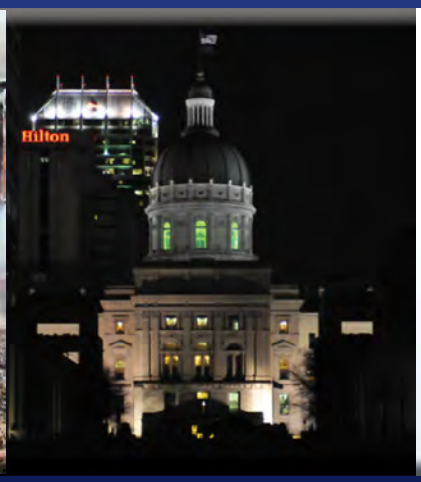

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS
JANUARY 1, 2011 - OCTOBER 31, 2012

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Executive Letter

Joseph E. Wainscott, Jr.
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Executive Director

Since Governor Mitch Daniels instituted the Indiana Department of Homeland Security in 2005, the agency has successfully and unwaveringly endeavored to provide leadership for a safe and secure Indiana. There still is much to do, but thanks to our partners, public safety professionals across Indiana are better positioned to serve our citizens.

From training and certifications for EMS and firefighters, to arson investigation, disaster planning, response and recovery; to building, elevator, amusement ride, and boiler and pressure vessel safety, these seemingly disparate functions are all united under one agency for the common objective of safeguarding Hoosiers as they live, work, and raise their families.

Inspections of elevators, amusement rides, boiler and pressure vessels and buildings are at an all time high for efficiency. Inspectors took a leadership role with the huge task of supporting the Super Bowl and collaborating extensively with the City of Indianapolis to check structures for safety. IDHS also supported the event operationally.

In the aftermath of the 2011 Indiana State Fair tragedy, inspectors worked vigorously to connect with local organizers, venue managers and owners to make sure new rules for outdoor stage rigging were communicated and questions answered.

Now nationally recognized as a best practice in emergency management, the full effect and power of the district concept for emergency planning and response is being realized in a concrete way as the 10 district response task forces – including EMA, fire, EMS, and law enforcement elements with a high priority on incident command and incident management training – approach maturity. In real world emergencies, task forces from northern and central Indiana provided rapid and effective mutual aid to their neighbors during the 2011 spring floods and 2012 southern Indiana tornadoes.

The Indiana Firefighter Training System continues to provide certification and in-service training to several thousand Hoosier firefighters annually. Bringing training to firefighters' doorsteps, or at least their neighborhoods, means more time learning and less time traveling.

In August 2011, under IDHS's leadership, the Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) was launched to connect data from disparate criminal justice and public safety systems together for enhanced decision making and increased public safety.

Again leading the way, IDHS recently became one of the first states in the nation to develop and publish a comprehensive Disaster Housing and Emergency Services plan along with the state's first ever advisory committee and disaster housing task force.

As the agency looks to the future and prepares to meet the new challenges of an ever-changing risk landscape, IDHS is expected to remain an innovative and proactive leader in public safety both for its own citizens and the citizens of other states who look to the best practices of Indiana to lead the way.

Thank you for your support as we continue to provide leadership for a safe and secure Indiana.

Sincerely,

National Level Exercise 2011

From May 16 through May 19, 2011, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security coordinated Indiana's participation in the 2011 National Level Exercise, designed to strengthen national preparedness in an emergency. The situation was a catastrophic earthquake, the first time a natural disaster had been the subject of a NLE.

As a full scale (realistic situation) player, Indiana was a focal point and was one of eight states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) that participated. NLE 2011 was a White House directed Congressionally-mandated exercise that included the participation of all appropriate federal department and agency senior officials, their deputies and staff and key operational elements. NLE 2011 focused on regional catastrophic response and recovery activities between federal, regional, state, tribal, local and private sector participants.

The exercise was designed to test and validate response and recovery capabilities of all levels of government, including: communications, mass care, citizen evacuation, emergency public information and emergency operations center management.

Participating in a video teleconference with the President, Vice President and Secretary of U.S. Homeland Security are, from left, Andrew Velasquez, FEMA Region V Administrator; Joe Wainscott, Executive Director of IDHS; Becky Skillman, Indiana Lieutenant Governor; Greg Eaton, FEMA FCO; and Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana National Guard Adjutant General.

The full-scale exercise at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Indiana included more than 1,200 emergency responders from more than half of Indiana's counties.

National Level Exercise 2011

Scenario Challenges All Levels of Response

To best test the response, the exercise had to have a high stress scenario. The exercise scenario included the following parameters:

- A catastrophic 7.7 magnitude earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic zone.
- A 6.0 magnitude earthquake in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone.
- More than 1.385 million Hoosiers without power.
- Communications, including cable, landline and cell phones, and Internet, were down throughout all of Southern Indiana.
- Disaster declarations were approved for 27 counties in Indiana.
- Emergency operation centers were activated in 18 counties.

The scenario consisted of thousands of incidents affecting all aspects of public and private infrastructure.

Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator, confers with IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott (right), and the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger (left). The exercise proved beneficial to all agencies involved.

Super Bowl XLVI

Indianapolis hosted Super Bowl XLVI on February 5, 2012 after a two-week lead up celebration downtown. Planning for the event took several years, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, along with many other state, local and federal agencies, played a role in ensuring its success.

Plan Review and Code Enforcement

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson oversaw the work flow of plan approval, and the deployment of code enforcement inspectors and others in the IDHS Divison of Fire and Building Services as they worked closely with the City of Indianapolis fire and building inspectors for a successful and safe event. Starting shortly after Christmas and all the way up to the Super Bowl itself, many tents and other structures were checked by the 15 IDHS inspectors involved. Vendors who had to have various permits complimented the state and city on the teamwork, stating it provided solutions instead of roadblocks.

The IDHS Planning Division developed a base plan of operations to use during the 10-day period leading up to and including the game itself. The plan was cited as a national best practice from U.S. Department of Homeleand Security and was briefed to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

IDHS was thanked by the Super Bowl Committee and the United States Department of Homeland Security for its support of the high profile event.

Super Bowl XLVI

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER USED AS HUB DURING SUPER BOWL

With more than 1.5 million visitors at the Super Bowl Village on Georgia Street, crowd control and public safety were paramount.

The State Emergency Operations Center moved to an alternate location and served as a hub responsible for communications and directing additional resources if requested.

While keeping an eye on the Super Bowl, the SEOC's primary role was keeping situational awareness for the entire state of Indiana.

IDHS HOSTS SUPER BOWL JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

The Super Bowl Public Safety Joint Information Center was established and hosted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to communicate with the public.

It was staffed with representatives from city, state and federal public safety agencies to collect relevant information and to provide answers to the media.

Social media was used to convey important information directly to visitors.

Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

In the spring of 2011 and the winter of 2012, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security participated in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut. More than a million Hoosiers in schools, businesses, and homes across the state participated in the two largest earthquake drills ever held in Indiana and the Midwest. The events were organized by the Central United States Earthquake Consortium.

The Shakeout is a great way for citizens to practice preparedness and response to earthquakes. Taking precautions for earthquakes can also aid in preparing for other disasters.

Indiana is adjacent to the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and is in close proximity to the New Madrid Seismic Zone. Coupled with the fact that Indiana's geology makes the state more susceptible to earthquake damage, it is imperative that Hoosiers prepare for this type of disaster.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security was one of many agencies to participate in the Shakeout. Others included county emergency management agencies, fire departments, FEMA, the Central United States Earthquake Consortium, the Indiana Geological Survey and the United States Geological Survey.

"I believe a substantially greater number of our citizens are now better prepared to respond appropriately in an earthquake."

- Joseph E. Wainscott, Jr.
Executive Director of IDHS

Leading the Pack...

- **600,000+** Hoosiers participated in the 2011 drill, most among the eleven states involved.
- **525,000+** Hoosiers participated in the 2012 drill, most among the nine states involved.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is already looking ahead to the 2013 Great Central U.S. ShakeOut, on February 7, 2013.

Great Central U.S. ShakeOut

IDHS Receives Praise for ShakeOut Drills

"I commend the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and schools across the Hoosier state for working together to organize this important event on behalf of Indiana's students,"
- Dr. Tony Bennett, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

"It is these types of preparedness initiatives that truly help us build a more resilient nation, and I applaud Indiana for including the whole community in this effort."
- Andrew Velasquez III, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region V, Chicago, IL

"Our first effort at holding a multi-state, public facing earthquake drill has been a huge success. This is in large part due to the importance that the Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security has placed on informing the public, and teaching them what to do before, during and after an earthquake."
- Jim Wilkinson, CUSEC Executive Director

"Even if we don't experience a serious earthquake in the very near future, earthquake preparedness plans and supplies can protect citizens against other natural disasters such as floods and tornadoes."
-Walter Gray, Indiana Geological Survey Educational Outreach Coordinator

During the shakeout, Hoosiers learned about all types of earthquake safety procedures such as Drop, Cover, and Hold on. This procedure requires the person to drop to the floor, crawl under a sturdy table or desk for cover, and hold on to it while the ground shakes. Hoosiers were able to practice this life-saving technique during the drill.

Quake Cottage

The Indiana Geological Survey purchased the "Quake Cottage," an earthquake simulator, thanks to a grant provided by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

In partnership with IDHS, the mobile Quake Cottage is touring the state to educate the public in earthquake preparedness. Hundreds of Hoosiers were informed and experienced the Quake Cottage during the Indiana State Fair, and the program plans to give presentations throughout the state, to educate the public, especially at schools.

The Quake Cottage provides a safe yet realistic experience of the shaking that can occur during an earthquake. Built to resemble a living room, the cottage demonstrates the inexpensive ways Hoosiers can prepare their homes for an earthquake. Emergency lights come on, drawers lock thanks to a specially designed lock and shelf guards drop to ensure items stay in place.

The cottage is one of three in the United States, the other two are in California and Alaska.

Spring 2011 Floods

On Monday, April 18, 2011, severe storms caused massive flooding across Southern Indiana. Following the storms, 13 counties issued disaster declarations and 18 counties activated their county's Emergency Operations Center.

Over the next two weeks, personnel from across the state aided in the response. With coordination from IDHS, members of the Indiana National Guard were deployed to some of the hardest hit areas in Daviess, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer and Vanderburgh counties to fill sandbags.

Indiana State Police, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Correction, Department of Transportation and the District 6 All Hazard Incident Management Team all assisted with operations.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security deployed its Incident Response Vehicle (IRV) with seven staff for five days. The IRV assisted local emergency management officials with flood response coordination efforts.

Flood Response by the Numbers

36 counties were approved for disaster loans by FEMA.

102 Indiana Department of Correction inmates assisted in filling sandbags.

255 Indiana National Guard personnel were deployed at the peak of the flooding.

3,000 tons of sand were used.

100,000 sandbags were filled.

Southern Indiana Tornadoes 2012

On March 2, 2012 severe storms and tornadoes cut a path of destruction through Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, Warrick, and Washington counties. Significant damage was done to New Pekin, and the towns of Henryville and Marysville were all but destroyed. It was estimated that the storm left nearly 2 million cubic yards of debris in two counties. Overall, the storms claimed 13 lives, including an entire family.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved Individual and Public Disaster Assistance for Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, and Washington counties. Warrick County was also eligible for Individual Assistance.

Within hours of the devastating storms touching down in southern Indiana, the District 4 Response Task Force and Indiana Task Force 1 were on the ground and assisting with recovery efforts in Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, Warrick and Washington counties.

The State Emergency Operations Center was activated to coordinate the response.

Also deployed were the IDHS Incident Response Vehicle, the State Incident Management Assistance Team, and more than 300 members of the Indiana National Guard. Over the course of 17 days, District Response Task Force components provided assistance.

A State Joint Information Center, with public information officers from state and federal agencies, was also established to help disseminate information to the public, and support local public information officers' needs.

Southern Indiana Tornadoes

FEMA Recognizes Efforts as Best Practices

The first was a daily newsletter, Rebuilding: A Guide for Disaster Survivors, which was printed and hand-delivered to storm victims.

The newsletter was designed to inform those victims who had limited access to traditional media due a loss of power and communications. It focused on recovery efforts, such as debris disposal, and news about assistance victims could use.

Initial circulation was 200 daily, but quickly rose to more than 1,500 daily due to popular demand.

The newsletter informed the public about debris disposal, road closures, or even where they could get a hot shower.

The Indiana One-Stop Shop concept was first developed in response to floods in 2008.

The other best practice was the One-stop Shops. These shops were designed to have all state and federal agencies responding to the disaster as well as any related services all at one location so storm victims could easily gather relevant information and quickly receive needed aid.

In addition to the shop in Sellersburg, IN, which ran for 10 days from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., there were two single-day shops set up in the towns of Holton and New Pekin.

One-stop Shop Agencies

American Red Cross • Bureau of Motor Vehicles • Department of Insurance • Department of Workforce Development • Federal Emergency Management Agency • Indiana Department of Homeland Security • Indiana Family & Social Services Administration • Indiana State Excise Police • Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority • Indiana State Department of Health • Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives • Indiana Office of Technology

Autumn Exercises 2012

October 2012 Radiological Exercise

In October, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security led a radiological exercise involving response to a nuclear power plant in Michigan that also affected areas of Indiana.

Agencies that responded included: Indiana Board of Animal Health; Indiana Department of Administration; Indiana Department of Environmental Management; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Indiana Department of Transportation; Indiana National Guard; Indiana State Department of Agriculture; Indiana State Department of Health; Indiana State Police; Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Office of the Governor; Office of the Indiana State Chemist; and Purdue Extension Services.

During the course of the exercise, elements from Indiana practiced integrating with another state's response efforts, including working with leadership from another state.

Without Warning Exercise 2012

In September 2012, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security hosted Without Warning, a full-scale exercise that not only tested Indiana's response to disastrous tornadoes and flooding, but also involved teams from Kentucky, Illinois and San Diego. The exercise also drew international attention, with representatives from the United Kingdom coming to observe.

Like Tornado Alley in April, Without Warning tested the response capabilities of the district response task force structure. The exercise allowed responders the chance to practice the five core elements of each task force: fire; emergency medical services; service and support; law enforcement; and incident management. Additionally, each day of the exercise gave the districts an opportunity to practice mobilization, integration into current efforts, transfer of command, and demobilization; aspects that tend to go under-practiced.

Tornado Alley Exercise 2012

In April 2012, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security tested more of Indiana's disaster response capabilities in the State Level Exercise 2012: Tornado Alley. The exercise allowed observers to see how the district response task force structure handled coordination and response to a catastrophic EF5 tornado.

Replicating the challenges of transferring command, task force participation was staggered across several days. This provided experience in some of the most essential, but under-practiced aspects of emergency response – mobilization, integration into current response efforts, transfer of command, and demobilization.

Public information and warning was another aspect practiced at the Tornado Alley exercise. A mock-media crew tested the ability of the local Joint Information Center by requesting interviews and preparing stories based on the information they received. Mock-media also responded to incidents, testing the responders' ability to handle media in a crisis situation.

The exercise also allowed for practice of fire suppression, law enforcement, search and rescue, incident management, and emergency public information.

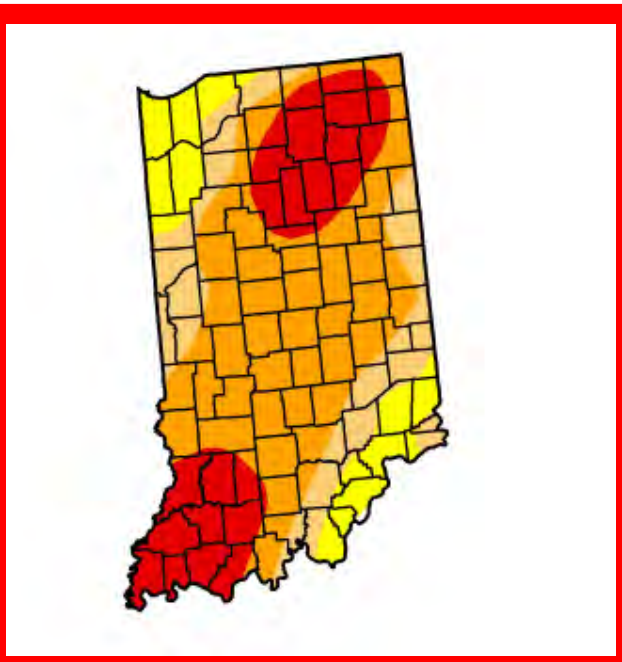
More than 600 responders participated in the exercise, including full task forces from Districts 4 and 6, as well as service and support elements from Districts 2 and 3. The Indiana National Guard and the Indiana Incident Management Assitance Team also particpated.

Summer Drought 2012

A winter without much snow, and an unusually dry spring left much of Indiana in a drought for most of 2012. This led to burn bans and fireworks bans in counties in Indiana. The possibility of low water supply also called for some water restrictions.

The unusually dry conditions made it very easy for small sparks to ignite large fires. Even though it was near Independance Day, many cities and counties temporarily banned fireworks.

The conditions also led to poor crop production, jeopardizing local farms and other agricultural dependent businesses across the state. The United States Small Business Administration made low-interest disaster loans available to small businesses affected by the drought in all 92 counties.



The drought map of Indiana from the U.S. Drought Monitor for June 26, 2012. Every area of the state was at least abnormally dry, with 87% designated as under a "Moderate Drought."

Dr. Vincent Covello Speaks about Emergency Communications

On August 28, IDHS hosted Dr. Vincent Covello of the Center for Risk Communication. He spoke to public information officers from around the state about communication tactics in emergency situations. Throughout the day, the group examined past examples of both good and bad communication, and worked to develop strategies for future events.

Covello is an internationally recognized expert in risk communications. He is also the founder and director of the Center for Risk Communication.

Dr. Covello (right) speaks with IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. During his presentation, Dr. Covello highlighted the importance of speaking with passion and conviction during a crisis.

Event Safety Alliance Conference

On August 13, 2011, tragedy struck at the Indiana State Fair. At an outdoor concert, equipment rigging collapsed during a storm, killing seven and causing injuries.

In response to the tragedy, and similar fatal accidents at other venues around the world, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security hosted an Event Safety Alliance meeting on April 23, 2012. The meeting brought together entertainment industry leaders from around the globe to address the need for better safety standards for the production of outdoor events.

Design professionals from as far away as the United Kingdom attended the conference held at the Indiana Government Center.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott both addressed the group, calling for national safety standards that would help with the safety of outdoor events.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels addressed an international gathering of outdoor safety event professionals in Indianapolis.

In May 2012, the Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission passed emergency rules that regulate the design, installation, inspection, use, and maintenance of outdoor stage equipment. This gave IDHS Code Enforcement inspectors the authoritiy to check temporary or permanent towers, booms, ramps, platforms, overhead assemblies, or other structures not already anchored to the stage. The Indiana Fire Marshal's Office has led the effort and has reached out to festival and fair organizers across the state to help them understand and comply with the new provisions.

Fire & Building Services

IDHS Plan Review Paves the Way for New Business

It is always great news when new jobs come to the State of Indiana. But before work can start, building plans must be approved.

In 2012, Amazon announced it would bring 1,000 jobs to Jeffersonville by 2015 with the construction of a new warehouse.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Plan Review staff in the Fire and Building Services Division worked closely with architects and local authorities to review and approve drawings and documents for the new building. Documentation was provided in a timely fashion, which allowed IDHS staff to review the plans early in the process and get the building started even sooner.

Amazon is expected to open by the fall of 2012, and is going to be the largest building in southern Indiana with four mezzanine levels and 1,750,000 square feet of space.

With the cooperation of IDHS and other businesses, the agency's goal is to ensure the safety of Indiana's citizens by following codes and standards, while also securing the economy through job creation.

Fire & Building Services by the numbers...

330 arson investigations performed by the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office in 2011

1,466 amusement rides were inspected in 2011

16,754 elevator inspections were performed in 2011.

80,000 active pressure vessels are regulated in Indiana.

$2.5 million in tax revenue generated through fireworks display and retailer permits during the 2011 Fiscal Year.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office regulates the safety of all public buildings in Indiana, as well as provides guidance to hundreds of career and volunteer fire departments across the state.

Field Services

District Task Forces Save Resources, Staffing

The District Task Force Initiative streamlines the mutual aid process which enables counties in each district to directly support each other, and also allows for districts to respond quickly to areas of the state that may need their aid.

This was demonstrated in March 2012 in response to the tornadoes that hit southern Indiana. District 4 mobilzed all of its Task Force components, and deployed to southern Indiana along with elements from District 1, 2, 6 and 7. This helped keep local districts from overextending their own resources.

In April 2012, Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 validated their capabilities in full scale exercises. Districts 7, 8, 9, and 10 validated their capabilities in September 2012.

Assessment Finds Nearly All Counties Meet Basic Preparedness Standards

The Emergency Management Capabilities Assessment program looks at several key areas of county emergency management programs, and provides them with a means for strategic improvement that can help guide them toward completion of nationally recognized emergency management standards.

The 2011/2012 County Emergency Management Agency Assessment determined 90 of Indiana's 92 counties are meeting minimum standards. It also established eligibility for 74 counties to receive additional local funding based on advanced and improved capabilities developed during the assessment period.

All Hazards Incident Management Teams

Each district is developing an All Hazard Incident Management team using federal National Incident Management System guidelines. Each team is comprised of highly trained and experienced public safety professionals.

The All Hazard Incident Management Teams ensure greater organization and efficiency and can reduce the number of resources required at the scene.

Planning & Assessment

The Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx), a 21-agency effort that includes federal, state and local association participation, launched as a proof-of-concept in August 2011 under Indiana Department of Homeland Security's leadership.

The initiative seeks to connect data from disparate justice and public safety systems together for enhanced decision making and increased public safety.

Ultimately, IDEx also increases effectiveness and efficiency of governmental services by placing the right information in the right person's hands at the right time – all critical elements in ensuring a safe community for residents of the Hoosier state.

FEMA: IDHS Grants Management Leading The Way

During the federally mandated bi-annual monitoring visit conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the IDHS Grants Management Section was cited with two nationally recognized best practices.

Both the Indiana Grants Management System (iGMS), an online system to manage grants, and the sub-grantee monitoring programs were recognized as a best practice.

FEMA reported that the iGMS had "significantly improved Indiana's ability to manage large federal grants and track documentation of match-cost sharing details."

Furthermore, FEMA described the state's monitoring program had "utilized the best elements of other grantees and is now leading the way."

Indiana is the First in Nation to Test Disaster Housing Plan

Pursuant to a Housing and Urban Development grant that was given to IDHS, Indiana became one of the first states in the nation to develop and publish a comprehensive Disaster Housing and Emergency Services plan along with the state's first advisory committee and disaster housing task force. The plan engages more than 13 state agencies and several non-governmental organizations that shall have key responsibilities during disaster and emergency incidents. The plan was recently exercised for the first time in order to identify areas for improvement. In that exercise, the Federal Emergency Management Agency confirmed that Indiana was the first state in the nation to test core capabilities in a plan.

Response & Recovery

State Disaster Relief Fund Helps Hoosiers Denied Federal Loans

In 2011, when no counties were eligible for federal assistance, the State Disaster Relief Fund provided assistance in three disasters.

The fund provided assistance to individuals that were denied Small Business Administration disaster loans and also helped local governments that met the state's criteria. A total of 72 individuals received more than $230,000 in assistance. Six local governments received more than $311,000.

Indiana is one of the few states that has a funded State Disaster Relief Fund.

State Hazard Mitigation Plan Receives Federal Approval

On April 22, 2011, FEMA approved the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, after it was updated to include additional federal requirements. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is designed to minimize damage during a disaster.

Mitigation staff collaborated with universities, and local, state and federal agencies, spending more than 300 hours preparing the plan. The plan is important as it is a guide to the state's mitigation process; however it is also required for the state to receive federal disaster assistance for state and local government infrastructure repair under the Public Assistance Program (grants to governement and certain nonprofit agencies).

IDHS Distributes Thousands of All-Hazard Radios to Hoosiers Across the State

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security distributed more than 5,500 alert radios in 2011 in partnership with county emergency management agencies. This distribution was designed to benefit Indiana residents who may be economically disadvantaged. The radios may be some residents' only means of receiving severe storm warnings, or warnings about other hazardous incidents that may occur.

The radios have been distributed in different ways across Indiana. Some counties have used the radios to help increase public awareness of the need to be prepared, while others have used them so that victims of disasters have peace of mind and a way to receive emergency information. IDHS is planning to continue this program in the future.

Training & Preparedness

After the catastrophic 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, officials in South Korea reached out to IDHS Search and Rescue Training Manager, Lilian Hardy, to help them build their own search dog program modeled after the IDHS Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh, Indiana.

The best way to test preparedness plans is to practice them. The IDHS Training Division conducted a total of 285 exercise activities ranging in all scopes and sizes from January 2011 to June 2012. Some of those included:

- Tornado Alley: A full-scale exercise that tested the real response and recovery to an EF-5 torando.
- Without Warning: A full-scale State Level Exercise that involved response teams from different states and tested response to tornadoes and flooding.
- Energy Assurance and Security: A tabletop exercise where state public safety officials and private sector partners discussed how they would handle a severe winter storm.
- EMS Vision for the Future: A workshop where state and federal emergency medical officials discussed recovery plans for future incidents.

Communications Plan Praised as a Best Practice by Federal Experts

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) worked with consultant Crowe Horwath LLP to prepare and validate Tactical Interoperable Communications Plans for each of the 10 IDHS districts. It also completed data entry of Indiana's communications assets and agencies into the Communications Assets and Mapping (CASM) database.

The project began in summer of 2010 and was completed in spring of 2011. Federal communications experts noted it as a best practice for having the most comprehensive collection of communications assets within the CASM tool. Additionally, all 10 districts in the state now have a Comprehensive Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan, with the goal of effective communications across all public safety agencies.

Certifications

The IDHS Certification Section is responsible for training course approval, testing, certifying and recertifying individuals, as firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

From January 2011 to June 2012, the EMS Certifications Branch issued 3,545 new certifications, including those for emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and emergency vehicle operators. There were more than 11,000 recertifications issued for those positions.

An online EMS certificate renewal system was also rolled out in 2011, providing emergency personnel a faster, more efficient method of updating certifications.

Firefighter training remains a key component of IDHS initiatives, and the Indiana Firefighter Training System continues to provide millions of dollars in training and equipment. Training has been provided both locally and regionally around the state. Increased use of technology has led to the addition of online and hybrid class offerings to the traditional classroom courses.

The Fire Training Branch issued 9,699 certifications in 2011, and provided 5,259 students with nearly 250,000 hours in free training and courses coordinated through the District Firefighter Training Councils.

The IDHS Mobile Simulation Laboratory has been in full swing. It provides EMS trainees hands on experience with a simulation mannequin. To date 49 simulation events have been held with more than 600 participants.

Indiana Makes All Paramedics Licensed

During the 2012 legislative session, Gov. Mitch Daniels signed a bill into law that made all paramedics in Indiana licensed. All those with paramedic certificates became licensed paramedics as of July 1, 2012.

The biggest effect of this change is that hospitals and other healthcare providers outside the EMS field of operations may be able to utilize paramedics in a more expanded capacity.

Communications

WORKSHOPS HELP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS LEARN KEY COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Public Information Officers from around the state had the opportunity to attend several Indiana Department of Homeland Security workshops to improve their communication skills and to gain new tools for communicating with the public and their local media partners. These workshops covered many topics, including how to write effective press releases, how to work with local media and ways to use social media.

These workshops also provide an excellent opportunity for Public Information Officers to build a network of support that they can call on during an emergency.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CONTINUES TO USE SOCIAL MEDIA

IDHS continues to use social media to raise awareness of disaster preparedness, fire safety and other topics and use it as an avenue to deliver important information regarding incidents. As of Oct. 31, 2012, IDHS has more than 10,000 followers. IDHS uses Facebook and Twitter for Hoosiers to share and receive information.

HOOSIER RESPONDER KEEPS INDIANA RESPONSE PERSONNEL INFORMED

The *Hoosier Responder* is a monthly newsletter distributed to emergency response personnel across the state of Indiana. It informs its readers of upcoming events, stories of accomplishment and unique tactics being used by other similar agencies. The *Hoosier Responder* also gives information on other relevant topics, such as interoperable communications and cyber security.