to a three-block model. This program is now scheduled throughout 2022 and is available for enrollment in Acadis.

FIRE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TRAINING

The Academy successfully created the first ever Indiana Fire Chief Executive Training program.

This course offers new and current fire chiefs a basic educational foundation in fire service leadership, using tested and proven methodology and principles to develop a fire chief's experience, knowledge, skills and abilities.

Initial feedback was extremely positive from participants.

"I think it is much, much needed to train the next level of leaders in the state as fire chiefs," said Brent Anderson, Plainfield fire territory chief. "This is going to put us in a much better situation to lead our organizations.

Damon Carpenter, chief of the East Chicago fire department, says he took away more than what was on the screen, "It's the people that made this and some of the relationships I've made because of this class...It's something I will always remember. Probably the highlight of my career."

The next course begins Feb. 16, 2022.



NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT (ERS) TRAINING PROGRAM

The new ERS training program focuses on Indiana volunteer fire departments. It provides a pathway that is less arduous in initial training for volunteer firefighters. New volunteer members can fill critical support functions in a department, which allows volunteer fire departments to tap into a new pool of potential candidates that were previously unavailable to them, such as members of Jewish and Amish communities or those who do not wish to be an interior firefighter. Not only will this help firefighting crews with on-site personnel, but it will also serve as an important step in improving the recruitment and retention of new firefighters who may otherwise be deterred by the requirements of more than 100 hours of training before joining a department. This program allows them to join in a limited capacity by completing 30 hours and participating in a support role as an introduction to firefighting.

This training meets Indiana legislative code requirements (IC 36-8-10.5-7) and will replace Indiana's Mandatory firefighter training program in early 2022.

AGRICULTURAL AND FARM TECH RESCUE PROGRAM

The Academy has begun development of a new Agricultural and Farm Tech Rescue Program. Farming remains one of the most dangerous professions in the country. Responding to accidents and rescue calls on farms require advanced technical skills and equipment. This program will create a standardized training platform for farm accident/rescues. Providing this training will prevent first responders from becoming secondary victims of agricultural rescues.

Portions of this program are slated to be developed at the Academy's new training site in Plainfield.

INDIANA FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY'S FIRE CHIEF ALAN W. BURNS AND PUBLIC SAFETY HANDS-ON TRAINING CENTER

The Academy broke ground on a new hands-on training center. This training site will focus on upper-level firefighting and training courses, including several technical rescue training courses that will better prepare Indiana's firefighter and public safety professionals for tomorrow's fire and public safety service. The Academy signed a 10-year land use MOU with the Department of Corrections as part of the deal.

NEW LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES

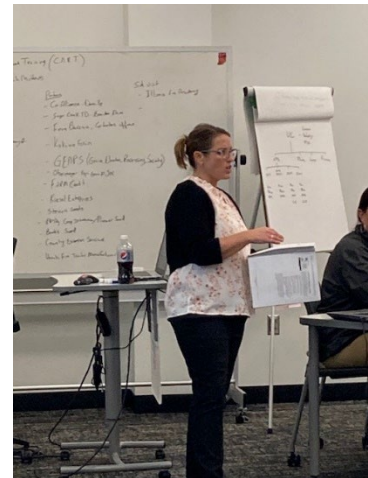
New leadership training courses were developed for all public safety disciplines:

- Communicating with Elected Leaders (standalone course)
- Body Language for Leaders (standalone course)
- Core Values (standalone course)
- Mitigated speech (standalone course)
- Change Management (standalone course)

UPDATED FIREFIGHTER CURRICULUM TRAININGS

Four updated firefighter curriculums were released:

- Fire Officer Strategy & Tactics
- Instructor I
- Instructor II
- Instructor III



FIREFIGHTER CURRICULUM UPDATE COMMITTEES CREATED

Several firefighter curriculum update committees were established to keep Academy curriculum current with NFPA and industry standards. Expected release: mid-to-late 2022.

- Fire Officer I, II, III, IV will be to the 2020 NFPA 1021 Standard
- Swift Water Rescue Awareness, Ops and Tech will be updated to the 2021 NFPA 1006 Standard
- Surface Water Rescue Awareness, Ops and Tech will be updated to the 2021 NFPA 1006 Standard
- Flood Water Rescue Awareness, Ops and Tech will be updated to the 2021 NFPA 1006 Standard
- Ice Rescue Awareness, Ops and Tech will be updated to the 2021 NFPA 1006 Standard
- Rope Rescue Awareness, Ops and Tech will be updated to the 2021 NFPA 1006 Standard



TRAINING ASSISTANCE

The Academy delivered firefighter training props to fire departments in support of local firefighter training. Each training trailer is reserved in two-week increments. The following list totals the number of times each trailer was utilized.

- SCBA Air Confidence training trailer - 4 uses
- Propane Prop training trailer – 4 uses
- HazMat training trailer - 14 uses
- Live Fire training trailer – 18 uses
- Confidence training trailer – 21 uses

ACADIS UPDATES

Enhancements were made to the testing portal for online examination security, and a new community calendar feature was released.

FUNDING AND GRANTS

The Academy granted \$208,335 in infrastructure funding for improvements and \$16,204 in direct awards from the Regional Public Safety Fund for local fire departments to support firefighter training.

The Academy granted \$83,004 in props to local fire departments, including six forcible entry door props, nine smart rescue mannequins and more consumable products for firefighter training.

The Academy was awarded 2020 fiscal year Assistance to the Firefighters Grant (AFG) totaling \$475,000, allowing the Academy to provide:

- Provide 1403 Live Fire Training Advisors and full SCBA and air bottles
- Provide a SCBA fill station and a PPE gear washer for the Academy's training site
- Provide a cardiac monitor for EMS section's simulation lab
- Provide a Class A live fire training trailer
- Purchase a vehicle extrication-equipped trailer to be used to host vehicle extrication courses.

NEW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROCESS

A new firefighter training and infrastructure grant process provides an impartial and more transparent process for grant funded training opportunities that will better serve firefighter and public safety training needs.

ACADEMY STAFF MILESTONES

- ✓ Academy staff reviewed 1,218 courses and directly facilitated 193 courses through instructors and consumables.
- ✓ Academy staff started the process to become and accredited EMS training institution.
- ✓ The Academy hosted several National Fire Academy and FEMA ICS courses. Including two Public Life Safety Educator courses.
- ✓ The Academy worked with IDHS legal staff to develop and provide a new draft version of the IAC 655 Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education rules.
- ✓ The Academy, along with IDHS Public Affairs Team, rebuilt the Academy webpage to provide easier access to IDHS customers.
- ✓ Academy staff worked alongside IDHS sections to develop and implement the IDHS Way, IDHS Core Values, IDHS Mission and Vision statements.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE FIREFIGHTING TRAINING CONSUMABLES

The Academy restructured how firefighter training consumables are purchased, stored and delivered. The process is now a Just-in-Time (JIT) model.

This JIT model helps the Academy reduce warehouse needs. It also will reduce the chances of having more stock on hand than is needed. This frees up taxpayer funding to be used for other training opportunities.

ACADEMY PARTNERSHIPS

PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE EDUCATION BOARD

The Academy supported seven Board of Firefighting, Personnel, Standards and Education meetings and provided space and staff to manage the board's directives and meeting minutes. The Academy also provided a website to house board minutes, IAC 655 Rules and training documents.

LIVE FIRE TRAINING ADVISOR PROGRAM

20 live fire training subject matter experts were hired to build and establish the Academy's new 1403 Live Fire Training Advisor (1403 Advisor) Program. This program was created in partnership with Indiana Department of Environmental Management and their open burn permitting process to reduce and/or prevent firefighter injuries and fatalities related to live fire training in Indiana.

PROJECT SAFE DRINKING WATER AFTER FIRES

The Academy partnered with Purdue University on a four-year project named “Project Safe Drinking Water After Fires.” This project will study drinking water after a structure fire affects plastic residential and commercial waterlines.

CONCLUSION

The Academy accomplished many successful projects over the last year, including being more responsive to IDHS customers by improving our communications with all IDHS customers and working with all sections of the IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety. The Academy anticipates 2022 to be another great year full of successful projects. Having the right staff, resources and partners alongside outstanding IDHS leadership support is instrumental in the Academy’s ability to make real and lasting changes to better serve Indiana taxpayers and IDHS customers. The Academy’s commitment to providing outstanding customer service coupled with being good fiscal stewards of taxpayer funding and federal grant dollars, and the desire to continue changing lives through public safety education, training and certification will drive the Academy’s improvement efforts in 2022.

