Hoosier Responder

APRIL 2012 Volume 8, Issue II

TORNADOES STRIKE SOUTHERN INDIANA

Tornadoes struck Southern Indiana March 2, 2012, killing 13, injuring many and causing millions of dollars in damage.

IDHS coordinated response efforts with many agencies throughout the state to assist in response and recovery operations. Elements from six of IDHS's 10 District Task Forces deployed to Southern Indiana. **See Column Below About Indiana's District System.**
One Stop Shops were set up to help disaster victims receive recovery assistance from many different state agencies. Sellersburg hosted a One Stop Shop that was open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. seven days a week for ten days and shops were also opened for a single day at Holten and Pekin.

The 'one stop shop' concept put state agencies and related services in one location to provide services and referrals for such things as lost drivers licenses, housing information, and insurance assistance. The state originally developed the one stop shop approach in 2008 after floods impacted many areas of central and southern Indiana. (continued on page 2)

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOE WAINSCOTT

INDIANA DISTRICT SYSTEM KEY IN TORNADO RESPONSE

In response to the tornadoes in southern Indiana earlier this month, The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) deployed elements from six of its 10 regional emergency response task forces to support local emergency officials with incident command, search and rescue, first aid, fire suppression, scene security, debris management, public information and a host of other disaster response and recovery needs.

These District Response Task Forces (DRTF) have been formed to support local public safety agencies as all-hazards emergency response groups. Their purpose is to provide a "public safety surge" capability for Indiana. The district task forces are staffed with local firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, emergency managers, law enforcement personnel and other local emergency response professionals who voluntarily assume these duties as an extension of their current roles and arrive with the capability of sustaining themselves for at least 72 hours .

Members of DRTFs from IDHS districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 provided support to southern Indiana during the recent tornado event. Some were on the ground in the affected area as early as 1 a.m. Saturday morning, March

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TORNADOES (Continued from Page 1)

Agencies involved in the One Stop Shops were: American Red Cross, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Insurance, Dept. of Workforce Development, Indiana Dept. of Transportation, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Indiana Office of Technology, Indiana State Dept. of Health, Office of Community and Rural Affairs, Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

Many local and statewide volunteers and organizations provided relief efforts and assistance in areas such as: medical, legal, insurance, communication, debris removal, assistance for farmers, mental health, child-care and disability assistance.

Federal assistance was approved for Hoosiers for state and local governments as well as non-profit organizations throughout Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Washington and Scott counties. Public assistance means that the five above mentioned counties can apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of approved costs for debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster, and repairing or replacing public facilities such as roads, buildings and utilities.

The counties of Clark, Jefferson, Scott, Ripley, Warrick and Washington counties were approved for federal disaster assistance to homeowners, renters and business owners. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. ▪

IN COMMEMORATION OF RECENT FIREFIGHTERS' PASSING

"It is sad to see so many of the current and former Indiana Volunteer Firefighters passing on. These individuals have given their all protecting the citizens of their communities; responding all hours of the day throughout their careers," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "They have led and trained those who follow in their commitment to saving lives and property. May they rest in peace; their families are in my thoughts and prayers."

Sandra L. Duckworth-Van Buren Twp. Fire Department Trustee, 22 years and life member.

Merle Weber- Kirkland Township volunteer for 28 years.

Ron Keller- Moorefield Community Fire Department, 13 year member of the IVFA.

Floyd H. Kay- Franklin Twp. Fire Department, 39 year member of the IVFA.

James R. Curseaden- Lawrence Twp. Fire Department President, Chief, Captain. Indiana Task Force One, one of the first rescue groups into the World Trade Centers on 9/11.

Jerry Baker- Plainfield Fire Territory, 20 years; Greenwood Fire Department, 30 years.

Elbert Kinnett- Aurora Fire Department, 43-year member of the IVFA.

Robert Lakin- Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department, 63-year member of the IVFA.

Frank Daunhauer- Assistant Chief of Charter Five Protection District, 35-year member of the IVFA.

Carl Bruns- Sunman Rural Fire Department 63 years, life member of IVFA.

FEMA MENTIONS IDHS ONLINE REPORTING AS BEST PRACTICE

The online damage reporting system created by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and available across the state has been recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In an online class, FEMA cites the Indiana capability.

IDHS created the reporting tool to include local citizens in reporting damage. Press Releases were also issued to surrounding newspapers to ensure that the public knew about this option.

The FEMA course IS 559 provides information and resources that will enable participants to plan an effective damage assessment program and conduct rapid and effective damage assessments in order to save lives, protect property and the environment, and begin the process of recovery and mitigation. ▪

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING RESOURCES

Providing training opportunities to emergency responders throughout Indiana is a priority for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). These courses are listed on the IDHS Consolidated Training Calendar, which is continuously updated as new courses become available.

Professional Emergency Manager (PEM)

Packet Due Date: May 31, 2012

Study Guide Distribution Date: June 8, 2012

Test Date: June 26, 2012

Congratulations to the following 2011 PEM Recipients: Tim Hayes

Congratulations to the following 2011 PEM Renewal Recipients: Jennifer Tobey, Gary Fritz, Clyde Avery, Forrest (Tug) Sutton, Bruce Bender, Duane Davis, Phil Griffin, Al Perdue, Adam Groupe, Bryan Husband, Sherman Greer, Ron Sharp, Larry Robb and Michael Jacobs.

Be sure to check out the updated Emergency Management Training Program on IDHS' website for information on upcoming training, the PEM program, and free online consortium trainings.

http://www.in.gov/dhs/emermgtngpgm.htm ▪

IDHS JOINS ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN EMS WEEK

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is joining national, regional, state and local organizations to support EMS providers. May 20-26, 2012 is Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. This year's theme is "EMS: More Than A Job: A Calling."

"EMS week brings together local communities and medical personnel to promote safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's front line," said IDHS Chief of Staff Mike Garvey. "It also provides an opportunity for individuals and families to review emergency plans and reinforce safety precautions like wearing bike helmets." Garvey is an EMS professional with more than 30 years of experience.

The EMS system in Indiana is regulated by the state EMS Commission, a governor-appointed board whose policies and procedures are supported by IDHS. IDHS provides training and credentials to all first responders throughout the state, and certifies training institutions and all emergency medical transports. Regular inspections are conducted to ensure that all required medical equipment on those transport vehicles is present and properly maintained.

Emergency care personnel, including emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators and administrators, engage in many hours of specialized training to improve their lifesaving skills. Members of emergency medical services teams are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to the needs of their communities, greatly improving the survival rate and recovery of those who experience sudden illness or severe injury. ▪

AWARD OF VALOR GIVEN TO EVANSVILLE FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE

State Fire Marshal, Jim Greeson presented the Award of Valor to four public safety officers on March 1, 2012. Police officer Ryan Winters, and three firefighters, Captain Don Spindler, Lieutenant Shawn Oglesby and Private John Cline were recipients of the award because of their heroic rescue on September 6, 2011 of an Evansville woman and her two daughters trapped on the second floor of a burning apartment. The woman, Kristyn Frazier, died as a result of injuries sustained in the fire, but because she used her body as a shield, her two young daughters were able to survive.

A picture captured of Capt. Don Spindler carrying a young girl to rescue was featured on MSNBC's website titled A Year in Pictures: 2011. Officer Winters was also awarded for his efforts prior to the firefighter's arrival. He entered the building and attempted to rescue the children, but was unable to enter the room because of a bed blocking the doorway and heavy smoke. He then directed the firefighters to the victim's location. The awards were given at the Evansville Fire Department. ▪

CIVIL AIR PATROL FLIES OVER TORNADO AFFECTED COUNTIES

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) aircrews flew over Clark, Posey, Ripley, Scott and Washington counties on Sunday, March 4, to take aerial pictures of the devastation left behind by major storms and tornadoes. Photos were requested by FEMA, NOAA, IDHS and Emergency Medical Services to conduct damage assessments and emergency response efforts. The CAP crews flying over southern Indiana consisted of volunteers from Hamilton, Monroe and Marion counties. CAP, a non-profit organization, is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, with more than 61,000 members nationwide. The unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The Indiana Wing is comprised of 1,300 members, 9 aircraft and more than 30 local squadrons across Indiana. Since the storms, crews have provided aerial images, searched for victims, performed welfare checks, assisted in distribution of supplies and other various relief efforts needed in the area. ▪

IDHS MEMBER AWARDED COMMEMORATIVE COIN

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security Fire Service Safety and Risk Management Section Chief, Gary Robison, was given a 65 year commemorative coin at the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Association's District 12 meeting on September 26, 2011. This award was given by Larry Bruner, District 12 chairman on behalf of the entire District 12 personnel.

"Gary is always there and willing to come to all of the department and district meetings. He helps us out tremendously and if he doesn't have the answers for something, he will find them," said Bruner.

District 12 is comprised of Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Marion and Morgan counties. The IVFA consists of districts throughout the state of Indiana with volunteer firefighters focused on issues most relevant to Indiana's firefighters. There are 837 fire/rescue departments/ organizations in the state that meet the requirements for the IVFA. ▪

TWO MILLION PARTICIPATE IN GREAT AMERICAN SHAKE-OUT

More than 2 million people across the central United States in schools, businesses and homes registered to participate in an earthquake drill in February, including more than 525,000 participants from Indiana, the most among the nine states. The second Great Central United States ShakeOut was held to mark the 200th anniversary of the 1812 New Madrid Earthquakes.

The earthquake drill is an encouragement for Hoosiers to learn about all types of earthquake safety and response, including drop to the floor, take cover under a table or desk, and hold onto the furniture because it may move due to the vibrations caused by an earthquake. This technique is known as "Drop, cover and hold on."

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

"The Great ShakeOut in Indiana was tremendously successful," said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "Our two objectives to (continued on page 6)

PRACTICE SAFETY WHEN HANDLING FIREWORKS

With the warmer season approaching, it's important to practice safety tips when handling fireworks.

- Never let children handle, play with, or light any fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from the reach of children.
- Always purchase your fireworks from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers.
- Use a clear, open area and keep your audience a safe distance from the shooting site.
- Do not alter any fireworks device or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Only light one firework item at a time and never attempt to re-light or fix a "dud" firework.
- Have a fire extinguisher, water supply, hose, or bucket of water nearby.
- Be cautious when lighting fireworks when it is windy.
- Never smoke while handling fireworks.
- Never aim, point, or throw fireworks at another person.
- Use fireworks outdoors, never indoors.

For more safety tips, visit: getprepared.in.gov

WEB EOC UPDATES INFORMATION

The recent WEBEOC updates included the Damage Assessment Board with map, and a change to FEMA ARF link to FEMA site. The Damage Assessment Board allowed the counties to input their information into WebEOC. This allowed the Emergency Response and Recovery Division to track and document Damage Assessment information in a central location.

This information is critical when receiving federal funding. The Human Services Branch administers Individual Assistance as provided under federal law during a Presidential Declared Disaster (PL93-288 as amended by PL100-700). The Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program is part of the FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) and replaces the Individual and Family Grant Program. These programs provide assistance in disaster recovery with grants for home repair, rental assistance, and personal property lost or damaged during the disaster.

Arvin Copeland, Larry Cassagne, and Bob LaGrange have pushed for the update and implementation of the Damage Assessment Board.

The update of the FEMA ARF link to FEMA site, will enhance the capabilities of our Recovery Division to interface with FEMA. The WebEOC development team is looking forward to the new version of WebEOC from ESi. WebEOC version 7.4 will support the following Mobile Operating Systems

- BlackBerry OS v6 and later
- Apple iPhone (latest OS version)
- Apple iPad (latest OS version)
- Android devices (v2.1, 2.2, 3.1)

GREAT CENTRAL UNITED STATES SHAKEOUT (Continued from page 6)

IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Judy VanHoosier, principal of Good Shepherd Catholic School in Evansville. Sherman Greer, Evansville emergency management director, arranged the school's participation in the Great Central US Shakeout. More than 2.4 million people in nine states registered. More than 525,000 of them were Hoosiers.

IDHS Director of Field Services, Gerri Husband, speaks with local media about the efforts made by the Sheraton Louisville Riverside Hotel to reduce the damage and potential injury during an earthquake. The Sheraton Louisville Riverside Hotel was a participant in the QuakeSmart Business program.

Great Central US Shakeout partners at Good Shepherd Catholic School in Evansville on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, were, from left, Walter Gray, Indiana Geological Survey; Judy VanHoosier, Good Shepherd school principal; John Steinmetz, Indiana Geological Survey; Sherman Greer, Evansville Emergency Management Agency; Joe Wainscott, Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security executive director; and Terry Hight, IDHS field services.

raise awareness about the threat of earthquakes and promote preparedness were met as hundreds of thousands of students, businesses and families across the state were educated about earthquake safety measures."

Indiana Geological Survey

"The Indiana Geological Survey is pleased that so many Hoosier residents took part in the Great Central US ShakeOut. 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," said Indiana Geological Survey Educational Outreach Coordinator Walter Gray.

The event was organized by the Central United States Earthquake Consortium and involved the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.

For more information about being prepared for earthquakes and other disasters, visit http://www.in.gov/dhs/getprepared.htm ▪

ROBERT COOLEY, IDHS FIRE AND BUILDING INSPECTOR, PASSES AWAY

Robert W. Cooley, 53, of Mount Pleasant, passed away on Friday, February 3, 2012, at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

Since November of 2008, Robert was employed by the State of Indiana where he was working at the Indiana Department of Homeland Security as a Fire and Building Code Inspector. Robert's duties included performing inspections for compliance with the fire and building codes (structural, fire, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, accessibility, etc), rules, regulations and laws as they related to construction projects and existing class 1 structures.

Robert W. Cooley was a Navy veteran serving from 1976 through 1981 in Norfolk, Virginia. Robert received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy in 1981. He spent approximately 21 years with the State of Indiana (1987 – 2008) working for the Indiana Department of Correction as a physical plant director and plumbing foreman at the Branchville and Tell City facilities, respectively.

He leaves behind family members, Randy and Erika Cooley, also from the IDHS Fire and Building Code Enforcement Section. ▪

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR (Continued from page 1)

3rd, and others stayed through March 17th, providing assistance to county emergency management and local elected officials in support of ongoing response and recovery operations.

Each district response task force may be mobilized at the request of any county within the district as an "enhanced mutual aid" response or, as in the case of this month's tornadoes in southern Indiana, IDHS may activate them to assist communities in any region of the state. The accompanying map indicates the counties each task force serves primarily, but together, the task forces form a statewide network for increased emergency support.
Developed under the guidance of IDHS, with funding provided through the Homeland Security Grant Program, the district concept enables the counties in each district to directly support each other and, in turn, the districts to support one another. The program builds relationships among emergency responders and increases their knowledge of available resources and capabilities, which promotes resource sharing. Most importantly, these trained teams come to assist and support their fellow responders in need, not to take over.
As was demonstrated earlier this month, when equipment and personnel in every region (both state and local) can be made available to the entire state, we have a much stronger response than if each community had to stand on its own. The District Response Task Force network helps ensure that when disaster strikes, we are ready to act as a team to support and collaborate with local, state and federal partners to meet the needs of Hoosiers.

The March tornado disaster has been the most significant activation to date, in terms of length of deployment, the number of people and resources mobilized for which the task forces have been called. The teams performed admirably and were instrumental in sustaining local efforts to cultivate stability and recovery in the affected communities.

Because the establishment of a district task force relies on a few members or resources from many different agencies, the load for its support does not fall heavily on any one community or agency. Nor does it inhibit a community's ability to protect itself while the task force members are away.

The clearly demonstrated value of the task forces' ability to rapidly mobilize and provide substantive assistance to local emergency management and elected officials further validates the effectiveness of this multi-faceted, enhanced mutual aid concept. We Hoosiers owe each of the participating communities and public safety agencies a huge degree of thanks for their willingness to support this invaluable resource, not to mention our sincere appreciation for their most recent efforts in support of our citizens and responders in southern Indiana. ▪

NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR DURING 9-11 PASSES AWAY

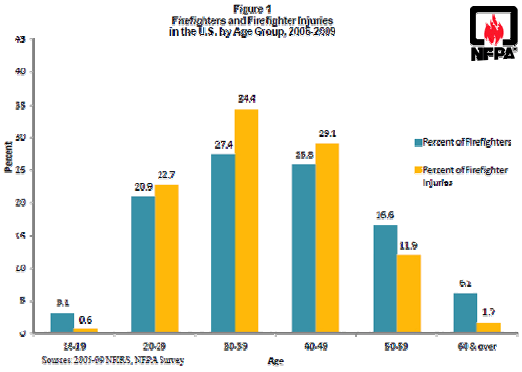
Richard J. Sheirer, the director of New York City's Office of Emergency Management during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, recently passed away January 19th after experiencing chest pains while driving to work.

Sheirer was a former deputy fire commissioner and deputy police commissioner before being appointed to lead the New York City Office of Emergency Management in 2000. Sheirer was widely praised for his actions and leadership during the chaos of September 11th; a federal emergency management official was quoted as saying: "Sheirer gives the marching orders. So far, we're blown away by OEM's performance."

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appointed Sheirer to the OEM and had only positive things to say about him. "He spent 10 hours a day at ground zero for months. He was a real hero." ▪

NFPA RELEASES REPORT OF FIREFIGHTER INJURY PATTERNS

The National Fire Protection Association recently released a report titled "Patterns of Firefighter Fireground Injuries," which estimates and classifies firefighter injuries by type of injury, type of activity during injury, cause of injury, occupancy where injury occurred, time of day of injury, and the ages of injured firefighters. From 2005-2009, the National Fire Protection Association estimated 38,660 injuries occurred to firefighters in the United States. Of these injuries, 27,920 were considered to be minor, and 10,740 were moderate or severe.



The most common type of minor injury to firefighters was a strain or sprain, which accounted for about 25% of the total. Thermal burns accounted for 10% of minor injuries, while cuts and lacerations were the cause of 8% of minor injuries.

According to the report, half of minor and moderate to severe injuries occurred during activities related to extinguishing a fire. The leading cause of minor injuries was exposure to smoke or chemicals, while moderate to severe injuries were mostly the result of a fall, slip, or trip.

The full report can be found at http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/OS.patterns.pdf. ▪

FEMA ELMINATING USE OF SSN FOR NFA AND EMI COURSES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is moving toward eliminating the use of the Social Security Number (SSN), where possible, when applying for any FEMA training. As an interim measure, and beginning on April, 15, 2012, individuals applying for certain National Fire Academy (NFA) or Emergency Management Institute (EMI) classes will be required to register using the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) Training Administration System (CTAS) and obtain a CDP Student Identification (SID) number. This number will be used in place of the SSN on your application. You will be asked to provide your SSN to register in CTAS but this will be phased out with a new registration system. This is an interim step; however, anyone already registered in CTAS will not need to register again.

Which courses does this interim process impact?

NFA or EMI courses at NETC (including the NFA 2-day on-campus state weekend courses), EMI courses at the Noble Training Facility, or courses delivered through the NFA (NFA Sponsored 10-day and 6-day) or EMI off-campus programs delivered after October 1, 2012.

How do I obtain my FEMA Training Identification Number (FTIN)/CDP Student Identification (SID) number?

Step 1: To register, go to https://cdp.dhs.gov/elms

Step 2: Click on the "Create Account" button on the left side of the screen.

Step 3: Follow the instructions and provide the necessary information to create your account.

What do I do with this new FTIN/CDP SID number I've been assigned?

The CDP SID number should be used in place of the SSN on your General Admissions Application (FEMA Form 119-25-1) and the General Admissions Application Short Form (FEMA Form 119-25-2). This number should be used when applying for any FEMA training unless the SSN is required. FEMA forms are being revised to eliminate the need for the SSN and include a field for the training registration number.

Why is it important to register in the CTAS?

Any applications for FY 2013 NFA or EMI courses that do not include the training registration number will not be processed until FTIN/CDP SID is provided. ▪

PARTNERSHIP ENHANCES INFORMATION SHARING IN NW INDIANA

In 2008, the remnants of Hurricane Ike caused heavy rain and flooding throughout Northwest Indiana. The floods put a heavy strain on the region's infrastructure, shutting down the transportation network and power grid, while leaving emergency services weakened.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security District One Planning Council established a public-private partnership in Northwest Indiana to develop an information sharing environment to help ensure the continuing functionality of the region's critical infrastructure sectors and launched a portal on the Homeland Security Information Network – Critical Sectors to improve overall resilience and preparedness in Northwest Indiana.

"We have seen a real synergy effect from the development of our public-private partnership and information-sharing effort," said Munster Police Chief Steve Scheckel, who also serves as the IDHS District One Response Task Force – Law Enforcement Strike Team Commander. "We can resolve and mitigate issues much more efficiently across our five-county area by working together."

By engaging more stakeholders, the partnerships will now be able to ensure appropriate participation and handling of sensitive information. Police Chief Scheckel noted that they plan to use the portal in future exercises and incidents. For more information, visit www.nwidistrictone.com. ▪

MAY 8 DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR DISASTER FEDERAL GRANTS & LOANS

May 8, 2012 is the deadline for homeowners, renters and business owners in Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, Warrick and Washington counties to register for FEMA assistance regarding tornado and other storm damage Feb. 29-March 3.

Ways to apply are:
Telephone registration line, (800) 621-FEMA (3362).
For speech- or hearing-impaired persons, the TTY number is (800) 462-7585
Video Relay Service may be accessed at (800) 621-3362.
These lines are staffed from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Registration is also possible in the following ways:
Online at www.fema.gov or www.DisasterAssistance.gov; and
By smart phone or tablet at m.fema.gov.

SBA low interest disaster loans

After registering with FEMA you may receive an application packet for the Small Business Administration (SBA) low interest disaster loan.
SBA disaster loans help homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private non-profit organizations fund the repair or rebuilding of physical property (homes or businesses) and cover the cost of replacing lost, damaged or destroyed personal property, machinery and equipment, inventory and business assets.
SBA loans may cover insurance deductibles, code-required upgrades and other costs not covered by insurance or other sources.
Completion of the SBA disaster loan application may open the door to FEMA grants and other forms of assistance available to eligible residents. FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for medical, dental and funeral expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA disaster loan applications must submit them to SBA to be eligible for assistance covering personal property, vehicle repair or replacement and moving and storage expenses. You are not obligated to accept the loan, or to accept the full amount if a loan is offered. Current rates for homeowners are as low as 1.875% and repayment may be extended for up to 30 years.

An insurance claim does not have to be settled to complete and submit an SBA loan application.
An SBA disaster loan application should be returned as soon as possible. For questions, please contact the SBA Customer Service Center by calling toll-free: (800) 659-2955 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or visit https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/.

NEWEST TECHNOLOGIES ARE ADDED TO ALERT SYSTEM

One of the biggest issues that is presented when a disaster first happens is how to inform citizens of what is happening and what to do to protect themselves. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is one answer to this serious problem. FEMA has been in the process of developing IPAWS since 2004. In 2006, the President signed the Public Alert and Warning System Executive Order that put the process on the fast track.

IPAWS is designed to improve the process of rapid distribution of emergency alerts to as many people as possible via various communication devices. In order to achieve this, IPAWS is expanding to include the more modern technologies that are being developed. Previously, Americans depended on alerts that were sent out via television or radio. Today, there are many more options, including mobile devices, sirens, Internet, and email.

IPAWS has many different public alerting systems that can be utilized. Some of the systems are the following:

- Emergency Alert System-alerts sent via radios; digital, analog, cable and satellite TV
- Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)- alerts sent to commercial mobile networks to the public's mobile devices; e.g. cell phones
- Internet Services-alerts sent via web browsers, widgets, web sites, and social media
- NOAA-alerts sent through the National Weather Service to NOAA All Hazard (Weather) radios

State/Local Unique Alerting Systems-alerts can be sent out via digital signage and weather sirens. One common question is who can sign up for IPAWS and be able to send out alerts. Generally the organizations that are able to do this are the following:

- Federal Agencies
- State Government
- Tribal Governments
- Local Government or Public Safety Organizations
- Territorial Governments
- Other private or public organizations might be able to sign up depending on their public safety mission.

IPAWS is a system designed to keep up with new technologies. In order to keep up with changes or to read more on IPAWS please visit www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws. ▪

IDHS BEHIND THE SCENES PARTNER IN SUPERBOWL SUCCESS

Such a momentous event as hosting the Super Bowl took the collaboration of many organizations to ensure not only enjoyment but also safety. Behind the scenes of the Super Bowl 2012 were public and private partnerships which were essential to the success of the Super Bowl.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security, along with local, state, federal and private sector partners monitored Super Bowl activities. The Emergency Operations Center was responsible for ensuring communications and being prepared to disseminate resources and maintain up to date situational awareness for the State of Indiana. IDHS worked closely with Indianapolis fire and building inspectors to ensure fire and building code adherence.

Personnel from various local, state, federal agencies, and the private sector staff the emergency operations center during the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl Joint Information Center (JIC), led by the city of Indianapolis and hosted by IDHS, was also established to communicate with the public, collect information and provide answers to media inquiries.

STAY AFLOAT CONFERENCE

The Stay Afloat conference was held at the Indiana Government Center South conference center on March 15, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m. The conference provided information on flooding and mitigation.

"The National Weather Service reports that the U.S. averages about $7.82 billion in damage and 94 deaths per year," said Mary Moran, Program Director of Response and Recovery. Projects and programs on reducing the risk of flood in one's community were also available to attendees. The conference was hosted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. ▪

FLOOD SAFETY PREPAREDNESS AND TIPS FOR YOUR SAFETY

With the arrival of spring, it is important for citizens to remember safety regarding flooding and erosion. Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States. When a flood occurs, these tips are important to remember:

- Get to higher ground.
- Evacuate your house if flooding is possible.
- Know your town and make sure you know alternate escape routes in case one is blocked.
- Take pets with you if you evacuate. However, many shelters usually do NOT allow pets inside due to sanitary conditions so plan accordingly.
- Do NOT try and drive through water. As little as two feet of water can cause most cars to float, and as little as a few inches of moving water can wash most cars away with the current.
- Do NOT try to cross moving water on foot. As little as a few inches can knock you off your feet
- Watch TV or listen to the radio to find out what actions to take next.

It is always important to create a supply kit, obtain flood insurance and develop a family emergency plan. To find out more tips and prevention, visit getprepared.in.gov. ▪

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

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