



Hoosier Responder

MARCH 2010

Volume 6, Issue III

THE FINAL FOUR® IS COMING TO TOWN *Inspectors Already Working for Downtown Visitors' Safety*

With the Final Four basketball games coming to Indianapolis April 1-4, the Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the IDHS, will be working around the clock to ensure the safety of the 200,000 people expected to participate in downtown festivities.



The ball games will be played in a transformed Lucas Oil Stadium, and the Indianapolis Convention Center will host "Bracket Town" where patrons can visit various displays and

participate in a number of activities including a slam-dunk contest and 3 on 3 tournaments.

Converting the stadium and convention center into this basketball haven is no small project. The Indiana Fire Marshal's Office has already been heavily involved with event organizers reviewing and offering input on plans for the makeover of these facilities. Inspectors say all the event organizers and other key partners are dedicated to ensuring public safety.

Once set-up at the stadium and convention center actually begins on March 29, three IDHS building

"Basketball is an integral part of Hoosier culture, and it means a lot to the City of Indianapolis to have the Final Four here in the heartland," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "The safety of Hoosiers and visitors who will be attending the basketball games, bracket town and the many other activities and venues around the city is a top priority."

inspectors will be available 24 hours a day to oversee the 72-hour transformation process.

Some of the safety issues inspectors are watching for are things like making sure aisles and exits are clear and that all banners are made of fire-resistant materials. The Fire Marshal and inspectors are also working with security personnel to ensure they understand evacuation procedures and know what to do if a fire alarm is triggered.

Lead building code inspector for Lucas Oil Stadium, Rob Miller, says the key is to catch any potential safety issues when they first appear instead of right before events are scheduled to begin. Inspectors will also conduct a final walk-through the day events begin, and will be on-hand throughout the four days of festivities. ■

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OPERATION STAY AFLOAT TO TAKE PLACE MARCH 9

IDHS and the Department of Natural Resources have teamed up to develop the Flood Preparedness and All Hazard Mitigation Conference, Operation Stay Afloat.

During the day-long conference on March 9, presenters will address environmental topics with an emphasis on how communication provides improved cooperation and results during a disaster.

Operation Stay Afloat will be held in the Indiana Government Center-South. The conference is FREE, but registration is required. Please contact Anita Nance at 317.234.1110 or anance@dnr.in.gov.

All community planners and decision makers, emergency managers, first responders, flood plain managers, and elected officials are welcome.

For additional conference details, please reference: www.in.gov/dhs/pio/2010_Stay_Afloat_Brochure.pdf. ■

From the Director's Chair Executive Director Joe Wainscott



Hoosier Participation in 2010 Census Essential to Federally Funded Emergency Service Programs in Indiana

Federal funding is a key component to many of our emergency service programs across the state. Equipped with these national level financial resources, many fire departments, emergency medical service providers, and

emergency management agencies are able to better serve the Hoosiers in their jurisdictions.

Howard County, for example, was recently selected to receive \$75,457 in congressionally appropriated funds to supplement the county's emergency food and shelter programs. While various factors determine this funding, population is one of the criteria.

This spring, the Federal Census Bureau is encouraging residents across the United States to participate in the 2010 census, "Snapshot of America."

UNITED STATES CENSUS

2010 APRIL 1, 2010
Indiana

Complete and mail your
Census form.

(Continued on page 2)

FCC MANDATES SWITCH TO NARROWBAND RADIO CHANNELS

Public Safety Agencies Must Update Radio Equipment Before January 2013

All public safety agencies need to be aware of a decision that will have major impact on use of their current radio systems.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that all private land mobile radio (LMR) systems operating below 512 MHz, implement equipment designed to operate on voice channel bandwidths of 12.5 kHz or less instead of the current channel bandwidths of 25 kHz.

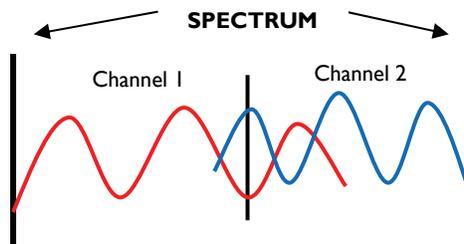
This process, called narrowbanding, will impact virtually every public safety agency in the nation.

Rebanding vs. Narrowbanding

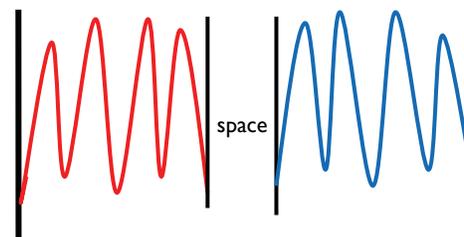
Narrowbanding is NOT the same as rebanding. Rebanding is the process mandated by the FCC for users of 800 Mhz frequency spectrum to move to lower frequencies. Narrowbanding impacts users of frequencies below 512 Mhz and has to do with how much space those channels take up.

LMR systems, which many state and local public safety agencies use, operate on blocks of radio spectrum called channels.

On wideband channels, radio communication is carried on bigger waves so they have a greater tendency to run into each other creating interference.



Narrowband technology allows communication to be carried on smaller radio waves. These narrower waves create small spaces between channels which reduce interference.



What you need to know

To operate private LMR systems after December 31, 2012, license holders will need both (1) compatible equipment and (2) a license to operate on the new narrowband channels. If your agency has purchased radio equipment

within the last three years, it's probably compatible.

However, purchasing the correct equipment is only part of the mandated process. Current FCC licenses must also be modified. Many agencies continue to maintain very high frequency (VHF) and ultra high frequency (UHF) systems which are NOT capable of operating on narrow-bandwidths. These public safety agencies need to aggressively develop a strategy to meet narrowband deadlines to avoid cancellation of existing wideband FCC licenses.

Questions?

If you have any questions about whether your agency is prepared to maintain radio communications in 2013, you should contact your radio vendor as soon as possible.

For more information about narrowbanding visit the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission's website at <http://www.in.gov/ipsc/2337.htm> and click on the FCC Narrowbanding of VHF/UHF Land Mobile Radio Service – White Paper.

You can also contact Steve Skinner at the Integrated Public Safety Commission by calling 317.233.8625 or emailing sskinner@ipsc.in.gov.

EMA Spotlight Spencer County

Al Perdue has served as EMA director for Spencer County for 17 years. Since becoming the director, he has started the CERT program, the Water Rescue Team and the Wilderness Search and Rescue Team.

Previously Perdue served 37 years as Lockmaster with the Corps of Engineers, 10 years with Fire Service, 14 years with the Sheriff Reserve, 10 years as a first responder and two years as an EMT-Basic. ■



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Director's Article (Continued from page 1)

In Indiana, we all have a responsibility to make sure we don't get left out of the picture. The information collected by the census helps determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding is spent each year on infrastructure and other amenities, including emergency services nationwide.

Indiana homeland security-related federal funding sources include:

- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Public Safety Interoperable Comm. Grant
- Transit Security Grant Program
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant

HSGP grants are the prominent source of federal funding received by IDHS. These federal grants support such programs as (1) the State Homeland Security Program, (2) the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, (3) the Citizen Corps Program, (4) the Urban Area Security Initiative and (5) the Metropolitan Medical Response System.



According to the U. S. Census Bureau, this census is one of the shortest in history. In March, census forms will be mailed or otherwise delivered to households. The U. S. Census Bureau recommends returning the forms by National Census Day on April 1, 2010.

I would strongly encourage you and your constituents to support emergency services in our communities by completing and returning the 2010 census. As Hoosiers, we all need to participate in providing the federal government with a complete and accurate picture of Indiana.

To find out more about the 2010 census and its potential impact on our communities, visit www.census.gov. For more information about homeland security grants and the programs they support, visit www.in.gov/dhs/grants.htm.

INDIANA REPRESENTATIVE PRAISES IDHS FOR ITS ROLE IN HARMONIZING RESPONSE EFFORTS DURING JUNE 2008 FLOOD

On January 10 and February 9, IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott and several division directors spoke with Indiana Senators and Representatives about the disaster declaration process, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, grants and loans, local government assistance and other topics.

Senator Tom Wyss worked very closely with IDHS, stimulating interest throughout the legislature and securing the opportunity for IDHS to address attendees in the senate chambers.



Left to right: IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott, Indiana Senator Tom Wyss and Indiana Representative Milo Smith

“Senator Wyss has been an invaluable partner in supporting dialogue about these important topics with Indiana elected officials,” said Wainscott.

A key issue of interest was the role IDHS plays in coordinating emergency response efforts among the many local, state and federal partners mobilized during a disaster.

Indiana House Representative Milo Smith praised IDHS for its fast and effective response during the June 2008 flood disaster. He was particularly impressed with IDHS’s ability to facilitate communication with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). “I’d like to publicly thank IDHS for its hard work and ability to keep everyone talking during those tense times,” said Smith. ■

STATE ENDS WRITTEN NOTICE OF EXPIRING CERTIFICATIONS

Indiana no longer sends written notice via US mail to a Fire/EMS instructor whose certification is about to expire.



Check your certificate for the expiration date or go to the IDHS website to verify certification by last name. ([view](#))

The state does provide electronic notice to instructors whose certification will expire within the next 90 days.

To be included on electronic email notices about state training or Fire/EMS certification issues, please email jbuckman@dhs.in.gov.

IDHS PORTABLE MORTUARY UNIT READY TO ASSIST LOCAL CORONERS DURING MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS

The Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit (DPMU) and federal Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) supply infrastructure and personnel to support local coroners during a mass casualty incident. By law, Indiana coroners are responsible to determine cause of death and identify remains whenever possible. If a mass casualty incident overwhelms the local system, assistance is available through the state DPMU and federal DMORT teams. Coroners should request these resources through their local Emergency Management Agency.

DMORT is a federal team of doctors, pathologists and other medical professionals who perform the needed tasks to help local coroners identify bodies or tissue. Their personnel can deploy within 48 to 72 hours after a presidential disaster declaration.

Forty-two volunteers from IDHS form the DPMU operational team. Following a mass casualty incident, they are responsible for finding a suitable site, assembling the infrastructure and managing the portable mortuary.



The foundation of the DPMU is a large, bare concrete floor. A minimum of 15,000 square feet of floor space is required, but bigger is always better. Empty aircraft hangers, large warehouses and abandoned shopping centers are all excellent locations, says Indiana Assistant Fire Marshal and team leader for the DPMU, Mike Bigler. Once a site has been identified, the entire DPMU can be operational within three to four hours. “Members of all the different IDHS branches come together to form one team,” says Bigler, “Their efficiency and effectiveness is amazing.”

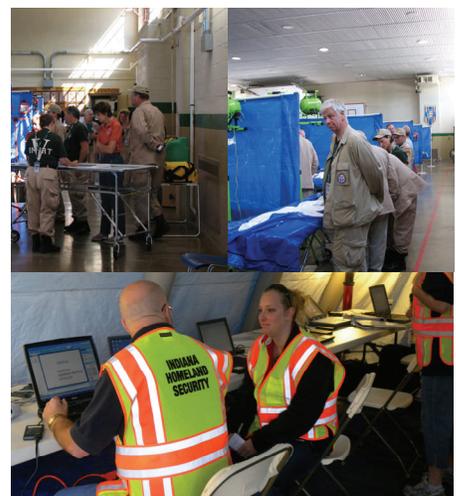
The DPMU has been operational for about three years and is prepared to respond to both in-state and out-of-state mass casualty incidents. “Personnel redundancy is intentional to ensure flexibility,” says Bigler. When responding to an in-state incident, the entire team will deploy for the first 12 hours, after which a rotation system can be implemented. If out-of-state assistance is requested under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a limited team of 10 to 12 individuals would be deployed. A rotation could then be established if necessary.

IDHS has also begun organizing a state version of DMORT. In the absence of a presidential disaster declaration, which would prevent the federal DMORT team from deploying, the Indiana team could still respond. IDHS hopes to

have a team established by the end of the year. “We’re receiving lots of positive reaction to the idea from local coroners throughout the State,” says Bigler.

The Indiana DPMU team conducts at least two training details each year. The next training event will be held on March 24-25 in Seymour at the old Lexmark printer manufacturing plant (1386 East 4th St.). Interested visitors should arrive on March 25 after 9:00 a.m. EST.

For more information, please contact Mike Bigler at 317.233.0195 or mbigler@dhs.in.gov. ■



FIRE SPOTLIGHT Albion Volunteer FD

The Albion Volunteer Fire Department is making a difference in the lives of those they serve and protect. The fire department will help host the free seminar course "Beyond Hoses and Helmets: Strategy and Tactics of Leading a Volunteer or Combination Fire/Rescue Organization."

The course is designed for volunteer and combination fire departments and will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST It will be held at the Central Noble High School Auditorium, E. Main Street, Albion, Indiana.

This course encourages firefighters to enhance their general knowledge and leadership skills.

The course offers instruction in the following areas:

- Improving Your Fire Department Emergency Response Staffing
- Fire Department Leadership and Tactics
- Problem solving in Your Fire Department
- Marketing Your Fire Department
- Recruitment of Volunteer Firefighters
- Retention of Volunteer Firefighters



A career employee of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District since 1976, Fire Chief Gregory L. Render is the main presenter.

The conference is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Albion Fire Department, and the FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.

There is no cost to attendees. To register, contact Bob Brownell at Bobbrownell@hotmail.com or 260.318.0213. ■

BROADCASTERS TO USE LIVE CODE (TOR) FOR EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TEST

With approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Indiana Broadcasters Association will conduct a test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) using the live Event Code ("TOR") on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. Thursday, March 18 is the alternate date.



The warning will sound sometime between 10:15 and 10:30 a.m. EST and again between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. EST on commercial radio, television networks and NOAA all hazards radios.

This statewide drill will help to ensure that the Indiana EAS network is operating properly and ready to respond in the event of a real emergency.

The use of the live event code is intended to ensure that information will be relayed to emergency management officials, law enforcement and homeland security personnel.

Wording identifying the alert as a test will be found throughout the warning, follow up statements, and the warning cancellation message.

This test is part of the state's participation in Severe Weather Awareness Week which will run through the week of March 14-20, 2010. ■

FIRE MARSHAL TO CONDUCT LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson invites fire chiefs, chief officers, firefighters, elected officials and board members to attend one of three leadership seminars to learn more about state requirements and expectations of fire departments. Individuals who attend any one of these seminars will learn about the services available from the State Fire Marshal Office. The Fire Marshal's Office is a division of IDHS.

Presentations from a variety of presenters will be given on:

- How to close a building due to code violations
- Procedures for requesting an investigator
- The proper way to handle an open burning complaint
- Disaster assistance and support from district mutual aid to state resources
- Your obligation to reporting responses
- Becoming eligible for available grants
- New policy and procedures for law enforcement in the clearing of highways after a motor vehicle accident
- Your duties to your firefighters in training
- The role of relationships in becoming a successful fire chief
- Billing for emergency response, the do's and don'ts

Scheduled Seminars

March 6, 2010
Brownsburg Fire Territory
470 E. Northfield Dr. Brownsburg, IN 46112
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

March 20, 2010

Fort Wayne Public Safety Academy
7602 Patriot Crossing Fort Wayne, IN 46816
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

April 3, 2010

Indiana University Southeast New Albany
4201 Grant Line Rd. New Albany, IN 47150
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Presentation topics will be the same at each site. Individuals interested in attending must register before the event. To register free of charge, email firemarshal@dhs.in.gov with your name, Public Safety Identification (PSID) information and the seminar you are attending. You will receive confirmation of registration. ■



Indiana Fire Marshal Jim Greeson

IDHS TO CONDUCT INSTRUCTOR AUDITS

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is conducting audits for fire instructor compliance with the rules established by the Board of Firefighter Personnel Standards and Education.



The majority of Indiana fire instructors and evaluators work very hard to make sure their students are tested and evaluated according to the board's standards.

However, IDHS has determined that this is not always the case. The most frequently discovered inadequacy is instructors and evaluators who are merely simulating skills examinations or not conducting them at all.

"A candidate's ability to demonstrate mastery of these skills is an absolutely essential part of the firefighter training and evaluation process," says Indiana Fire Training Director, John M. Buckman III. "Failure to conduct skills examinations can lead to firemen who are unable to fulfill basic job functions."

Certified instructors are required to be familiar with the rules of the Indiana Board of Firefighting Standards and Education. Information about the board rules online training package is available at http://bit.ly/board_rules.

Additional questions may be directed to Buckman at jbuckman@dhs.in.gov. ■

EMERGENCY PLANNERS URGED TO CONSIDER STRATEGIES FOR HELPING DISABLED PERSONS

Governor Mitch Daniels has declared March as Disability Awareness Month. IDHS is encouraging local emergency planners to spend time developing or continuing to develop emergency response strategies for people with disabilities.



Individuals responsible for their community's emergency planning or response activities should reach out to local resources and organizations and should involve people with disabilities in identifying needs and evaluating effective emergency management practices.

More than one million Hoosiers identify with a disability.

Issues that have the greatest impact on people with disabilities include: notification, evacuation, emergency transportation, sheltering, access to medications, refrigeration and back-up power, access to their mobility devices or service animals while in transit or at shelters, and access to information.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, government emergency preparedness and response programs are required to be accessible to people with disabilities. A guide for making these programs accessible can be found at the ADA website at <http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprepguide.htm>.

Two state resources are the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services Commission. The Governor's Council provides free resource materials to help Hoosiers plan activities in their local communities on its website www.in.gov/gpcpd.

Visit the Protection and Advocacy Services Commission's website for emergency planning tips for people with disabilities at <http://www.in.gov/ipas/2382.htm>.

IDHS is preparing a guide for local planners about emergency planning for at-risk and vulnerable populations which it expects to complete sometime this summer.

As part of this process, IDHS has developed a web-based survey to gauge where local emergency planners are in the process of preparing to assist their at-risk and vulnerable populations during a disaster. Emergency management directors will be receiving information about the survey soon. ■

EMS SPOTLIGHT – Jasper



Memorial Hospital in Jasper

The ambulance service staff of Memorial Hospital in Jasper were awarded with the Ambulance Provider Public Relations Award at the 2009 Indiana Emergency Response Conference, sponsored by the Indiana EMS Commission.

The hospital-based ambulance service personnel were selected in recognition of their efforts to inform the community about the emergency medical services the hospital provides. The staff makes a conscious effort to present information in a variety of ways to a wide array of age groups in order to encompass all aspects of the population.

"We try to be very active in the community, both with the public and with public service," said Suzan Henke, Director of Ambulance Services. "We work diligently to really get the word out to the public."

This ambulance service's public relations team aims to be proactive. They work closely with the fire department to provide all EMS training. Jasper Memorial is especially focused on educating the community's children. They bring ambulances to local preschools to provide demonstrations of ambulance equipment. They also attend career days at the high schools to encourage careers in EMS. Children are able to ride in an ambulance, examine EMS equipment and participate in extrication demonstrations.

"We teach them not to be afraid of the EMTs or the ambulance," Henke said. "It's a hands-on type of environment." ■

K9S AND HANDLERS LEARN HOW TO SEARCH BUILDINGS

IDHS Search and Rescue Division conducted a Building Search Training Class at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center on February 20 and 21. Twelve handlers and their K9s attended the training. The class was split into two groups of six with cadaver search dogs in one group and live area (air scent) search dogs in the second group. During the two day class, students learned about general building search tactics and about scent movement in buildings. They practiced working with their K9s' to locate cadavers and live victims in both day and limited light settings. ■



FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SYSTEM OFFERS FREE VEHICLE RESCUE CURRICULUM

The Indiana Firefighter Training System has selected a curriculum for Vehicle Rescue, Operations and Technician Level certifications, and provides this curriculum free of charge to Indiana fire instructors.

The course meets or exceeds the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670 (2009) and NFPA 1006 standards as adopted by the Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education, so instructors should not omit or remove any items included in the training package. Instructors may add any additional important information into their courses. The course material covers updated information on the hazards faced by response

personnel when conducting extrication operations, vehicle extrication incident management, vehicle anatomy, passenger restraint systems, vehicle extrication tools and equipment, hybrid-powered vehicles, machinery extrication situations and procedures and emergency medical system considerations at extrication operations.

The course material is broken down in the two levels of certification. Materials for each level include an instructor's guide, a student manual, power point presentations and practical skills



guides. Once students have successfully completed all practical skills they will be able to complete the written exam for state certification.

Instructors may obtain a CD of course materials by submitting their mailing address to Steve Walters at swalters@dhs.in.gov.

EMA Spotlight - Grant

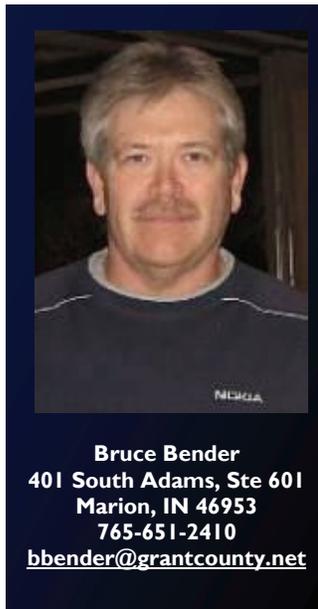
Before becoming the EMA director for Grant County five years ago, Bruce Bender spent 21 years protecting the citizens of Marion, Indiana as a Police Officer where he developed and oversaw the Defensive Tactics Program at the Marion Police Department.

In addition to his regular duties as Grant County EMA director, Bender also assumed the responsibilities as fiscal agent for several IDHS sponsored grants. Grant County submitted its mitigation plan for state and FEMA approval in late 2009.

Bender is an authorized trainer with the Center for Domestic Preparedness and a certified instructor with the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board.

He is also a CPR and First Aid instructor for the American Red Cross, and he holds a 5th degree Black Belt in Judo and a 4th degree Black Belt in Jujitsu.

Bender and his wife Nancy have four children and several grandchildren.



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Leadership for a Safe and Secure Indiana

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