



Hoosier Responder

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FEMA AWARDS \$4.3 MILLION GRANT TO COLUMBUS

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released \$4.3 million in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to the city of Columbus, IN. The funds will be used to acquire and remove 63 homes susceptible to annual flooding. The funds will be available once a final agreement is signed between the city of Columbus and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

The HMGP federal share of the grant is \$4,364,174 and will be available once a final agreement is signed among the city of Columbus, FEMA and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). HMGP provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term risk reduction measures. Through HMGP, FEMA will pay the 75 percent federal share of the \$5.8 million project, with the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority providing the



Columbus Mayor Fred Armstrong (center), accepts a check from IDHS's Ashlee Moore (right of mayor) for \$4.3 million.



remaining 25 percent of the project cost. The IDHS administers the mitigation program. "Indiana continues to recover from the long-term effects of the 2008 flooding. This assistance is a key step in the recovery process for those Columbus residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed," said IDHS Executive Director

Joseph Wainscott. "The partnership and teamwork among the city of Columbus, IDHS and FEMA helped provide this much needed relief." ■

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From the Director's Chair — Executive Director Joe Wainscott

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), in conjunction with the Indiana Broadcasters Association, the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross has taken on the important task of revising and updating the State Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan. The plan will provide procedures for broadcast and cable services and designated government officials of Indiana to follow when disseminating emergency information and instructions in threatened or actual emergencies. Additionally, various technologies as well as best practices from other states and jurisdictions will also be implemented to ensure a comprehensive approach to warning and alerting the public of impending emergencies is thoroughly activated throughout the State of Indiana.

In keeping with the central emergency priorities of life safety, property protection, and incident stabilization, IDHS, as a part of this new EAS Plan, will integrate technologies such

as all-hazards alert weather radios and provide these communications devices to Indiana citizens where funds and necessities permit.

In 2010, federal grant funding will provide IDHS the opportunity to provide at least 7,000 all-hazards alert weather radios. Distribution across the state will be coordinated with local partners to target, among other areas, residents of the thousands of mobile homes in Indiana. Mobile homes and similar structures offer only minimal protection against severe weather and other life-threatening natural and man-made disasters, so frequently the best course of action is evacuation to a stronger, safer building such as a community center or other public facility. These radios will help provide at-risk, mobile home occupants the advanced warning they need.

All-hazards alert weather radios disseminate more than 60 emergency alerts such as hazardous weather and other local area

warnings, including up to date weather information broadcast directly from the National Weather Service. In the event of a power outage or an evacuation, backup battery power allows the radios to remain operational.



During 2009, IDHS was able to provide the initial amount of all-hazards alert weather radios to Hoosiers through their county emergency management agencies. I strongly urge all EMA Directors, who have not yet done so, to report their radio distribution information to the appropriate district coordinator as soon as possible. So that our future plans for dissemination may be completed. Please urge your family and friends who do not have an all-hazards radio to buy one today. They still make good gifts for any occasion. ■

NEWEST MEMBER OF IDHS SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM PROMOTES ICE SAFETY

Paul E. Marsters works with IDHS as the non-K9 SAR and Technical Rescue Training Programs Manager. Holding technical rescue technician certificates in both surface ice rescue and ice dive operations, he also encourages everyone to practice ice safety this winter.

Ice skating on frozen ponds, creeks and other small bodies of water can provide hours of exercise and entertainment, but venturing onto ice of an unknown thickness can very quickly lead to a life-threatening emergency. It is impossible to judge the strength of ice by its appearance, thickness, daily temperature, or snow cover alone. "No ice is safe ice," says Marsters. "But while all ice activities pose some risk, there are also many things individuals can do in order to enjoy ice activities safely."

As with other forms of winter activities, wearing several layers of non-cotton, insulating material will provide important insulation and warmth. If you fall through the ice, the layers will also help trap air and provide a small amount of flotation.

Gloves and a fleece or knit wool hat are also important to insulate and protect appendages. A US Coast Guard approved, non-inflating personal flotation device with a pair of ice rescue picks attached is also strongly suggested.

Part of safely enjoying ice activities is knowing what to do if you or someone else falls through the ice. If you hear the ice beginning to crack, you should immediately crouch or lie down with your hands in front of you. This position lowers your center of gravity, spreads out your weight and will give you more control if you end up through the ice. Shuffling your feet will reduce the stress on the ice surface as well.

If you do fall through the ice, try to keep your head up and out of the water. Sudden submersion in very cold

water causes a systemic reaction called the "Thermal Hammer." This reaction will induce a reflex action to gasp for air. Keeping your head up helps prevent water inhalation.

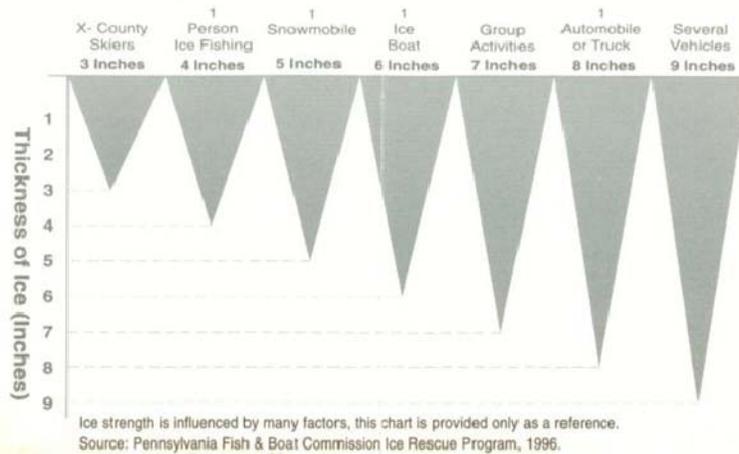
If you do become submerged, look up to find your way back to the surface. Do NOT swim toward light spots. Those areas are sunlight being diffused by intact ice and snow. The hole you fell through will appear as the darkest spot because the light is being reflected from the surface of the water.



distributes your weight over a wider surface area reducing the possibility of falling back through.

Once on shore, avoid walking or standing up. Victims need to be transported to the hospital horizontally to avoid potentially fatal complications.

Load Chart for Clear Solid Ice



Once your head is above water, move toward the ice shelf by outstretching your arms and slowly kicking your feet to bring your legs up behind you and level your body. Slowly kick and pull yourself up onto the ice shelf. If the ice gives way, continue kicking and pulling until you are completely out of the water on ice that can support your weight. NEVER GIVE UP.

Once you are successfully upon the surface of the ice, do NOT stand up. Rather, slowly and gently roll away from the hole. You can roll all the way to shore if necessary. This technique

For more information or to attend a surface ice rescue technician course, please contact Paul Marsters at 812-526-0013 or pmarsters@dhs.in.gov.

Marsters earned an associate's degree in survival and rescue operations from the College of the Air Force in 2003. Retiring from the military after 22 years of service, Marsters formally began his emergency response career in 1981 as an explorer (junior firefighter) for his hometown fire department near Rochester, NY. He has also gained experience working with structural and maritime fire fighting units, and as a military paramedic. Marsters is a member and training officer for several SAR teams and has participated in several hundred search and rescue operations. He was also selected and deployed as a Crash Site Investigator/ Life Support Investigator on a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Search and Recovery Mission to North Vietnam in 2006. The Senior Emergency Services Instructor and Ground Branch Director for Civil Air Patrol, Marsters holds many technical rescue technician certifications, including rope rescue, swift water rescue, rapid deployment SAR/recovery diver, and water rescue operations trainer for lifeguard systems. ■



Marsters (green suit) practices ice rescue techniques. Photo courtesy of Survival and Rescue Training and Consulting, Sherburne, NY.



IAEM HONORS PARTNERS IN PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE EFFORTS DURING FLOOD

On November 3, 2009, the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) recognized the efforts of several Partners in Preparedness who responded to the catastrophic flooding of January 2008 in Carroll County.

The Partners in Preparedness Awards recognize programs or processes that demonstrate innovative, multi-participant involvement among local governments/governmental entities and private sector businesses, non-governmental organizations/non-profits, or individuals which have resulted in effective and efficient incident management, emergency management or homeland security processes.

In one of the coldest months of the year, hundreds of Carroll County residents were suddenly deprived of their homes and belongings without warning. Tippecanoe River neighbors Donnie Bush and Kent Durbin



succeeded in rescuing dozens of residents before the first official rescue boat arrived. They were the first of many examples of Hoosiers partnering to overcome the disaster.

In the immediate aftermath, several local churches worked together with the Red Cross to supply food, clothing and shelter. The faith community eventually partnered to create

Disaster Assistance to Northwest Indiana (DANI), a long-term recovery enterprise, which is still rebuilding homes today, two years after the initial flood.

NIPSCO, owner of Norway and Oakdale hydroelectric dams, convened experts from around the country to perform an after-action review.

Carroll County EMA director Dave McDowell was also able to partner with Mike Floyd, Chief of the Eel River Tribe of Indiana, in acquiring emergency alert sirens. When the sirens were purchased, REMC and NIPSCO provided equipment, manpower, and in some cases, cash, to properly install and maintain them.

In July 2008, roughly 300 Purdue students participated in the physical cleanup of flood debris, creating mountains of refuse which was hauled away by county highway trucks.

“Indiana is a wonderful place to be an EMA Director,” says McDowell, “because so many people are willing to help their neighbors. The biggest challenge is to organize the varied efforts, and create partnerships, rather than competitors.” McDowell believes the budding growth of Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COADs) will help this organizational effort, and benefit directors trying to create more “Partners in Preparedness.” ■



Purdue volunteers clean debris.

EMS SPOTLIGHT— Bartholomew County

David J. Edwards, a paramedic/firefighter who was also a primary instructor actively involved in EMS education, was killed while fighting a house fire on February 3, 1988. The David J. Edwards Memorial Primary Instructor of the Year award was presented in his honor at the 2009 Indiana Emergency Response Conference to Charles B. Sims, Columbus Regional Hospital Ambulance Service in Bartholomew County. Sims found EMS as a second career after working many years in the automotive industry. He has been certified as a primary instructor since 1988 working part-time for Indiana University and Ivy Tech before becoming a full-time instructor and program chair for the paramedic service program at Ivy Tech in Columbus. Under his philosophy that “no EMT shall be left behind,” he fulfills his duty to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be proficient in pre-hospital care. The result of this philosophy is a 98% first attempt pass rate by his students on state certification exams. ■

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND 2010 EMA DISTRICT PREPAREDNESS UPDATE WORKSHOPS

2009-2010 EMA Workshop/District Preparedness Updates are underway. emergency management agencies, elected officials, fire chiefs – career/volunteer firefighters, county commissioners, law enforcement leadership, emergency medical service directors, district planning council members, district task force leadership, district planning oversight committee members, and local emergency planning committee members are strongly encouraged to participate in their district’s workshop.

Remaining district workshops are:

- January 7th – District 7
- January 8th – District 4

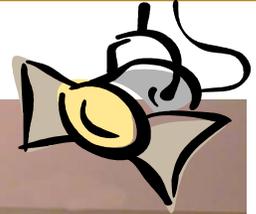
- January 12th – District 5
- January 14th – District 6
- January 20th – District 9
- January 21st – District 8
- January 22nd – District 10

For workshop locations and a tentative agenda visit <http://www.in.gov/dhs/files/workshops.pdf>.

To register for your workshop, please go online to <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=W EB229SHR6FW6P>.

For all other questions contact Rachel Miller at Rachelmiller@dhs.in.gov, or 317.232.6209. ■

EMA SPOTLIGHT— DAVIESS COUNTY



Since January 1, 1991, Paul Goss has been the 'go to' guy for Daviess County emergencies in rural southwest Indiana. A volunteer EMA director until accepting a full time position in July 2009, Goss combined his school administrative position with his Indiana Army National Guard experiences to provide a solid background for emergency preparedness.

A school administrator with Washington Community schools from August 1976 to June 2009, Goss served the last 25 years as Assistant Superintendent in charge of emergency preparedness, transportation, buildings and grounds. An officer in the Indiana Army National Guard and Army Reserves, Goss served from November 1964 to May 2003 in supply and transportation. Now the Emergency Management Agency Director, Goss oversees the needs of the 29,000

residents of Daviess County. He currently serves on the District 10 incident management team and has been heavily involved in planning and preparation with the Daviess County Health Department for the H1N1 response. During his tenure, he acquired a county mobile command post, weather sirens for the towns of Plainville and Washington, and distributed 800 MHz radios for all emergency agencies, three radio systems: WA9IN amateur radio repeater, WQK 5675 Homeland Security 155.025 and WPDT 649 county wide redundant emergency repeater system.



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Goss received a certificate from the

National Weather Service for his 2000 work in establishing an operational Emergency Alert System located at Edwardsport. The Daviess County EMA team has fought 6 of the 10 historical crests of the White River and several major tornadoes. Goss says that unifying the county

responders into a cohesive unit capable of responding to any emergency has been his finest effort, and he readily acknowledges the generous support of other county directors in responding to past flooding incidents in Daviess County.

Goss and his wife have two daughters who are both elementary school teachers. They have four grandchildren. ■



Two hundred Boy Scouts watch K9 demonstrations and learn about the Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Training Center at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh.



K9s and handlers undergo pretests in preparation for their final credentialing tests.



STATE EMS DIRECTOR URGES EMS PROVIDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY

The EMS for Children (EMSC) program has been mandated to conduct a survey of EMS providers in the state to determine the current status of our state's capabilities to manage severely children injured. This survey requires an 80% response from providers. Failure to attain the 80% passing score could adversely affect future financial support for this very important program.

"Unfortunately, the response to this survey has been disappointing," says Indiana EMS Director, Rick Archer. To date, only about 30% of EMS providers have responded to the EMSC's appeal for participation.

"It is hoped that we can attain the 80%, or more, needed responses by the end of January 2010," says Archer. "IDHS strongly supports this program and asks for your assistance by taking 15-20 minutes of your time to complete the survey."

Non-transport providers need only complete the first 4 pages of the survey while transporting providers should complete the entire survey. The results of the survey will be shared with IDHS and will likely identify areas of emphasis where future projects can be formulated.



Survey available at www.nedarc.org/surveys/IN/EMS

FIRE SPOTLIGHT– Marion County

The Fire Prevention Award recognizes an individual or division whose service, professional abilities and leadership have been exemplary in promoting the development of codes and who has served as an example to all fire prevention and fire protection individuals. This year's award was presented at the 2009 Indiana Emergency Response Conference to a team of individuals who live by the prevention motto every day. The team not only investigates fire cause and origin, but is also extremely active within the community, attending and participating in local homeowner

associations. Team members are also very involved in their local school system and are dedicated to ensuring students can attend school uninterrupted by violence, fire, intimidation, drugs or anything else that would obstruct the educational process.

Congratulations to the Pike Township Fire Department in Marion County: Fire Marshal Steve Jones, Deputy Fire Marshal Sam Bruner, Inspector Pam Johnson, Inspector Kevin Cleveland and Administrative Assistant Sarah Sterrett. ■



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