



Hoosier Responder

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IDHS Training Division Announces new Learning Management System

By Jay Penndorf

The IDHS Training Division is now offering state-of-the-art web based training programs in addition to its many instructor led training courses. "The Indiana First Responder Learning Management System" was created to provide high quality and relevant training to Indiana first responders without the expense of travel to a remote training site, and excessive time off the job. Today this is especially important to our first responders and their employers as a result of current high travel costs and declining budgets. Obviously, many of the IDHS training courses must continue to be conducted in a classroom or training site environment to be effective. Such courses rely on interaction between instructors and students and/or skill practice. However, there are courses currently taught in a classroom that lend themselves well to web based training.

Some features of the new system are:

- "Objective driven content", in the form of text and graphics, from which the student can easily learn.

- Course integrated training videos.
- What would have been "handouts" and "job aids" in instructor led courses, are downloadable or printable attachments in this system.
- Downloadable materials such as standard operating procedure samples or spreadsheets are provided which are not only tools for learning, they can also be modified and tailored for actual use on the job.
- The Indiana First Responder Learning Management System will also feature links to external training courses offered by other agencies. Most are free and some require payment.
- Short quizzes after each learning module or unit, and a final examination when students have completed all modules of the course.



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From the Director's Chair

By now you've probably seen previews or episodes of the new television drama "Homeland Security USA." The show is based on what is often perceived as Homeland Security, terrorism and customs. But those of us on the inside know that we do so much more. In fact, it is just a small part of what we do in Indiana. It is our responsibility as Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) employees to inform Hoosiers of our roles and responsibilities.

The establishment of IDHS in 2005 enabled historic changes to Indiana's approach to homeland security issues. Unification of the

homeland security, counter-terrorism, emergency management and safety code priorities, driven by unique collaboration in Indiana that involves all aspects of the public, private and educational sectors, has been a great achievement. IDHS serves as the state's designated homeland security and emergency management coordinating agency, and seeks to support preparedness, prevention, response and recovery from all hazards, natural and man-made.

Emergencies and disasters are inevitable, however, being prepared for these all-hazard situations can protect Indiana's public safety professionals, general population and

property. The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC), created in 2006, was established to collect, analyze and disseminate information and intelligence data regarding criminal and terrorist activity. Fusion centers rank as one of the most critical pieces to domestic counter-terrorism architecture. Their goal is to analyze and distribute intelligence to the law enforcement personnel who protect Hoosiers.

The Planning division of IDHS is a critical component to the preparedness and



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Winter Storm Wreaks Havoc on Indiana

A winter storm made its way through the state in late January. The system dumped heavy snow and freezing rain across most of Indiana.

As much as 13 inches of snow and 1 inch of ice was reported across central and southern Indiana. Downed power lines left more than 273,000 Hoosier homes were left in the dark.

In an effort to provide support to local agencies, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to a Level III. State agencies, the Indiana National Guard and not for profit partners focuses efforts on requests from the counties including debris removal. To fulfill this request, Department of Natural Resources sawyer



crews were sent to Perry and Crawford counties to assist and a Department of Corrections work crew and a National Guard Humvee were deployed.

Thousands of Hoosiers faced cleanup and repair of their homes. Severe weather caused three deaths and several injuries. A Marengo woman was killed in a crash on an icy road, and two southern Indiana residents collapsed while shoveling snow.

IDHS has assembled damage assessment teams to survey damage in the counties affected. The information collected will be used to help quantify losses from flooding and determine if federal assistance should be requested. The damage reports will identify what areas damage assessment teams need to be sent and help to justify the need for disaster assistance.



Employee Spotlight - Joe Romero

Joe Romero is the State EOC Planning Section Chief and has been for the past 18 months. He is responsible for information gathering, analysis and operations planning for the State EOC. He also manages the District Planning Council and District Task Force Programs.

Romero's favorite food is New York style, hand-tossed pizza. In his spare time, he enjoys sailing, hiking, camping, caving and watching SpongeBob with his 4 year old daughter Sophia. Romero and wife of 14 years, Megan are expecting their second child, a baby boy in May.

Public Safety Identification Numbers



If you have not received your PSID number you can contact psidquestions@dhs.in.gov. Please do not call the office as one will not be issued via the telephone.

Employee Spotlight - Dee Mickey



Deanavon (Dee) Mickey has been the Receptionist/Secretary at IDHS for the past 3 years. She is responsible for answering the phone, directing calls and greeting visitors. In addition to those responsibilities, she schedules the main conference room, does mail runs, and processes IT order for phones and phone problems. She also makes updates to the State Information Website

regarding roster changes and new employees. Most recently, Mickey has taken on the responsibility of the agency birthdays and display board. When time permits, Mickey is also available to assist others in the office with responsibilities. She says, "As with most of us, my responsibilities keep growing and I keep learning which I hope will continue for a long time to come."

Mickey enjoys the diversity and the challenges her job offers, especially working with the public. She really enjoyed the opportunities during the disasters in 2008. She was available to offer some direction, an ear to listen and in many cases, ease the sometimes insurmountable frustrations felt by those sitting in the middle of the disaster. She states she found it very rewarding to be of assisting, if only on a small scale.

Outside of work, Mickey enjoys crocheting, knitting, writing, cooking and working with

her house plants. About a year ago, Mickey and her granddaughter took on the responsibility of the church newsletter. She, and her granddaughter, write all of the articles and Mickey is currently learning how to do layout, graphics and design. She says it is a lot of work, but she enjoys working with the members of the church and especially enjoys working with her granddaughter.

Mickey's favorite food is eggplant parmesan, with steak, salad and baked potatoes a close second. This year, she and her husband will celebrate 45 years of marriage. They have 2 sons, a daughter in law that is like a daughter, and two beautiful grandchildren that she is very proud of.

She concludes, "no matter what the future holds for me, I have no regrets. Life has been good."

EMS Practical Skills Day at Ivy Tech - Bloomington

By Ken (Woody) Woodall

For many of us that have gone through the rigors of the practical skills test, you appreciate the nervousness that is felt by those who have followed the steps you took to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). You have trained for weeks, learning the skills that would become second nature to you in years to come but today, you have



26-year EMS professional Archie Tinsley directs testing at Ivy Tech in Bloomington.

to demonstrate those skills to the evaluators. You have to be evaluated and you must ensure that you meet the critical tasks associated with completing the skills correctly. Your nerves are on edge, your heart is racing and your mind is running mach speeds.

These emotions are what nearly 50 emergency medical students from Ivy Tech and IU experienced at one point on Saturday, January 31 in Bloomington. The practical skills test was comprised of seven different stations which students had to pass through during the long test day. During their down time, students were able to relax, grab lunch and share experiences as they perceived them to be.

These students, these budding EMT's, will become the next generation of street warriors. Through clinical and practical instruction as well as a field internship, these



This student demonstrated how to put an O₂ mask on a patient in the Medical exam station.

students, with the exception of having years of experience under their belts will be prepared to function in the uncontrolled environment of emergency medicine in the pre-hospital setting. With completion of passing written and practical tests, students will qualify for state certification as an emergency medical technician. Indiana is fortunate to have folks like these that want to serve in such a noble role.

Employee Spotlight - Niki Theeuwes

Niki Theeuwes is a grant coordinator for the IDHS planning division. She has been responsible for grant writing for the past year. She enjoys the people she gets to work with and likes to help others. When she is not working, Theeuwes likes quilting, cross-stitch, and reading. Her favorite food is Mexican and Chinese and likes almost anything chocolate.

Theeuwes and her husband, Al, live on the west side of Indianapolis and have three

daughters, all of which are in college. Kimberly attends IUPUI and is majoring in Biology; Jennifer attends Eastern Michigan University and is majoring in Elementary Education; and Jessica is attending Mott Community College in Flint, MI.

She and her husband moved to Indiana 3 years ago from Michigan when she had been employed at a non-profit organization handling Federal and State job training money for 11 years.



First Responder Learning Management System

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- Once students have taken the final examination, they can learn the correct answers, and print a temporary certificate of training. This certificate can be provided the supervisor or filed in the student training file. Student training data will eventually be stored in the Acadis system.

The system was created by Jay Penndorf, IDHS Curriculum Development Specialist, and Alexander Muehlenkord (under contract from Indiana University as the Global Administrator). Mr. Penndorf, a Master Trainer since 1972 provides the course design and content while Mr. Muehlenkord, who has a Masters Degree in Business Administration, provides the technical



Jay Penndorf and Alex Muehlenkord were instrumental in developing the Indiana First Responder Learning Management System.

expertise to make the system work efficiently and effectively. Several more courses are being prepared for addition to the system as are new technical improvements.

Accessing the system is simple. Go to the

[IDHS webpage](#). There is a link on the IDHS web page on the right side named: Indiana First Responder Learning Management System. Click the link, and it will take you to another page that describes the site. At the bottom of this page there is another link that will take you directly to the learning management system. You can also access the Indiana First Responder Learning Management System using: <http://indianafirstresponder.org/>.

Anyone can enter the learning management system site, however, since this training is intended for Indiana First Responders, prior to enrolling in any of the courses offered, you should have a Public Safety Identification (PSID) number. If you are an Indiana First Responder and don't have a PSID, contact [Jim Abraham](#) at our Training Division Certification Branch.



EMA Spotlight



Fayette County

Adrian Ellis is the Director of the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency. He describes his path to emergency management as an easy one, a continuation of where he's been and a desire to become a part of something greater. To put it simply, do for others. Ellis followed the path his parents set for his brothers and him, to make more of themselves than those who came before them, make the most of the opportunities available and never forget where they came from.

In high school, Ellis focused on attending college to become an engineer. He describes himself as fortunate to accomplish his dream of designing machines.

Ellis lost both of his parents in the 80's and found himself in a hole wondering how to put the pieces back together. A friend and EMA volunteer suggested he spend some time helping the EMA to keep his mind occupied. Ellis at that point already had experience in planning, engineering and a love of ham radio (N9RUA). He quickly accepted the role and saw it as an opportunity to replace the emptiness he felt

inside with the helping others.

Over time, he has grown, learned and started to give back to the profession. In 1998, Ellis was asked by Dr. Sebastian Heath at Purdue University to participate in a project which resulted in co-authoring two FEMA courses, IS-010 and IS-011, Animals in Disaster. This allowed him to use his knowledge of engineering and planning skills and fold them into the operations of the agency.

In 2004, Ellis was chosen to be the director of the Fayette County Emergency Management Agency. He describes this opportunity as a great honor which has resulted in his achievement of P.E.M. status, program developments and continuous cost savings programs for the county.

Ellis designed a radio system for the county by working with communications companies to benefit their bottom line and eliminate tower operating cost for the community. This cost savings is currently being used to help fund and operate a new EOC/911 center.



Adrian Ellis, Director

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Ellis has one daughter who he describes as his pride and joy. He says she is his inspiration and one of the reasons he has love for his profession. His hobbies include motorcycles, computers, photography, art, flying, and most importantly, family.

Vigo County

Located on the western border of Indiana, Vigo County Emergency Management Agency serves the people of Terre Haute and the surrounding area. The Vigo County EMA began a slow transition from the old "Civil Defense" concept of preparedness in the years following the attacks of 9/11/01. In June 2006, with the retirement of its former director, the agency and county leadership was at a crossroad. With the strong support of public safety members on the county's Emergency Management Advisory Council, Dr. Dorene Hojnicki was selected to lead the agency into the future.

Dr. Hojnicki brought with her a tremendous amount of experience in the field of emergency medicine, having served as an RN and, following Medical School and Residency in Emergency Medicine, an emergency room physician at Union Hospital in Terre Haute. She had also earned the respect and trust of the public safety community through her service as medical director for many of the fire departments in Vigo County as well as a provider of training to law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies. Under her direction, the agency began a rapid transition to correct deficiencies in services provided to and general involvement with public safety agencies at all levels. Dr. Hojnicki is married to Dr. Robert Hojnicki who currently serves as campus physician for Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute.

In November 2006 the agency added Keith Holbert as Deputy Director of Operations and JD Kesler as Deputy Director Administration/Public Information Officer.

Keith E. Holbert is a lifelong resident of Vigo County. He is a 33-year member of Sugar Creek FD where he currently holds the rank of battalion chief. Holbert spent 4 years in the US Navy as an aircraft electrician, serving from 1976 to 1980. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Vigo County and enrolled at Indiana State University where he earned a bachelors degree in Computer Technology. After graduation, Holbert spent several years working at Applied Computing Devices (ACD), the Hamilton Center, 5 Alarm Fire & Safety and was self-employed. He is well respected in the Fire and EMS communities and brings with him a vast array of knowledge and experience, which makes him ideally suited for the position he currently holds. Holbert is married and has two sons.

Jerome D. (JD) Kesler has also been, with the exception of years spent serving in the military and Federal Government, a lifelong resident of Vigo County. Kesler is a graduate of West Vigo High School and served in the U. S. Army from 1973 through 1982 in the field of aviation maintenance. He enrolled at Indiana State University where he earned a bachelors degree



Dr. Dorene Hojnicki, Director

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in Aviation Administration in 1989. Kesler worked as Director of Aircraft Maintenance with Boman, Inc. in Paris, IL, until he entered service with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in May 1983. He served with the BOP until his retirement in 2006 in positions involving correctional services, procurement, construction, and contract management as well as serving as one of the BOP's Public Information Officers. In these positions, Kesler gained experience working with representatives of all levels of government and industry in establishing memoranda of understanding and

cont'd From the Director's Chair



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planning phases of emergencies in Indiana. The planning division is also responsible for assisting in the development of a single, statewide strategic, operational and tactical plan and providing planning and grants assistance to local entities statewide.

In addition to planning, prevention also includes preparedness and outreach. The main objective is to prepare citizens by developing messages and materials to share with local, state, federal, public and private sector partners. In advance of a crisis, a system has been developed for alerting the public and draft messages and materials have been prepared.

The Preparedness and Training division at IDHS plays a key role in getting the message out. It provides and coordinates training, continuing education, and exercises for the state's public safety practitioners. A critical component of preparedness for any hazard is informing the public about potential threats and providing a solid foundation of information upon which future actions can be based.

Once a natural or man-made disaster occurs, our ability to communicate effectively will help manage the public implications. This type of communication is essential and is a very important role of the Emergency Response and Recovery division. The professionals there assist local emergency response leaders who coordinate or support local incident management in major or complex emergencies or disasters. They also assist individuals and local jurisdictions with recovery in addition to coordinating mitigation programs designed to reduce the impact of future disasters on a community.

Without the help of our Fire and Building Safety division folks, our ability to respond and ultimately recover from a disaster would be seriously hindered. The inspectors, code enforcers, deputy fire marshal's, etc. play a huge role in response efforts. Because of their outstanding cooperation and team-like effort, we can ensure that Hoosiers will have assistance as

quickly as possible. The daily responsibilities that these individuals have, investigation of suspicious fires, administration of building plan review, enforcement of fire and building safety codes, hazardous materials response, as well as the coordination of emergency services, inspection of child care facilities, boilers and pressure vessels, elevators and amusements throughout the state can only be ignored for a short time.

Because of this, we must rely on other state agencies, not for profit organizations, state and local elected officials and local public safety professionals to assist us with our ever changing needs. Partnering agencies that continually assist IDHS with response and recovery are the Indiana National Guard, Indiana Board of Animal Health, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Correction, Indiana Red Cross, Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, FEMA, to name only a few.

The ongoing threats to our homeland, including Indiana, have advanced partnerships designed to collectively enhance crisis communication. During an emergency or disaster, IDHS will likely be called upon to execute its crisis communications plan, forming and disseminating information to the public through many possible channels and means, including the media, a joint information center, websites, email, print materials and other methods. These actions will be closely coordinated with the governor's office, state level partners and local entities. Our goal is to provide consistent, clear, timely and coordinated messages that will ultimately protect Hoosiers.

The mission of IDHS is to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from man-made or natural threats and events to people, property, and the economy in collaboration with citizens, government, and private entities, therefore our responsibility is public safety. Often times our jobs are difficult and unpredictable, however keeping the citizens of Indiana safe from natural and/or manmade emergencies is why we do what we do. Thank you for your dedication, and keep up the good work!

Turn Around, Don't Drown

Indiana has experienced snow, rain and freezing temperatures already this year. With warmer temperatures on the way, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) encourages Hoosiers to practice extreme caution while traveling along area roadways with standing water.

If you are driving during a flood it is important to be cautious. Roads may be washed out, unexpected potholes could be covered in water, and your car could float away in only a foot of water. If you must drive during a flood, you are encouraged to follow these tips:

- Do not drive through flooded areas. If you see a flooded-out roadway ahead, turn around and find another route to get to your destination.
- If there is no other route, proceed to higher ground and wait for the waters to subside.
- Even if the water appears shallow enough to cross, do not attempt to cross a flooded road. Water can conceal dips, or worse, floodwaters can damage roadways, washing away the entire road surface and a significant amount of ground.
- Remember, 6 inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control or possible stalling.
- If your car stalls, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.
- One foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUV's and pick-ups.



Superior Ambulance Assists Texas During Hurricanes

Superior Air-Ground Ambulance Service in Lake County provides service to more than just Hoosiers. In August, Superior was called to assist with evacuation operations ahead of Hurricane Gustav. Within 30 hours of the initial call, Superior EMT's and paramedics were stationed in Beaumont, Texas. For the next 3 days, Superior ambulance and bus teams evacuated more than 100 patients from coastal hospitals and nursing homes. Prior to Hurricane Gustav reaching landfall, all ambulances involved in the operation were moved inland to wait out the storm.

The morning after Hurricane Gustav reached land, three strike team leaders from Superior were called to the command tent. Because of the outstanding evacuation performances, Superior ambulance units were to be the first 40 (out of over 300) to be readied for forward deployment once the storm cleared. Superior was responsible for evacuation of medical facilities damaged in the storm and the repopulation of patients

back into facilities that had quickly recovered once Gustav passed through. Even though the region changed from a state of emergency to a state of recovery, the sense of urgency and the level of commitment and service from all crews stayed at a very high

green light after Ike passed through, Blackhawk helicopters began transporting rescued residents. For the next 48 hours, the teams remained extremely busy. The teams developed a reputation of skill and professionalism as well as the highest levels of service, support and care possible. After ten days of operations, Superior Ambulance was released to return to Indiana.

The hard work and dedication the crews from Superior

Ambulance showed was relevant to the citizens of Texas, but also the Federal Emergency Management Agency. At a recent conference, Tom Dunn from Superior Ambulance had the opportunity to meet Steve Delahousey, Vice President of Emergency Preparedness and FEMA National Director. After introducing himself to the FEMA Director, Delahousey smiled and said, "Oh my Chicago guys, I've heard great things about you guys."



level. After 9 days of assisting those in Texas, the crews with Superior ambulance were released to go home. It is a trip that those involved will not soon forget.

In September, Superior Ambulance was once again called upon to the Gulf Coast for hurricane support. This time, the strike team leaders took on even more tactical roles and responsibilities. As Hurricane Ike intensified, Superior Task Force was asked to hold tight in the area and join the search and rescue group Texas Taskforce 1. Once given the

Employee Spotlight - Debra Lamping

Debra Lamping is the procurement assistant for the Support and Services Division. She has worked for IDHS for about 6 months and enjoys her job. Lamping's position requires her to do the receiving and preparation of the weekly request for expenditure (RFE) report and purchasing of weekly RFE's. She also is responsible for receiving and receipting purchases as they come in. As the forms management coordinator, Lamping is the liaison between IDHS and the Indiana Commission of Public Records when the creation or change of a state form is needed.

When not at work, Lamping enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter Alyssa and son Payton. Her favorite food is sushi and she likes to go to the movies and play on the Wii.

EMA Spotlight - Vigo County

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inter-governmental and inter-agency agreements with various local, state, and federal agencies to both provide and receive necessary services. He served on Special Operations Response Teams and Disturbance Control Teams as well as a Firearms Instructor and Hostage Situations Instructor at multiple BOP institutions. Additionally, upon re-entering the civilian world following active military duty, Kesler continued his military service with the Indiana Army and Air National Guard, retiring from the 181st Fighter Squadron in 1997. Currently, in addition to his role with EMA, Kesler serves as a Reserve Deputy with the Vigo County Sheriff's Department. Kesler is married and has five sons.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hojnicki, the agency has been an ardent supporter of, and participant in, all aspects of Emergency Preparedness Training at local and state levels. Vigo EMA participated in planning and exercising the deployment of District Task Force 7 to Muscatatuck Urban Training Center for the Ardent Sentry Exercise in 2007, and several

local exercises involving Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement as well as Federal Agencies. The agency has also participated in several large-scale real world events such as the Canonization of Mother Theodora Guerin (Operation Guardian Angel), Terre Haute Air Shows and the Victory Days celebration.

According to Dr. Hojnicki, the progress made by the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency is best exhibited in its vibrant working relationship with all agencies of Public Safety at the local and state level. The best evidence of this is the successful response to the June 2008 flooding which greatly impacted Vigo County and the surrounding areas. The huge influx of manpower and materiel, the active multi-level response and command involvement from local, state, and military services, and the final result of a response to a major natural disaster with no loss of life directly attributable to the event, is the best evidence of agency and individual responder preparedness. While we, as an agency, have made much progress in the past two and a half years, there is much more to be done.

Calendar of Events



3 FEB

Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room B
302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

6 FEB

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room I
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

11 FEB

Indiana Swimming Pool Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room 4
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

3 MAR

Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room B
302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

4 MAR

Indiana Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules Board Meeting
Indiana Government Center South, Teleconference Media Center
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

6 MAR

Indiana Elevator Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room I
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

9 MAR

Indiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room I
302 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

9 MAR

Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education Meeting
Vincennes Township Fire Department
1265 South Hart Street, Vincennes
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

11 MAR

Indiana Swimming Pool Code Review Committee of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Center Room 4
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Click to view
IDHS Agency
Calendar](#)

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IDHS Public Information Office at (317) 234-6713 or pio@dhs.in.gov.