



# Hoosier Responder

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## THE TRADITION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE CONTINUES IN INDIANA

Volunteer Fire Departments have been around since before America became a country and were first established by Benjamin Franklin in 1736. Firefighters in volunteer fire services in Indiana provide a lot of time and effort to protect citizens from the dangers of fires. However, support for volunteer fire services is often difficult because it involves raising money to help pay for equipment and the services these men and women provide.

Funding for volunteer fire departments is one of the most

difficult tasks, because they depend, at least in part, on the public's support with donations to their many fund-drives throughout the year. Around 60% of VFD's depend on fund-raising. With the current economy, people are not as willing to donate money.

The average outfit for a firefighter costs around \$3,500 and fire trucks can cost an upwards of \$200,000. The gasoline diesel fuel used in fire engines gets about 5-8 miles per gallon and with the many runs firefighters must make, the expenses really add up.

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## From the Director's Chair-Executive Director Joe Wainscott RAIN HELPED; DROUGHT STILL WITH HOOSIERS

Without wanting to sound like a broken record, the drought is still here.

The statewide burn ban map (<http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/burn-ban/>) is green (previous ban lifted) except for a handful of counties.

As of the writing of this column, a relatively wet August combined with some September rain, including the remnants of Isaac, have provided much needed relief. Many lawns and

much of the foliage made a comeback and now look greener than in quite some time. Since some of the outward signs have abated, the public may believe the drought is in the past.

There is reason to cheer, but caution is warranted. It will take Indiana about as long to get out of the drought as it has taken for these extremely dry conditions to take hold.

Parched soil has simply soaked up recent rains. 2012 has been one of the driest years in at least two generations.

Levels of dryness around the state are still very high, and some areas are even setting new records. A swath of South Central Indiana is still at a risk of wildfires. Reservoirs, waterways and

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Another cost is the volunteers themselves. "Volunteers aren't free, the costs eat up every penny," said John Buckman, Indiana Department of Homeland Security Fire and EMS Section Chief. "Fuel, insurance and workers compensation all apply to volunteer firefighters."

Another challenge faced by volunteer fire departments is recruiting new firefighters. Because volunteer firefighters usually begin at a young age, the loyalty may only span 3-5 years. According to Buckman, this is because many young adults are too busy to join with other activities they're participating in and also because of a change in society.

Terry Stroud, Milltown Volunteer Fire Department Chief in Harrison County, said, "It's hard to recruit volunteers because of their young age. It's difficult to get them on scene at all hours and they're not as dedicated as older volunteers that have been involved much longer."

Leadership can play a huge role in the retention of volunteers according to Buckman. "Leaders need to understand that they have to spend time, thank and encourage other volunteers if they want them to stay and strive to do more."

All volunteer firefighters receive benefits of some kind. Benefits can range from intangible to tangible such as training, protective gear and insurance. Also, some fire departments have a combination station which consists of some paid staff and some volunteer.

As communities grow, so do the needs and requirements of fire departments. Mark Hart, Battalion Chief and Paramedic for the White River Township Fire Department in Johnson County, said, "Communities grow and what is expected of fire departments increases every day. Most fire departments don't just respond to fires, but respond to vehicle accidents, emergency medical

calls, hazardous materials incidents, good intent calls, and a variety of technical rescue calls."

Kim Norton, deputy chief and public information officer for the Orland Community Volunteer Fire Department in Steuben County, says that most funding is based on year-round population and doesn't take into account recreational population increases. "Our county has over 100 natural lakes that cause the population to increase 10-fold on peak weekends in the summer. That places a pretty heavy burden on both manpower and funding.

Many different aspects affect volunteer fire departments whether it is environmental, resources, monetary or manpower. Sometimes having to branch out to surrounding area departments for mutual aid," Norton said "We help each other out."●

**PULASKI COUNTY PROCURES MULTIPLE EMERGENCY VEHICLES**

The Pulaski County Sheriff's Department has received around 16 vehicles for emergency use through a Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) auction. The DRMO handles the sale of any non-commissioned military vehicles and any law enforcement agency can take advantage of the program.

The Sheriff's Department procured around 16 vehicles for emergency

use to personnel as well as the District 2 Response Task Force. The vehicles include two trailers, two generators on trailers, two semi-trucks and a flat bed as well as other equipment vehicles.

"Part of the Task Force Commanders job is to make sure you don't leave the city without support, and having these vehicles helps ensure that task," said Pulaski

County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Ron Patrick.

The vehicles must be utilized at least once a year or the county can lose them. The vehicles have already been used on two exercises as well as the deadly tornadoes in southern Indiana. The trucks must be requested by local law enforcement and a CDL license is needed to operate the larger semis. ●

**The Indiana Department of Homeland Security encourages all individuals to keep safety in mind as fall festivities approach. Remember that anyone who operates a haunted house is required to apply for an Amusement and Entertainment permit from the Division of Fire and Building Safety in the State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of IDHS. The permit must be visibly displayed, preferably near the structure's entrance. Contact 317.232.2222 if permit is not visible.**

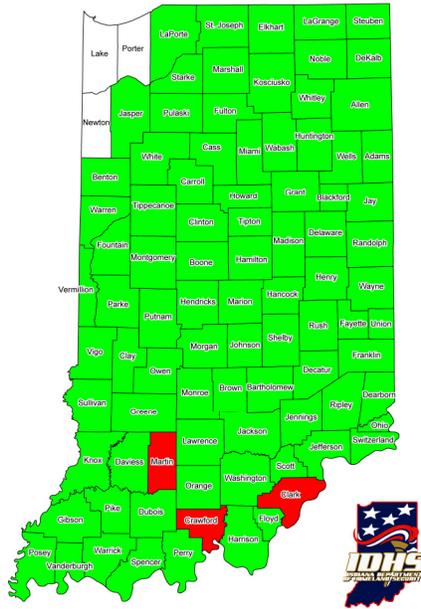
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other bodies of water are still well below normal.

Many state agencies have coordinated to bring local partners crucial information about how the drought is affecting Indiana. Thank you for being an important part of these communication efforts.

In the course of your regular communication, continue to bring up dry conditions and work with other local organizations to expand the reach of your message. In addition to meetings with colleagues, presentations to your communities and interviews with media to continue or raise awareness, remember the power of social media.

**Federal disaster loans available**



Burn Ban Map as of 9/18/12

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is making available low interest disaster

assistance loans for small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes.

In addition to drought, the loans are available for excessive heat, frost and freeze. Deadlines vary depending on county and cause. Some counties have several deadlines for drought. For more information, go to <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>, [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov), or call 800-659-2955.

As always, I believe Indiana's emergency responders are prepared. Thanks for your efforts. ●

**IDHS RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR 21-AGENCY IDEX PROJECT**

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security received an IJIS Institute Innovation Honorable Mention Award for the Security Data Exchange (IDEx) project implemented by industry partner, Crowe Horwath LLP.

The IJIS institute is a nonprofit organization that focuses on mission-critical information sharing for justice, public safety and homeland security.

The awards were presented during the annual National Forum on Public Safety &

Criminal Justice on July 27th in New Mexico.

The Indiana Data Exchange (IDEx) is a 21-agency effort that includes federal, state and local association participation. Launched as a proof-of-concept in August of 2011, the initiative seeks to connect data from disparate justice and public safety

systems together for enhanced decision making and increased public safety.

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



## NORTHEAST COUNTIES DEVELOP FIRST DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN THE FIRST DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PLAN OF ITS KIND FOR THE STATE OF INDIANA

Through mutual support and a year-long effort, the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) and five county EMAs in IDHS District 3 (DeKalb, Noble, LaGrange, Steuben and Whitley) developed a multi-county debris management plan in case of a disaster. They also developed a debris management template that is now available to all 92 Indiana counties as a guide for developing county specific plans.

Meetings took place every month with the group growing larger at every meeting and eventually including county geographic information systems, county highway directors, and county commissioners. This is the first plan of its kind for the state of Indiana.

“Northeast solid waste wanted to help the county directors in educating and helping prepare a plan since they would be involved if a disaster happened,” said Roger Powers, Director of DeKalb County Emergency Management Agency.

NISWMD provided a debris management class with an instructor and also drafted each county plan with additional local information. The plans were approved through county commissioners and county EMA directors. All northeast Indiana counties now have the same template plan.

“This was a great partnership with an organization that led each director on how to develop a debris plan,” said Powers.

Meetings are still held every

three months to continue education and ideas on debris management.

“I believe this has been an outstanding partnership and will significantly help Indiana be better prepared for future incidents,” said North District Team Leader Tom Sherron. •



A tub grinder from Northeast Indiana Solid Waste District that would be used for grinding debris during a natural disaster.

## JACKSON COUNTY IS NOW STORMREADY CERTIFIED BY THE NWS

Jackson County is now StormReady as designated from the National Weather Service (NWS) on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The certification comes after the county has developed the right safety plans, infrastructure and education awareness programs to ensure the safety of citizens.

“Being prepared is everyone’s business. We encourage everyone, businesses and schools to be ready to take action when severe weather threatens the county,” said Jackson County Emergency Management Director Duane Davis.

StormReady is the collaboration of authorities working to provide the right message at the right time to

warn people of impending weather threats. Emergency Management stresses the importance for preparedness for disasters with the focus on families, businesses and schools. According to the National Weather Service, StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness.

StormReady recognition was made possible by the support of Jackson County elected officials, emergency management advisory board,

two public safety answering points and the National Weather Service. •



Paul Ramsey (chair emergency management advisory Board), John Bounds (Jackson County public information officer), Jerry Hounshel (president of Jackson County Commissioners), Duane Davis (Jackson County EMA director) and Dave Tucek (NWS).

# The 2012 State Level Exercise: Without Warning



EMS crew with District 7 Response Task Force transports a mock victim found in the collapsed structure



I-BEAM evaluates the safety of a parking garage building.



Firefighters with the Jeffersonville Fire Department help evacuate a hospital that sustained damage from a simulated F3 tornado



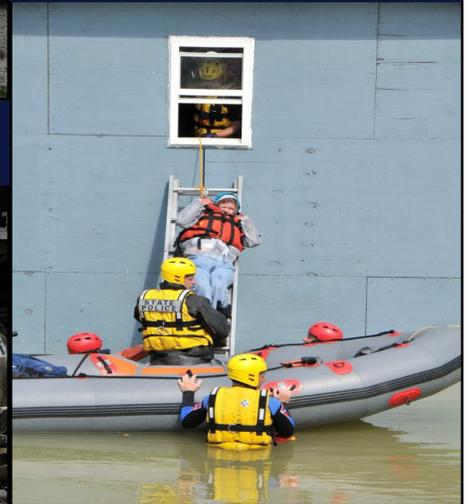
A member of the Tippecanoe Hazardous Materials team is being decontaminated



Law enforcement with DRTF 8 maintains a perimeter during the simulated gunman situation



INDOT participated by deploying debris removal teams



An Indiana State Police water rescue team helps a stranded woman leave her flooded home.

*The September State Level Exercise simulated tornado and flooding scenarios at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. Involved were: District Response Task Forces 7, 8, 9 and 10; Elements from District Response Task Forces 4 & 6; Indiana Department of Transportation; Department of Natural Resources; Indiana State Police; State Personnel Department; San Diego and Illinois Incident Management teams; Indiana Building Emergency Assessment and Monitoring; and Kentucky water rescue. •*

## IDHS FIRE INVESTIGATOR RECEIVES STATE AWARD

Fred Daffer, Assistant Chief Fire Investigator at the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office received the Lawrence Tuck Investigator of the Year Award on August 21, 2012. The award is given to a fire investigator who demonstrates exceptional performance in the area of fire and explosive investigations.

Each year, a committee evaluates the nominations and selects a recipient to be presented with the award at the Indiana Fire Investigation Conference. The award is given in honor of Lawrence "Bill" W. Tuck, a former investigator for the Arson Division of the Indiana State Fire Marshal's

Office. The award first began in 2000 after the passing of Tuck.

The award is given to an individual who is an active investigator in the State of Indiana and who has shown outstanding achievement through the use of professional expertise, in both the criminal and civil fields of fire investigation and arson control.

Daffer has been with the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office for 20 years as he worked his way up through the

ranks and became one of the first assistant chiefs of investigations. He held this position until he stepped down in 2011. ●



Mrs. Daffer, Fred Daffer, Chief of investigations Bob Dean, State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson and Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Bennett

## IDHS EMS NORTH AND SOUTH COORDINATORS INCLUDE DIVERSE HISTORIES IN PUBLIC SAFETY

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has new North and South EMS field coordinators. Both have extensive backgrounds in public safety.

Steve Gressmire is now the North EMS field coordinator and brings with him a history of emergency service. A few of his accomplishments include serving as the training and exercise coordinator for the Board of Health in Crown Point Indiana, membership in the Hebron Fire Department and service as an emergency medical technician.

Gressmire's duties have included: developing detailed response plans, including all emergency support functions, and following the all hazards approach to planning by

incorporating local law enforcement, public works, fire and EMS agencies.

His career in the U.S. Navy included serving as a recruiting commander. He was assigned as a work center supervisor/incident commander aboard the USS Paul Hamilton in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Gressmire is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in homeland security and emergency management.

Jason Smith, former North EMS field coordinator, is the new South EMS field coordinator for IDHS.

He began his career in public safety as a part-time dispatcher for a local ambulance service provider at age 16. Smith had various roles in the 16 years spent with the ambulance

provider, including chief operations officer/director.

He has also been the chief of a volunteer tactical/technical rescue department and has worked for both private and hospital based EMS providers.

Prior to his previous position at IDHS in March 2008, Smith worked in communications training and education for the Indiana State Police. His role includes the development and sustainment of the agency's district programs, including district planning councils and district response task forces. ●

## HAVE TWO WAYS OUT: 2012 NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



A home fire escape plan that prepares families for an alternate way out

in the event of a fire is a key part in making escape plans. National Fire Prevention Week is October 7th through the 13th with the theme “Have 2 Ways Out.” The theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal’s Office will partner with the Indianapolis Fire Department in the 2012 Fire Safety Olympics, which allows school children to visit various “learning stations” on fire safety. IDHS will also feature fire safety messages at the Carmel Safety Day Fair.

In 2010, home fires were reported every 85 seconds, killing 2,640 people and injuring 13,350 according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Tips on creating a fire escape plan with 2 ways out:

- Draw a floor plan, showing all doors and windows
- Visit each room and find two ways out, then mark them on your plan
- Choose a specific outside meeting place a safe distance from the home and mark it on the escape plan. Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice using different ways out at different times of the day.

## EVANSVILLE/VANDERBURGH COUNTY CERT REVAMPS PROGRAM RELYING ON SELF-SUSTAINABILITY, CERT LOOKS FOR OTHER WAYS TO FUND

The Evansville/Vanderburgh County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has made recent developments to recruit and train community volunteers for the program that was interrupted four years prior due to the lack of funding.

John Murphy, CERT Trainer, moved to Evansville from Washington in 2011 and took his former position as CERT Program Manager to revamp the Program.

With the efforts of the new CERT program manager, Bryant Garibay’s goals are to continue growth in membership as well as educate the public on the program.

“Monthly training is taking place for existing CERT members. This is, in

my opinion, the greatest retention tool for existing CERT members,” said Garibay.

CERT members are trained to help safeguard lives and property by responding before professionals arrive.

“CERT members are able to help neighbors and the community after an event occurs, which helps speed up the mitigation and response efforts and most importantly save lives,” said Murphy.

CERT funding is no longer specifically designated. Under the direction of the emergency management agency, Evansville/Vanderburgh County is working on certifying its program as a non-profit in order to raise funds.

“We can’t rely on state or federal funds any more. This gives us less stipulations on how to use the money, and allows for self sustainability,” said Murphy.

The Evansville/Vanderburgh County CERT has found that participating throughout the community in various events has helped increase its membership significantly. •



CERT member Sam Downey participates in fire extinguisher training.

## STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS IS SECOND IN SERIES OF CLASSES

On July 18<sup>th</sup> the IDHS Department of Fire and Building Safety Education Committee conducted a class at the Indiana Government Center on the storage of flammable liquids and the construction and inspection of motor fueling areas.

This was the second in a series of continuing education classes conducted by the DFBS Education Committee, an initiative of Dean Illingworth, director of code enforcement.

The classes are designed to improve the knowledge and abilities of state employees working in the Department of Fire and Building Safety Education Committee as well as partners in local building departments, fire departments, and design firms across the State of Indiana.

Participants were also provided continuing

education hours (CEUs) that are required to maintain professional licenses and certifications. ●



## AHIMT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS

The All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMT) Association Conference will be held in Indianapolis December 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> at the JW Marriott hotel.

The conference agenda allows attendees to explore the most critical information on lessons learned from recent experiences

and best practices developed by some of the highest performing AHIMT teams in the nation.

Emergency management vendors promoting the latest in applicable training, technology and equipment will also be available. Attendees must register prior to October 30, 2012. For more information,

contact [joyce@procam-inc.com](mailto:joyce@procam-inc.com) or visit [www.AHIMTA.org](http://www.AHIMTA.org). ●



## FIELD TRIAGE/TRAUMA RULE EFFECTIVE FOR INDIANA EMS PERSONNEL



The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Field Triage/Trauma rule became effective on August 8, 2012.

The new rule was established to provide a regulatory plan to ensure

that injured patients in the pre-hospital setting are transported to the most appropriate hospital facility within Indiana. This is based on field assessment by EMS personnel of the potential severity of injury, available transportation and hospital resources.

The Trauma Triage Rule helps responders determine when a patient should go to a trauma center for treatment. This rule will allow for the traumatically injured to be transported to appropriate trauma facilities earlier in the patient care

process. Trauma centers are staffed to a different standard than non-trauma centers where patients will receive care based upon their need.

Traumatic injury is the number one killer of Hoosiers under the age of 45 and injury is the fifth most common killer of Hoosiers of all ages. For more information, visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3778.htm>. ●

# IDHS SEARCH & RESCUE ASSISTS IN VIBRANT RESPONSE EXERCISE



The Indiana Department of Homeland Security Search and Rescue (SAR) training center was asked to assist with the Vibrant Response exercise at the Muscatatuck

Urban Training Center.

SAR assisted by providing access to their search and rescue training center.

In addition, Army North (ARNORTH) requested SAR dogs for use in the exercise to give the military some experience working with civilian K9 teams. •

## HOOSIER BURN CAMP PARTICIPANTS VISIT LAKE MONROE



The Hoosier Burn Camp, with the assistance of the White River Township and Bloomington Fire Departments, visited Lake Monroe in Bloomington Indiana on July 24th and 25th. Teens in the program got to swim, boat, water ski, jet ski and camp. For more information, visit: [www.hoosierburncamp.org](http://www.hoosierburncamp.org) •

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