

THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

APRIL 2019



**GET
ALARMED**

**GET ALARMED CAMPAIGN
AIMS TO INSTALL
10,000 SMOKE ALARMS
IN 2 YEARS**

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FIRST RESPONDERS LIVING WITH PERSONAL TRAGEDY

On a cold night in November 2018, volunteer firefighter Paul Wines arrived at the scene of a possible hit and run that left two men lying on the road. His experience working with the Walton Community Fire Department in Cass County trained him well to expect the unexpected on injury calls.

As he leaned in to begin treating the patient, a familiar face peered back at him. Wines found himself struggling to save his own son. Unfortunately, his injuries were too severe. His son died there in the roadway—beginning a time of turmoil and despair for Wines, who would go on to question every decision he made that night.

“For years, I worried about my son’s safety when he started driving,” Wines said. “When I heard the tones of a call, I always thought, ‘Where is he and is he safe?’ but that slowly went away because I knew he was a safe driver. So, those thoughts weren’t on my mind when that call came in. I never thought it could have been my son.”

After the funeral was held and the final condolences trickled in, his family fought hard to get back to some sense of normalcy. All the while, Wines

struggled with questions about what he should have or could have done better, faster. The experience began to weigh heavily on his mental health. First responders see tragedy every day, but responding to his own son’s fatal accident led Wines to consider suicide to escape the pain.

A study by the Ruderman Family Foundation highlights an increase in the amount of reports of first responder suicides. It found 103 firefighters and/or emergency medical services (EMS) personnel* committed suicide in 2017. Many of these first responders experienced traumatic events and reported feelings of isolation afterwards.

“I once responded to an incident where a 6-year-old child drowned, and the mother was screaming and crying for us to save her child,” Wines said. “To this day, I still remember her screams. I told my wife we have become that mother crying and wishing our son would come back to us.”

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) recently launched a suicide prevention training program to hopefully change the statistic.

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Volunteer Firefighter Paul Wines

“The course deals with first responders as well as the patients they serve,” said Dr. Michael Kaufmann, state EMS medical director. “It was made to increase awareness about suicide and post-traumatic stress disorder amongst first responders, but it also gives them additional information on how to recognize and care for their patients suffering from these illnesses as well.”

Depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are common mental health illnesses that can affect a person’s likelihood to commit suicide. Early assistance can

help prevent such tragedies from occurring.

House Enrolled Act 1430, which passed in 2018, requires EMS providers to offer suicide assessment, treatment and management training. Additionally, in order to be a certified or licensed emergency medical technician, the instructional program must be completed. In Indiana, fire departments are not required to offer mental health training courses but are invited to complete the course.

Wines said, before his son’s accident, the topic of mental

health awareness briefly was discussed in his department and flyers were distributed, but it was never at the forefront of anyone’s mind. Recently, he suggested his entire department should complete the IDHS mental health course. Everyone completed the course as a group.

“I’m glad more and more people are talking about mental health awareness for first responders because I’m sick of seeing them falling off the edge when it can be prevented,” Wines said.

In Indiana, the 11th-leading cause of death is suicide, but first responders are nationally five times more likely to end their own lives. Kaufmann said since the training was released in November 2018, more than 10,000 EMS personnel have completed the course and hopes the statistic will change.

Anyone dealing with suicidal thoughts is encouraged to speak with their IDHS EMS district manager, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or utilize resources such as [The Code Green Campaign](#) and [Share the Load Program](#).

**The Ruderman Family Foundation combine the firefighter and EMS personnel suicide rates because they found many firefighters also serve as EMTs.*



INDIANA FIRE MARSHAL ALARM PROGRAM LOOKS TO IMPACT AND EDUCATE HOOSIERS

Six family members in Cass County. Three children in Tell City. This past February, a 9-year-old boy died in an accidental Muncie fire—all incidents that may have been avoided if the homes were equipped with working smoke alarms.

Nationally, more than two-thirds of all fatal house fires occur in a home with no working smoke alarms. Indiana experienced a surge in multiple fatalities in 2018, leading to an overall increase in fire fatalities to 93 for the year, up from 72 the previous year.

Lifelong firefighters like Indiana Fire Marshal Jim Greeson take these incidents to heart. Quite simply, these deaths don't have to happen. They are tragic, senseless losses.

“For as long as I can remember, firefighters have worked to educate the public about fire prevention and safety. But, if it's not right in your face or you've experienced a fire incident in your home before, it's not at the top of people's priority list,” Greeson said.

“Keeping a working smoke alarm is the cheapest, easiest way to protect yourself and your

loved ones in your home. The Indiana Fire Marshal's office is committed to reinforcing that message for all Hoosiers,” Greeson said.

Through a \$521,000 federal grant, the Indiana Fire Marshal in March launched the statewide *Get Alarmed* campaign (GetAlarmed.in.gov), with a goal of installing 10,000 smoke

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Get Alarmed Press Conference Held on March 20



alarms and 1,000 alarms for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) has formed a partnership with the American Red Cross to benefit from its extensive history with national smoke alarm initiatives and utilize an existing network across the state to install the alarms. Working with fire departments and service providers like the Red Cross, requests from either individuals or fire departments will be installed and education on fire prevention and safety will be shared.

“This grant will allow us to conduct a fire safety campaign on a level in Indiana like we’ve never done before,” said IDHS Executive Director Bryan Langley. “We want to give residents, as well as our fire and first responder communities, every chance at avoiding injury by promoting working smoke alarms in all Indiana homes.”

The grant stipulates low- to moderate-income families will be a focus of the *Get Alarmed* campaign. By working with fire

departments through enhanced fire-run data, the Indiana Fire Marshal will better determine areas of focus across the state, including more rural locations. Improved contact and communications to residents with their fire providers is essential to the educational effort as well.

“Our mission is to protect lives, property and the environment,” said Ernest Malone, chief for the Indianapolis Fire Department. “We ask that, in return, you make yourself and your family a priority as well. By having a working smoke alarm in your home, you are prioritizing your family’s safety in the event of a fire.”

Get Alarmed represents one of the largest smoke alarm programs to occur in Indiana. The grant period runs through the end of 2020, but the Indiana Fire Marshal also has applied for a larger grant for the following period. A larger grant could put even more smoke alarms in the homes of people most at-risk. As the program grows in capacity, the partnership with the American Red Cross and its network of service providers across Indiana will be critical.

“We’re elated IDHS is partnering with the Red Cross,” said Chad Priest, regional CEO for the Indiana Region of the Red Cross. “Since October 2014, Red Cross volunteers have teamed up with local partners like IDHS to reduce home fire tragedies

and save lives. We’re excited to align our efforts and help build a more resilient community by making homes safer through working smoke alarms.”

A smoke alarm is the first important step to ensure your safety in the event of a home fire. Equally important is an evacuation plan from your home, regular testing of alarms and discussions with family members about how to keep the home fire safe.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Visit GetAlarmed.in.gov to request an alarm.
2. Fire Marshal works with local fire officials.
3. A time will be established for installation.
4. Fire or service provider reports installation at GetAlarmed.in.gov.
5. Resident test alarms once monthly.



Get Alarmed materials available at GetAlarmed.in.gov

NEW TRAINING CENTER FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE



Following a disaster, search and rescue professionals offer vital assistance in the recovery process. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Search and Rescue Training Section responds to requests across the state as specialists in K-9 training programs in search and rescue, technical rescue and search management.

Since 2001, K-9 teams from across the country—some foreign teams as well—have trained at the Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue (SAR) Center located at Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, Ind. Large rubble piles, an actual plane fuselage and other amenities provided true-to-life experiences for cadaver dogs.

The resources available to the IDHS K-9 team have expanded even more through a new 10-year agreement with the Indiana Sheriff's Association Youth Ranch in Brazil, Ind. The location offers an on-site kennel for the dogs as well as a large lake for water training, which previously had to be done at a site in southern Indiana. The Ranch announced the partnership with IDHS to sheriffs from across Indiana at an event on March 14.

"The Youth Ranch property was previously owned by a veterinarian whose clinic has since been remodeled and repurposed as our Indiana Sheriffs' K-9 Academy," said former Marion County Sheriff John Layton, president of the not-for-profit's board. "Because (IDHS) is a leader nationwide and worldwide in training and certifying public safety canines, their use of our K-9 Academy and property is a fitting partnership we hope continues for years to come."

Relocation to the 62-acre Brazil site is underway, and training is expected to begin as early as May. The Atterbury site will continue to be utilized based on the needs of agencies working with IDHS.

"One benefit of the Youth Ranch is that it has access to water," said Lillian Hardy, IDHS search and rescue manager. "The lakes will allow additional training for cadaver dogs, which can detect human submerged remains."

Youth from all 92 counties across Indiana – future deputies, troopers and police officers, as well as at-risk kids and young witnesses and

victims of crime – will discover the Indiana Sheriffs' Youth Ranch offers life lessons about **R**espect, **A**nimals, **N**ature, **C**haracter and **H**ealth.

IDHS Chief Operating Officer Jeff Groh expanded on how the collaboration is a good fit. "Children and dogs get along well in many settings," he said at the signing ceremony, "and youth will learn about working dogs during their youth camp experience." All IDHS dogs are trained to be docile, not dogs that chase or apprehend suspects.

The program also will expand soon to include an arson dog to assist the Indiana Fire Marshal in fire investigations across the state. Groh said the Youth Ranch will allow ample space for the growth of the IDHS K-9 program to become one of the prominent training locations in the Midwest.

"This opportunity is a great benefit for public safety agencies across Indiana. We're proud and excited about what the future holds for our partnership and program," Groh said.

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

Spring is coming, and with it comes the application period for IDHS grants. The Grants Administration section has recently merged with Planning, Training and Exercise division under the leadership of PTEG Division Director, John Brown.

To prepare public safety partners for the upcoming application period, the grants administration team is requesting all entities verify their DUNS number, vendor number and bidder number prior to applying for any grants.

These registrations are vital to the grant award process, and incorrect information could disqualify an application from moving past the first round of the review process. As usual, IDHS staff is happy to assist in finding this information. Please email grants@dhs.in.gov with the subject line “Bidder/Vendor Number Help” and include the following information:

- Name of entity
- Address of entity
- The bidder and vendor number you need to verify (if you already have one)

Please note the turnaround time for this information could be up to two business days.

Entities that need to register for a State of Indiana vendor or bidder number, or need to obtain federal SAM or DUNS numbers, can visit the IDHS website dhs.in.gov/grants.htm for instructions.



PTEG Division Director, John Brown

BILL UPDATE: STOP THE BLEED, HB 1063

A bill that would expand Stop the Bleed programs within school corporations and charter schools around the state continues to move forward during the 2019 legislative session. As of March 31, HB 1063 has initially passed the House, and passed the Senate with minor amendments. The bill has been referred back to the House for reconciliation.

The proposed legislation would require schools to develop a Stop the Bleed program. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) would be tasked with developing and providing training on the proper use of bleeding control kits. Once a school building has trained personnel willing to render aid during an emergency, the school may request Stop the Bleed kits, which would be provided to the school free of charge (dependent on inventory and donations).

Track the 2019 session online at <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2019/bills/>



FDIC SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

FDIC International will be in Indianapolis April 8-13, 2019, to teach and demonstrate the newest technologies and techniques for fire and rescue professionals. This year eight Hoosiers will be representing Indiana as leaders of pre-conference workshops and classes. Detailed below are dates, times and summaries of what Hoosiers will be presenting at FDIC.

MON

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE FOR THE FIRST-DUE COMPANY

Speaker: Mark Litwinko, Fort Wayne Fire Department
Date and Time: April 8, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM



MON

HEAVY VEHICLE EXTRICATION

Speaker: Todd Taylor, Wayne Township Fire Department
Date and Time: April 8, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM



MON

VENT-ENTER-ISOLATE-SEARCH ON THE MODERN FIREGROUND

Speaker: Eric Dreiman, Indianapolis Fire Department
Date and Time: April 8, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM



MON

FIREGROUND SKILLS AND DRILLS FOR SUCCESS IN SUBURBIA

Speaker: Charlie Fadale, Fishers Fire Department
Date and Time: April 8, 8:00 PM – 5:00 PM



MON

PREPLANNING INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

Speaker: Benjamin Peetz, Napoleon Volunteer Fire Department
Date and Time: April 8, 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM



WED

LARGE TRUCK EXTRICATION

Speaker: Steve White, Fishers Fire Department
Date and Time: April 10, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



WED

FIREFIGHTERS SURVIVE ALIVE – THE ULTIMATE PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Speaker: Aleatha A. Henderson, Indianapolis Fire Department
Date and Time: April 10, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM



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RESCUE TASK FORCE

Speaker: Mark Litwinko, Fort Wayne Fire Department
Date and Time: April 10, 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Speaker: John Shafer, Washington Township Fire Department (Avon, Ind.)
Date and Time: April 11, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



FENTANYL, SPICE AND BATH SALTS – OH MY!

Speaker: Tobias Frost, Lafayette Fire Department
Date and Time: April 11, 3:30 PM – 5:15 PM



HIGH INTENSITY TRAINING CONCEPTS

Speaker: John Buckman III, Retired German Township IN Volunteer Fire Dept.
Date and Time: April 12, 8:30 AM – 10:15 AM



PFAS 101

Speaker: Graham Peaslee, University of Notre Dame
Date and Time: April 12, 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM



iWOMEN IN INDIANA FOR 2019

The International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services (iWomen) Conference will provide an additional opportunity for hundreds of fire service professionals to share experiences, challenges and insight. The 2019 conference will be held in Indianapolis during the FDIC International conference.

While iWomen is an organization of women and for

women, all fire chiefs, union presidents, EEO officers and others seeking to make the fire service a professional place where women and men work together harmoniously are also encouraged to participate in the conference and organization.

Held April 7-9, session topics include diversity, competing bullies, leadership, mental health and cancer prevention, as well as updated information

on technical aspects of fire suppression and attack.

Today, approximately 11,000 women in the U.S. work as career firefighters and officers, with perhaps 40,000 in the volunteer, paid-on-call, part-time and seasonal sectors.

Register for the iWomen Conference through FDIC at https://www.compusystems.com/servlet/ar?evt_uid=333.



IDHS EMS SIMULATION TRAINING

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security Mobile Simulation Lab is considered one of the most immersive EMS training tools in the state.



The Mobile Simulation Lab (MSL), a repurposed ambulance designed to simulate high-fidelity EMS simulations, has provided free training to first responder personnel for more than 10 years. As of 2019, the MSL has visited more than 50 different agencies since September of 2018, and more than 250 personnel have participated in MSL training sessions during within the same time frame.

Timothy Layton, the MSL manager at IDHS, said the MSL is the most realistic form of training EMS personnel can experience in Indiana.

“A lot of EMS training in Indiana just doesn’t have the funding or technology to do realistic, live EMS scenarios,” Layton said. “Many places use regular CPR manikins to try and simulate scenarios, but they aren’t nearly as realistic as the MSL’s HAL manikin.”

“HAL” is the human patient simulator manikin used in the MSL. HAL, which is modeled to resemble a 30- to 40-year-old male, is capable of talking to trainees and receiving common EMS invasive procedures, such as intubations and needle decompressions.

“With HAL’s capabilities, we’re able to customize him to create scenarios that trainees need to practice the most,” Layton said.

In addition to HAL, the MSL also uses “NOEL,” a pregnancy birthing manikin and a trauma manikin capable of bleeding and simulating severe trauma.

Angela Webb, the EMS Operations manager for Deaconess Hospital, trained

in the MSL during October of 2018 and said the MSL training was more effective than other training she’s experienced.

“It was very realistic and just about as close you can get to caring for a real patient,” Webb said. “I would highly recommend it to other first responder agencies.”

To request a visit from the MSL, email Timothy Layton at simlab@dhs.in.gov.



TOURNIQUET TRAINING KEY TO STOP THE BLEED

As part of the national Stop the Bleed campaign, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) strives to make access to free bleeding control courses easier for Hoosier communities.

Michael Kaufmann, state emergency medical services medical director, said 35 percent of pre-hospital trauma deaths occur due to uncontrollable bleeding.

“In the U.S., the average interval between a call to 911 and arrival of EMS personnel on the scene is seven minutes for urban areas, but patients in rural areas can wait as long as 30 minutes for help to arrive,” Kaufmann said. “Bystanders already at the scene of an accident can help save lives before first responders arrive.”

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Lt. Matt Morgan experienced firsthand the importance of tourniquet training. In 2017, Morgan responded to a call involving a 13-year-old girl who lost her leg after being hit by a train. When Morgan arrived at the scene, a neighbor had placed his belt around the limb to stop the bleeding, but it was slipping and beginning to lose effective pressure.

In a trauma kit, tourniquets are medical devices that use tight

bands on an arm or leg to stop the flow of blood to an injury. Morgan received tourniquet training through IMPD and Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services. The police officers received information on how to apply and secure the device. While treating the 13-year-old,



Morgan quickly deployed a tourniquet from his patrol car and kept the girl calm until emergency medical services arrived.

The quick actions of applying the belt and then the tourniquet almost certainly saved the life of the girl. For his involvement in the incident, Morgan became the first police officer to win the EMS for Children award at the Indiana Emergency Response Conference. He also received an honorable mention for the 2018 National Association of Police Organizations' TOP COPS award. “You can't really compare a real-life scenario to a simulated event, but tourniquet training is essential

for first responders,” Morgan said. “A lot of the times, we beat paramedics to the scene, so knowing how to apply a tourniquet can help make a difference.”

Morgan offered some advice for first responders taking tourniquet training courses.

“Make sure you're paying attention to what the instructors are saying. Take the time to practice grabbing the kit from your car and practice applying the tourniquet on yourself,” Morgan said. “It's not your normal run-of-the-mill training, so don't take it for granted.”

Individuals with or without any medical knowledge can attend the training. Interested first responders and public safety personnel can receive training from IDHS to become an instructor for bleeding control courses. The agency also loans free trauma kits to communities who lack the equipment but still want to provide the training.

For more information about the Stop the Bleed initiative, visit dhs.in.gov/4095.htm.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH DURING SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Outreach during Severe Weather Preparedness Week helps county emergency management agencies (EMA) increase awareness about the importance of planning and preparing for all types of severe weather. Social media is one of the most popular methods to engage citizens throughout this week, but one county this year decided to take its strategy a step further.

Morgan County EMA partnered with Morgan County EMS, Morgan County Health Department and Morgan County 911 to host a Severe Weather Preparedness Fair on March 21 at the Morgan County 4-H Fairgrounds.

“During Severe Weather Preparedness Week, we wanted to get out into the community, meet people and interact with our partner agencies in the county,” said Mark Tumey, Morgan County EMA director. “There was a good turnout from the community and people were excited to see us there.”

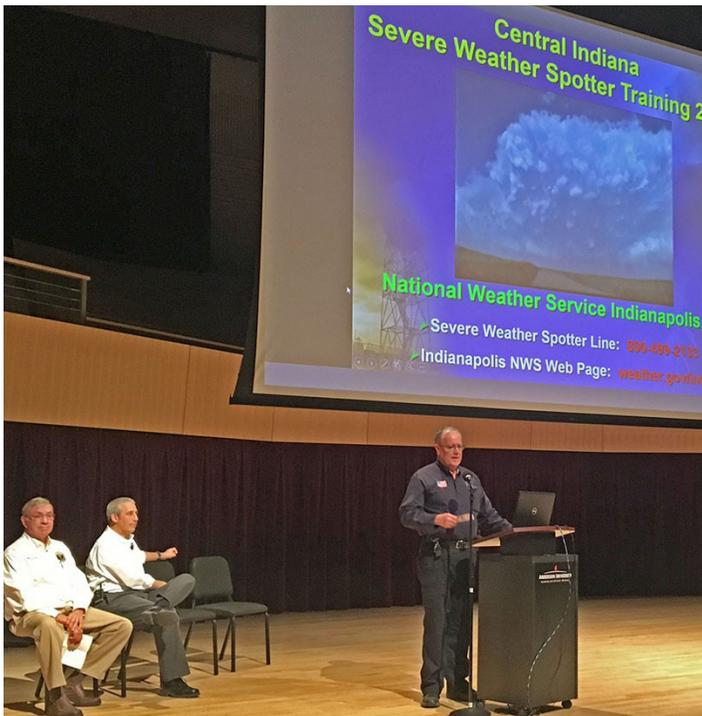
Tumey and his staff provided materials on different natural disasters, how to prepare for them and what items citizens should have in their homes to prepare for events—especially an all-hazard weather radio. Provided by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, they distributed 25 radios to Preparedness Fair

attendees. Morgan County EMA also raffled off a disaster preparedness kit to one lucky citizen.

“We were excited about the turnout and reception of the fair. It worked out much better than we expected, and we are looking forward to doing it every year moving forward,” said Tumey.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week also can be a time for first responders to exercise procedures for severe weather events. On March 19, Madison County EMA used the statewide tornado drill as an opportunity to activate their severe weather spotters and amateur radio (HAM) operators.

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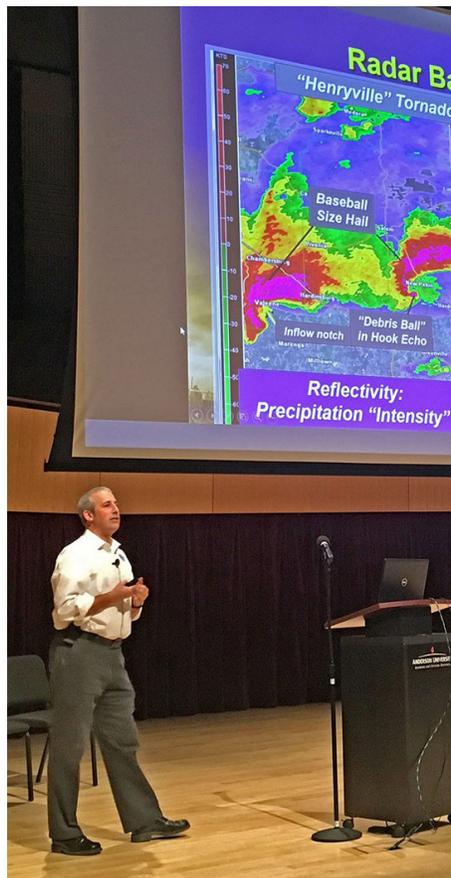
When the tornado siren sounded, 27 amateur radio operators radioed the Madison County Emergency Operations Center to test communications. Madison County EMA also established radio communication links with Delaware, Grant, Hamilton and Hancock counties during the drill.

“The communications test went well,” said Todd Harmeson, deputy director and public information officer for Madison County EMA. “We were able to gauge how many weather spotters we would have available if a severe weather event happened during the day in the middle of the week.”

Madison County EMA also hosted a National Weather Service StormNet training at Anderson University. The StormNet training, attended by 98 EMA volunteers, public

safety officials and members of the public, taught attendees what to look for when watching a storm and how to determine different grading scales of severity. After the two-hour class, attendees became certified weather spotters and are now able to provide accurate information during a severe weather event.

“Each year we coordinate the National Weather Service StormNet training with Severe Weather Preparedness Week. This training, along with the communications test, brings up a reoccurring takeaway each year: We need to continue to educate and recruit amateur radio operators and storm spotters,” Harmeson said.



ICS 200 UPDATE

FEMA released the newest version of ICS 200, now called IS-200.C: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response.

Students who have taken the older version are not required to retake this newer version. However, FEMA recommends individuals take the newer versions of courses to remain current with the latest development in NIMS.

This course is available on the FEMA online course catalog: <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>

All new students who have never taken ICS 200 need to take the newer version IS-200.C

If you have any questions please contact:

Cassie Parker
EMA Training Program Manager
E-Mail: CaParker@dhs.in.gov



FEMA

IDHS SEEKS TO EXPAND RADIOLOGICAL NUCLEAR DETECTION PROGRAM

Radiological threats, particularly radioactive dispersal devices, are a reality with the potential to harm the health and safety of Hoosiers attending events around the state of Indiana. Fortunately, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Radiological & Nuclear Detection (RND) program works with partners around the state to monitor and prevent such incidents from occurring.

The RND program, created in 2015, provides local law enforcement agencies an extra layer of security in preventing the illicit use of radiological materials at public events. Through the program, IDHS provides training, subject matter expertise and logistical support to agencies requesting support



for monitoring dangerous radioactive isotopes at events in their area.

Kaci Studer, the radiation programs director for IDHS, says most venues aren't equipped with their own radiation detection systems and rely on IDHS and its agency partners to conduct monitoring.

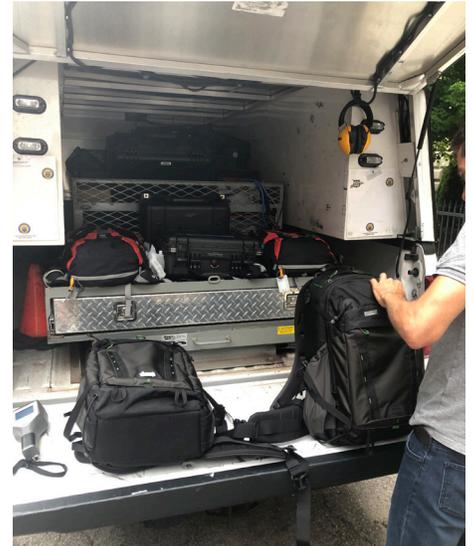
"The only way you can know if radiation is there is if you have detection equipment present," Studer said. "You can't see it, you can't smell it and you can't taste it."

Studer explained IDHS and its partner agencies can provide monitoring services to any event they are requested for in the state.

"For the most part, we monitor larger events, such as the Indy 500," Studer said. "But, we also do parades, festivals and other smaller event varieties."

Prior to the arrival of event participants, RND personnel perform radiation background surveys to monitor for abnormal radiation levels. Once guests arrive, personnel then perform either stationary, roving or random detections for radioactive isotopes in the area.

During their monitoring,



RND personnel use a wide variety of equipment, such as personal radiation detectors, backpack detectors, mobile detectors attached to vehicles and detection equipment that analyzes radioactive isotopes.

"Radioactive isotopes from medical treatments are our most common detections at events," Studer said. We're concerned about detecting radioactive isotopes the bad guys want to get their hands on, such as Caesium-137 and Cobalt-60."

Sgt. Robert Brown, Counter-Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Program manager for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), has monitored radiation at events with IDHS since late 2014. Brown said his experience monitoring radiation has shown him the importance of

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understanding radiation in a public safety job role.

“It’s a necessary part of public safety,” Brown said. “A lot of people don’t think about it, but radiation is everywhere. From naturally occurring radiation, to radiation used in industry, radiation is everywhere in the state. We just don’t think about it unless we are involved in it.”

Brown encourages first responder agencies of all sizes to get involved with the RND program.



Sgt. Robert Brown

“I know it’s a goal for the State of Indiana to have some level of participation in all 92 counties in the State of Indiana,” Brown said. “As first responders, it’s a level of awareness I think we need to increase our knowledge in to help make our communities safer.”

First responder agencies interested in joining the RND program can contact Kaci Studer at kstuder@dhs.in.gov for more information.

RECOVERY STAFF CONDUCTS GRANTS PORTAL TRAINING

IDHS staff on March 12 conducted a four-hour course for Hamilton County government officials, providing an introduction to the FEMA Grants Portal system. More than 20 individuals participated in the course, representing organizations in Hamilton County such as the City of Carmel, Noblesville Fire Department, Hamilton County Highway and the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office.

“We’re really happy with the engagement we saw from the participants,” said Susan Shearer, Public Assistance Program director with IDHS. “This system will become an integral part

of disaster recovery in future disaster events, and familiarizing people with it only helps to simplify things moving forward.”

The course provided access to what’s known as the “Practice Portal,” which gives users a chance to obtain hands-on experience with the portal’s functionality before being given access to the live system. Attendees were also provided login credentials for the live system upon completion of the course. This was the first portal class provided by the state, and more are expected to be conducted in the future.

“We had a great turnout and

every municipality in Hamilton County was represented,” said Shane Booker, executive director of Hamilton County Emergency Management. “To ensure we can meet the needs of our growing county, it is critical we take every step we can to ensure we are ready to serve our communities.”

For questions regarding the FEMA Grants Portal or to request a local delivery please contact IDHS Public Assistance Program staff at PA@dhs.in.gov. Visit the [Indiana Public Safety Personnel Portal](#) to search for upcoming courses across the state.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

OBSERVED: APRIL 2019

Established by Donate Life America, this year's theme showcases how the donation and transplantation process can help make sure "Life is a beautiful ride." One way to participate is sharing photos on social media using the hashtag #DonateLifeMonth.

Visit <https://www.donatelife.net/ndlm/> for more ways to get involved.

SOUND THE ALARM

OBSERVED: APRIL 27 - MAY 12, 2019

Nationally, no working smoke alarms are found in two-thirds of fatal home fires. To help lower these numbers, the American Red Cross and IDHS partner to distribute free smoke alarms and share fire safety education in at-risk areas. Sharing smoke alarm safety tips is a way to participate in the event.

For more information about Sound the Alarm volunteer opportunities, visit

<https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html>.

For more information about IDHS's Get Alarmed initiative, visit

GetAlarmed.in.gov.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

OBSERVED: MAY 2019

Mental Health America is celebrating the 70th anniversary of Mental Health Month. This year's theme focuses on how pets and support animals, spirituality, humor and more can help improve mental health. Event participation can include sharing mental health resources on social media and in the community.

For more information, visit <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

OBSERVED: MAY 2019

Every year, the International Code Council (ICC) hosts the international Building Safety Month campaign. The ICC and its partners strive to spread awareness so the buildings where everyone works, lives or plays are safe.

Visit <https://www.iccsafe.org/>, for information on how to help spread awareness in your community.

EMS WEEK

OBSERVED: MAY 19-25, 2019

The National Association of Medical Technicians and the American College of Emergency Physicians partner to host the 45th annual EMS Week. The event honors the work EMS practitioners do every day. One way to participate is making posts for Twitter using the hashtag #EMSweek.

For more activity ideas, visit <https://www.naemt.org/initiatives/ems-week/>.

NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

OBSERVED: MAY 31, 2019

In remembrance of the May 31, 1889, South Fork Dam in Johnstown, PA, National Dam Safety Awareness Day encourages the public to learn about how they can prevent future dam failures. IDHS encourages areas to focus on low head dam safety as residents begin their summer activities.

To learn more about dam safety, visit dhs.in.gov/4022.htm.

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