



Hoosier Responder

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DRY CONDITIONS AGGRAVATE FIRE RISK

Indiana state officials are warning that during dry conditions, seemingly harmless actions such as driving over or parking on dry grass, or dropping a lit cigarette on the ground could cause a sizeable fire.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) warn Hoosiers that open burning is not the only cause of fires. Certain activities may not be thought of as fire causes, but in dry conditions a number of common behaviors can swiftly ignite dry grass and foliage.

"Individual carelessness can quickly become a catalyst for fire during dry conditions," says Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greason. "Campfires are the most commonly recognized impetus for wildfires, but many other daily activities may also be culpable. Everyone needs to use extra caution right now when working with fire and any objects with a propensity to create sparks."

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office is a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

Continuing dry conditions across the state have already led to several field fires and prompted some municipalities to order burn bans in effort to prevent

wild fires.

"Even in jurisdictions not currently under a ban, everyone needs to exercise additional caution to avoid sparking a fire this fall," says DNR State Fire Supervisor Drew Daily. "Always consult your county commissioner's office, or local sheriff's office if you have any questions about permissible burn practices in your area." To view updated areas of the state under the burn ban visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3521.htm>.

Dry Weather Fire Safety Tips

Backyard fires

- Store firewood and all other combustibles away from your home.
- It is advisable to avoid burning trash during dry weather, but if you must, and if permissible, burn trash in a safe incinerator that includes: heavy mesh screen with holes not much longer than 1/4 inch, and a metal barrel in good condition.
- Have a hose nearby to help put out the fire if it gets out of control.
- If any fire starts to spread, contact your fire department or 911 immediately.

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From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott

ASSESSMENT ASSISTS LOCAL AGENCIES IN MATCHING FEDERAL GOALS

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is conducting a statewide annual emergency management assessment using five areas of focus.

Categories include professional contribution, planning, regional collaboration, emergency operations center and communications, and continuous activities or programs.

The assessment recognizes and gives credit for unique local efforts identified as priorities by the local emergency management agency (EMA) which support a solid emergency management program.

The goal of the assessment is to match federal, state and local initiatives to solve problems that exist in emergency management. The assessment will also represent accountability for federal funding to disaster preparedness.

In 2007, IDHS initiated a pilot project that intended to help the state of Indiana in determining the strength of our emergency management capability through a local "assessment" process.

The initial pilot project needed improvement and was revised. The project was reviewed several times by the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana (EMA), which endorsed the revised assessment as a valuable tool for measuring preparedness for a disaster at the local and state level.

It was implemented for the July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 period with very encouraging results. Further modifications based on recommendations from IDHS field staff and EMA directors have continued to improve this project, which has become a model for many

other states.

The program areas measured by the assessment are critical to providing for the health, safety and well being of the county's citizens before, during and after a disaster.

It is an outcome based assessment and is designed to evaluate the areas critical to success of a local program. Certain programs will be scored with more weight in consideration of relative importance such as each county's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

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Director's Article

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When the assessment has been completed and the final score tabulated, IDHS will be able to provide the percentage of salaries covered for the 2012 calendar year. The assessment process will allow an Emergency Management Program to earn up to 50 percent reimbursement for a maximum of three allowable salaries dedicated to the EMA Office based on the strength of the local assessment performance. This can include a director, deputy director and administrative assistant.

In addition to the opportunity for salary reimbursement of the local Emergency Management Program, IDHS will be adding the potential for outstanding programs (based on the assessment process) to earn an additional grant award for the county's EMA program that can be used at the discretion of the Emergency Management Director (must be allowable under Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) guidance). The amount available to each qualifying county will be dependent upon the amount IDHS receives in that year's EMPG

award. The final draft of the assessment tool and the scoring criteria has been provided to all EMA directors for their use and guidance during the assessment period. The IDHS district coordinator will meet regularly with the emergency manager to track progress, recommend improvements and provide support throughout the assessment period.

This assessment is not meant to scrutinize the county EMA, but rather help provide a framework and a tool to guide directors while being flexible enough to allow for the varying needs of each county. It also provides a meaningful and measurable way to appreciate the dedication of EMAs and work done toward better preparedness in our communities.

IDHS also goes through a similar assessment process for accreditation in the national Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) standards. Contact IDHS Field Services Director Gerri Husband at 317-234-4787 for further information.

INDIANA BOMB SQUADS EQUIPPED WITH THREE CONTAINMENT DEVICES

Through a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), the Evansville Police Department recently acquired a total containment device to safely remove and dispose of a chemical, biological or explosive threat.

One of three devices in the state, it consists of a robot that can be controlled remotely and a total containment vessel. The truck-mounted Total Containment Vessel (TCV) will give the department's Explosive Disposal Squad the ability to counter chemical, biological, and explosive threats to the community and provide regional response capabilities for homeland security agencies covering Southern Indiana. Two other total containment devices are strategically placed in central and northern Indiana. Indiana's 12 bomb squads applied for the devices as a task force to use in training all squads. Chad Hilton with the Indiana State Police helped to acquire the device for the bomb squads.

"The device was obtained to be an asset for bomb squads to move and dispose of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threat," Hilton says. "With assistance from a robot, the device



moves an explosive to a safe area away from a location such as a hospital, which would not be able to withstand a blast."

The abilities of this unit have already been showcased to the public. In a recent demonstration, the Evansville Police Department showed how the robot can be controlled remotely. The unit can take a suspicious package and transport it to the total containment vessel where it can be exploded or disposed of properly.

While hundreds of police departments across the country have these units available, Indiana uses cooperation among departments to ensure the safety of all Hoosiers. Federal law enforcement officials have commented that they have never seen bomb squads cooperate with each other like in Indiana.

"The containment vessel provides our department and the entire region with state-of-the-art response capabilities," said Sergeant Steve Evans, Commander of the department's Explosive Ordinance Disposal Squad. "This solution strengthens the preparedness of our response team and is a critical tool for assisting the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and other first responders who cooperate to ensure public safety in our area."

Dry Weather *Continued from page 1*

Vehicles

- Never park your vehicle on dry grass or leaves.
- Avoid driving through tall grass.
- Make sure spark arresters on the internal combustion engines of off road vehicles are clean.

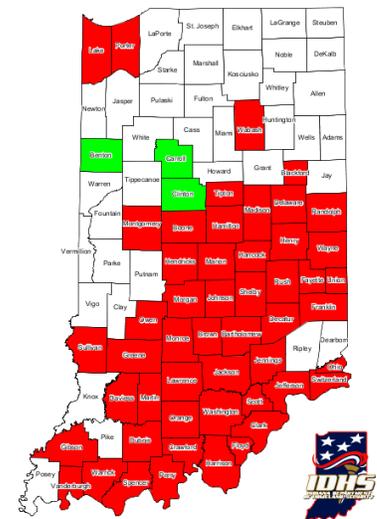
Tobacco products

- Never throw a lighted cigarette out the window of a vehicle.
- Never walk off and leave a burning cigarette.
- Use ash trays.

Equipment

- Perform proper maintenance on agriculture equipment to prevent overheating.
- Grease trailer wheels, check tires, and ensure safety chains are not touching the ground.
- Be careful with gas lanterns, barbeques, gas stoves, and anything that can be a source of ignition for a wildfire.
- Remember, sparks from chainsaws, welding torches, and other equipment can cause wildfires.

Field fire occurrence has been more frequent and more severe than an average year. The State Fire Marshal's Office in partnership with Indiana Department of Natural Resources has developed a document which details field fire behavior and tactics to help provide for fire-fighter and public safety in response to wild land fire. The document will be posted to the IDHS Statewide Burn Ban Information page on the website.



NOTICE: Burn ban status information is provided by each county's emergency management agency.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Statewide Burn Ban Status for 9/27/2010 13:18:45 EDT

	Burn Ban In Effect
	Previous Ban Lifted
	No Report From County

EMA SPOTLIGHT: Dubois County

Tammy Miller became the director of the Dubois County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) on June 21, 2010. However, she is not new to emergency management.

Miller brings substantial experience to the office since she worked for the county EMA from 1992 to 2003, which includes serving as the agency's deputy director. Since 2003, she expanded her emergency management skills and experience as Ambulance Coordinator at Memorial Hospital in Jasper, allowing her to work with many other agencies.

Miller has taken National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and other required courses. She is working to improve relationships with the area emergency

responders by supporting their training needs in NIMS, hazardous materials and any other areas that meet their needs.

Miller is a member of the District 10 Planning Council and has been working with the District 10 EMA directors to better prepare herself in her new role. She is a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and is a licensed amateur radio operator.

Dubois County Emergency Management Agency is currently updating its comprehensive emergency management plan (CEMP), working on grants that are available to enhance local emergency management capabilities, and starting the process of implementing a county damage assessment team. Miller has two children Cassie, 16 and Kyle, 15. •



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FIRE POSTERS FOR SAFETY

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and the State Firefighter Training System, both divisions of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), will provide three posters to fire service to raise awareness about dangers faced by firefighters.

A letter will go out from the State Firefighter Training System manager John M. Buckman III with the enclosed posters and other online resources.

New research about the smoke, chemicals and combustion of materials confronted by firefighters is helping identify hazards and improve firefighter safety. Fire service is encouraged to read, learn and implement the recommendations from research.

"Fires are likely to increase. An increased number of responses brings increased risk for the firefighters facing these fires. It is not always the tactical decisions made during the heat of battle that create risky situations for firefighters," Buckman says. "Sometimes the decisions made when the shift or the response first starts are the linchpins furthering a safer or more dangerous response."

Fire departments are encouraged to mount the posters in each station to promote safety education among members. Email jbuckman@dhs.in.gov for additional posters. •

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SYSTEM CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Eighteen thousand firefighters participated in training through the Indiana Firefighter Training System in 2009. State Fire Training Director John M. Buckman III coordinates training for the program which provides localized training for all volunteer and career Indiana firefighters in all ten Homeland Security Districts.

Many resources are available to local firefighters through the program which includes a mobile live fire trainer. More than 2,500 firefighters were trained in the first year the trainer was on the road. The trainer creates smoke to reduce visibility and can reach temperatures of 800 degrees, which enhances the training opportunity particularly for recruit firefighters.

"The live fire trainer has been a huge success in Indiana," said Buckman. "Through this trainer, firefighters participate in a realistic fire/heat scenario which helps them prepare for response."

The Firefighter Training System is funded through a five percent public safety fee on most firecrackers. The first \$2 million of

annual revenue from the tax is designated for firefighter training.

Other resources include a mobile hazardous materials trainer, the National Fire Academy courses, Company Officer Development Institute and Survival and Rescue Training. One hundred eleven career and volunteer firefighters took part in the 2010 Indiana National Fire Academy (NFA) Weekend Trip, held on June 26-27 in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

"Most fire department teams get better through a concerted effort from a committed group of people," says Buckman. "Indiana's Firefighter Training System helps to facilitate this effort through training which shares resources and skills from across the state."

The Indiana Firefighter Training System was created in 2006 to support all of Indiana's local fire departments in providing a consistent level of training for firefighters. The program provides books for students to use for training, instructor fees, props and evaluator fees.



Mobile live fire trainer

In addition, a new curriculum was developed that provides firefighters with specific learning objectives for the mandatory curriculum. The system provides a firefighter with increased opportunities for education and certification, including the development and use of web-based training.

Each of the districts has a fire training council to develop a training agenda, support training facilities, develop infrastructure plans that may include permanent or mobile training facilities, disburse money, oversee adjunct instructors, evaluate course delivery and evaluate instructors.

"The district concept is the key to the success of this program," said Buckman. "The number one complaint from volunteer firefighters is time."

Training instructors have been certified as a fire instructor II and fire instructor III. They have taught at least 30 hours outside of the district training sites, and they have completed eight hours of instructional annual in-service at a college or university on adult learning techniques. •



Decontamination process using equipment from the Hazmat trailer

TEST SMOKE ALARMS IN ALL AREAS OF A HOME

As part of the 2010 Fire Prevention Week campaign October 3-9, the State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of Indiana Department of Homeland Security, is promoting "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" as the week's theme.

This effort will educate communities throughout Indiana about smoke alarm recommendations.

"Many homes in Indiana have no smoke alarm, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working," says James Greeson, Indiana's State Fire Marshal. "We want residents to understand that working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. If a smoke alarm is 10 years old, it needs to be replaced."

Greeson says smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) statistics show that working smoke alarms reduce the chance of death in a fire by half. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. NFPA data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that are not working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

The State Fire Marshal's Office recommends interconnected smoke alarms to offer the best protection; when one alarm is signaled, all sound. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes. Sounds from distant smoke alarms may be less audible, which minimizes adequate warning particularly for

sleeping individuals.

"Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technology and expanded options for installation and maintenance," says Greeson. "Ultimately, we want this year's campaign to serve as a call to action for households statewide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full level of recommended smoke alarm protection."

The State Fire Marshal's office offers the following tips for making sure smoke alarms are maintained and working properly:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows its sound.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms after 10 years or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Never remove or disable a smoke alarm. Replace your batteries at least twice a year.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week activities in your community, contact the local fire department. Departments can find fire safety information and Fire Prevention Week resources on the IDHS website at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3175.htm>. To learn more about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With," visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

NEW PROGRAM WILL IMPROVE EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE IN STATE

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is working with the Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare (MESH) to unite central Indiana health care organizations in emergency planning.

Indiana's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) uses 15 emergency support functions (ESF) to help coordinate response to disasters.

IDHS is working to unite ESF #4 Firefighting and EMS with ESF #8 Public Health and Medical Services in order to provide necessary resources expeditiously.

MESH sustains healthcare facilities during and after an emergency event in order to maximize patient access to the best available care in the safest environment. The coalition focuses on the economics of disaster medicine through plans for risk management, legal, and liability issues which may block collaboration during an emergency.

MESH is assisting IDHS in providing a first responders course for district task forces, assisting with grant development for the Indiana Disaster Medical System (IDMS), creating a best practice website for ESF-8, organizing an educational conference, and finding a computer software system for materials management of consumable goods to integrate into WebEOC.

The first responder course is required for individuals joining a district task force for emergency medical services (EMS). The educational conference will be held in June 2011.

EMS SPOTLIGHT: Communications Manager Ron Donahue, Lake County

Ron Donahue, communications manager for PROMPT Ambulance Service, helps to field 100,000 ambulance, 75,000 med-car, and 30,000 wheelchair requests every year in six different municipalities.

Donahue accepted "The Indiana Dispatch Services of the Year Award" on behalf of his communication center staff at the 2010 Indiana Emergency Response Conference.

PROMPT Dispatch has been responsible for dispatching EMS during several major events including: the evacuation of a large rehabilitation center, a pedestrian bridge collapse involving more than 100 people, and a presidential campaign visit that turned hectic due to people being overcome by heat requiring a multiple ambulance response.



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The PROMPT communications center has undergone renovation to better service the needs of the community, setting a standard in technology for the emergency medical services community. Center staff are responsible for having 911 ambulance requests routed through the center from a PSAP, enabling callers to receive pre-arrival instructions to offer earlier and more comprehensive care. This department also has been instrumental in the improvement of in-house communications through the development of an intranet program serving more than 500 employees.

Donahue was actively involved in the renovation of his department's communication center in February, adding beneficial new technology to aid response time. The new communication center features a

performance tracking device and a Visual Systems Status Management.

"Each dispatcher tracks a vehicle in real time and the system routes around detours," says Donahue. "We are using a scientific approach to benefit our citizens."

The technology visually shows dispatchers where a call might occur using past global mobile system (GMS) data and gives the anticipated response time. Dispatchers can move resources into needed areas. PROMPT Ambulance Service averages a three minute response time.

Each ambulance is equipped with a computer which allows patient care reports to be done in ambulance, faxed to hospital and saved in the system. This system expedites patient care when arriving at the hospital. A system of Priority Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) gives patients pre-arrival instructions to aid in the quality of care.

RESPONDERS SAVE CHILD AND ASSIST IN A BIRTH

Earlier this year, Jasper police officers revived a toddler using skills gained at a yearly cardiopulmonary resuscitation training, and German Township Fire Department in Evansville helped a woman give birth.

Toddler Revived

Jasper police officer Adam Bower and detective Sgt. Lisa Miller came prepared to revive a 16-month old girl who had fallen in a pool. The child had no pulse and was not breathing. Miller administered rescue breaths while Bower supplied chest compressions.

"The first thing that went through my mind is that we were too late," Miller said.

Because of training, Jasper officers were ready to face the difficult situation of an unresponsive child. After continuing compressions and breaths to the toddler, Jasper police officers were rewarded for their efforts.

"All of a sudden she took that first little gasp of air," Miller said. "It was an exhilarating feeling."

The officers handed the toddler to the Jasper Volunteer Fire Department first responders who gave the victim oxygen.

She quickly regained color and emergency medical technicians took her to Jasper Memorial Hospital.

Emergency medical training proves its importance to all responders, not only those providers who specialize in medical services. Law enforcement



agencies and fire departments train members in medical services, since they will often be the first on the scene to respond to an emergency.

Firefighters Help Birth

In spring of 2010, German Township Fire Department hosted an obstetric training course by Paramedic Heather Bennet to help all department first responders become more comfortable if faced with a birth situation.

Recently in September, a woman was experiencing an imminent birth at her home near the German Township station. Firefighter and EMT Captain Brian Spaetti and firefighter and EMT Rick Schnautz were the first responders to arrive on the scene. Both had previously assisted with a birth.

"The experience showed the importance of continuing education so that you are prepared for any type of incident you may have to respond to," said Schnautz.

All EMTs prepare for assistance in birth during a four hour class for certification which covers topics to include suctioning the baby's airways and providing a framework for what technicians can and can't do to assist a birth.

According to Bruce Bare, the EMS training manager for IDHS, pediatric runs are emotionally taxing for medics because they occur less frequently.

If not for recent medical training, these two events may have ended differently, emphasizing the importance of ongoing training for first responders to prepare for different emergencies.

FIRE SPOTLIGHT: Steuben County

Brooke Norton cares about the lives she saves in her community of Orland. She recently was recognized as Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year at the 2010 Indiana Emergency Response Conference (IERC).

She serves as a firefighter on the Orland Community Volunteer Fire Department, as an instructor and as the community's chief of police. She performs all facets of EMS. And her early arrival on scenes has been documented as saving many lives.

"Serving in a small community can be challenging at times," said Norton. "Being there for people in what can be the most stressful, crucial, or traumatic time in their lives, and providing them with the same care I would my mother, child, or a family member is very fulfilling for me."

Providing 24 hour Advanced Life Support coverage to the townships of Millgrove, Jamestown, Jackson and Greenfield, Orland Community Volunteer Fire Department utilizes 27 individuals who volunteer their time for training and calls, including 10 EMTs, one paramedic, and three first responders.

Norton was awarded the "Amkus Star" for her participation in a difficult extrication, the "Valor Beyond the Call of Duty" award for a response to a chemical tanker accident, and during a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Coast Guard she received the Coast Guard Achievement Medal for assisting in the rescue of a drowning victim.



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STATE PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT INITIATED

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) led the initiation of a 10-month project on Public Safety Data Interoperability and Integration for the state of Indiana.

This is a cross-agency project to enhance public safety services by sharing data across jurisdictions, including among local, state and federal public safety agencies.

This project will develop a statewide strategic vision and plan for achieving data interoperability and integration across the state, develop an architecture to implement the vision, using national information sharing standards, and implement a data interoperability and integration foundation, using a cost-effective approach that makes use of current software and technology investments.

The data sharing environment will utilize Microsoft technologies to include a web portal (Microsoft SharePoint), which will allow access to data from multiple systems connected to the portal through a data exchange tool (Microsoft

BizTalk). Additionally, a solution called Microsoft Fusion Core Solution will be implemented, which will provide workflow and geospatial mapping capabilities through integration with global information system (GIS) tools developed by Esri.

Agencies and associations that are part of this project include: Governor's Office, Department of Correction, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Indiana Office of Technology, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Family and Social Services Administration, State Department of Health, Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Indiana Public Defenders Council, Integrated Public Safety Commission, Indiana State Police, Indiana State Excise Police, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, Office of Management and Budget, Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana and the city of Indianapolis.

RED CROSS HERO AWARD PRESENTED TO SHERIFF STOGSDILL

Brown County Sheriff Buck Stogsdill won the Bartholomew/Brown County Red Cross Hero Award.

Sheriff Stogsdill has a very long history of public service. After service in the Navy, he has served over 20 years in law enforcement. He has also been very active in the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Advisory Committee and other community organizations.

"In 20 years working in emergency management, I have never worked with such a dedicated public safety official who works side by side with first responders and the IDHS district coordinator," said IDHS South Team Leader Kathy Dayhoff-Dwyer.

Every year, the Bartholomew/Brown County Chapter of the American Red Cross honors individuals who have shown courage and unselfish character through their humanitarian efforts in volunteerism.

The Chapter Board of Directors honored Stogsdill with the 2010 Law Enforcement Hero Award. Stephanie Yeager and Dayhoff-Dwyer joined Mary Ellen Anable, executive director of the Red Cross chapter in the nomination. There was unanimous agreement on Buck's nomination.

"Buck's caring spirit merits the highest praise and respect. Buck is the perfect candidate for this award," Anable said, "and we are pleased

and privileged to recognize him in this way."

Reasons given for his nomination included his partnership with the Red Cross over the past several years and collaboration with Indiana Department of Homeland Security and other response agencies during the 2008 tornado, flood events and beyond. The Hero Award was provided to Sheriff Stogsdill at the Brown County Commissioners meeting on September 15.



PARTICIPANTS TRAVEL FAR FOR UNIQUE IDHS SEARCH AND RESCUE TRAINING

The Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue (SAR) Training Center at Camp Atterbury, sponsored by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), offers searchers a unique training experience, which is saving lives across the state and country.

"Participants come to the search and rescue training center primarily because there isn't anything else like it," says Lillian Hardy, IDHS search and rescue training manager. "You don't see the step-by-step training that we are doing anywhere else."

Annually, nearly 1,500 individuals and dogs from across the country use the training center to gain practical search and rescue experience which cannot be found elsewhere. The center conducted 27 classes in 2009.

Groups who have trained at the center include community

emergency response teams (CERT), National Guard, SWAT teams, fire departments, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), police departments and canine search teams.

During a recent June training conference, attendees came from Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Connecticut, Illinois, Wisconsin, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and across Indiana.



Search and Rescue Training Center Manager Lillian Hardy observes a search and rescue dog as he uses scent to find a hidden object.

The Illiana Hummer Emergency Response Team (HERT) and K-9 Search and Rescue Team started attending training at the SAR Training Center eight months ago. Since then, they have returned numerous times.

"It's been a great experience being able to train at the M.H.G. SAR Training center and developing skills that will someday save lives," said Mark Price, director of Illiana Search and Rescue teams. "The center is absolutely fantastic. It's very conducive to training. I'm flabbergasted that it's a free resource to community teams."

The training center offers regular classes on search and rescue. Subjects include: cadaver search,

water recovery operations, building search, visual tracking, search management, land navigation, and K-9 training such as scent theory.

The center's canine training is especially notable. Renowned for training search animals, Hardy evaluates each canine before training occurs to determine the capabilities of the dog. Participants are taught how to develop an individualized training plan to improve the canine's search and rescue skills.

"We talk about how to get started with the dogs and how to progress the dogs," Hardy says. "The third step is how to solve problems for search and rescue."

At the center, handlers train the canines to alert sooner, range away from the handler to work a problem, and give a signal to take the handler back to victim or object.

Skills gained at the training center help responders save lives.

"With training gained at the SAR academy, it made it much easier to know how to properly search for a missing person," said Kody Macon of the City of Madison. "These skills gained from the training center helped to save an Indiana resident who had wandered from the Madison State Hospital on August 26."*

DISTRICT 10 EXERCISE HELPS TO PLAN FOR A CATASTROPHIC EMERGENCY

Representatives from District 10 conducted a tabletop exercise on September 14 focused on a catastrophic earthquake scenario.

This scenario modeled the response capabilities of local agencies, particularly relevant in the most vulnerable southwest portion of the state. Catastrophic emergency plans were discussed and built on during the Lynnville exercise.

"Two major fault systems are located in or adjacent to Indiana; the New Madrid Seismic Zone and the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone," said Indiana Department of Homeland Security

(IDHS) Executive Director Joe Wainscott. "A major earthquake could result in thousands of casualties across areas of Southwest Indiana."

Groups were divided by county and worked through a progression of scenario events



based on a timeline of response activities. Questions were asked by the moderator, Adam Groupe of the Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency.

The exercise brought new perspectives to agencies outside of emergency management and initiated testing of local plans for a catastrophic event. Representatives from IDHS provided information to local agencies and observed discussions.*

OWEN COUNTY EMA ORGANIZES VOLUNTEERS FOR DISASTER

Owen County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has developed an organized group of volunteers that will assist in the mobilization and recovery efforts following a disaster in Owen County.

The idea for Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) began after statewide flooding that occurred in 2008. A group of citizen volunteers worked as caseworkers in recovery efforts for the county. Owen County

EMA Director Jack White saw the need to organize this group into a bigger network of volunteers.

“We realized that so many people gained a lot of knowledge,” says White. “We wanted to keep them together and put their knowledge on paper.”

The COAD will improve the community’s ability to mitigate, prevent, prepare for, respond

to and recover from disasters, ensuring the human needs after a disaster situation are evaluated and addressed.

The EMA has already developed a membership list for the program, which includes Monroe Owen Red Cross, Owen County Health Department, Cunot Community Center, Beanblossom Water Corporation, individuals, two members of the Town of Spencer Board and Owen County Amateur Radio (RACES).•

EOC MANAGER BRINGS EXPERIENCE FROM UNITED AIRLINES AND NATIONAL GUARD

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) welcomes the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager Bill Smith to the agency.

Smith brings valuable experience to the agency through work in the National Guard’s Joint Operations Center which performs operations similar to the state’s emergency operations center. He also has 15 years of experience with United Airlines and managed Indianapolis operations during the September 11th attacks.

“Bill’s experience with United Airlines, Iraq and the National Guard Joint Operations Center brought him to the top of our list of EOC Manager candidates. In his previous role with the National Guard, Bill worked with the State EOC during daily and disaster operations,” said IDHS Response Director Shane Booker. “We are very excited to have such a knowledgeable and experienced person to manage State EOC operations.”

In the past five years, Smith served as Operations Manager for United Airlines in Indianapolis. Recently, he has been working on active duty for the state at Stout Field in the Joint Operations Center on the Battle Desk and in the Current Operations section

(CuOPS). During this time he became familiar with WebEOC technology which facilitates information sharing with agencies statewide during a disaster.

Smith has been married more than 19 years to his wife, Cathy. They have two children: Jacob, 9 and MaCayla, 5. He is active in his son’s Cub Scout pack and football team. He also belongs to DADS (Dads appreciating Downs Syndrome), an organization for fathers of children with DS.•



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