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June 16, 2009

## City receives grant for hazardous material truck

*Provided by Cara Culp*

The City of Noblesville Fire Department (NFD) has received a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to purchase equipment for its hazardous materials truck. NFD is a charter member of the Indiana Alliance of Hazardous Materials Responders (IAHMR).

Only Level A established hazardous materials teams such as NFD were eligible to apply for the grant opportunity, which offered funding for sustainability. NFD Firefighter Steve Haston, who helped start IAHMR in 2002, submitted the application requesting the equipment.

The \$9,548 grant enabled NFD to purchase a decontamination corridor, bio check equipment, hand held assays, Colorimetric tubes, and specialized protective clothing. The items have been delivered and have been placed on the department's hazardous materials truck.

"We are very grateful to IDHS for their financial assistance and to Steve Haston for his efforts in purchasing this much needed equipment which will help us serve our citizens more safely and effectively," said NFD Chief Ken Gilliam.

For more information about the grant, contact NFD Firefighter Steve Haston at (317) 776-6336. For more information about IAHMR, visit their website at [www.iahmr.com](http://www.iahmr.com)

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June 19, 2009

## Hamilton County "Radio Hams" join in national deployment

*Provided by Joe March*

Hamilton County's "hams" will join with thousands of Amateur Radio operators across the country who will be demonstrating their emergency capabilities this month.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies including the severe storms and floods here in Indiana, California wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events world-wide. During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio -- often called "Ham radio" - was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer "hams" traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications. On the weekend of June 27 to 28, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across Hamilton County will be holding a public demonstration of emergency communications capabilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week" sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards around the country. Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't." is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event.

"We hope that people will come and see for themselves, this is not your grandfather's radio anymore," said Joe March, public information officer for the Hamilton County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) who's radio call sign is KJ9M (Kilo-Juliet-Niner-Mike). "The communications networks that ham radio people can quickly create have saved many lives in the past months when other systems failed or were overloaded."

RACES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) ham radio operators will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at Morse Park and Beach, Shelter C, in Noblesville beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday June 27 for 24 hours, ending Sunday afternoon. They invite the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

There are 650,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's ARES program, ham volunteers provide emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies, all for free.

There are more than 700 FCC licensed radio amateur operators located throughout Hamilton County. RACES members are all volunteers that operate under the auspices of the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency. They are trained in emergency first aid and CPR, as well as being trained storm spotters by the National Weather Service. When severe weather threatens, they can usually be found out in the weather with their "mobile" radios, reporting conditions to the Emergency Operations Center in Noblesville.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to [www.emergency-radio.org](http://www.emergency-radio.org). The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. They can even help you get on the air.

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## Police Identify Victims of Morning Fire

The Brown County Sheriff's Department has identified 44-year-old Robert Andrews as the person found [shot to death in an early morning house fire](#) in northern Brown County today.

A news release issued by the department this afternoon said that both Mr. Andrews and the family dog were found dead inside the burning home at 7880 Whispering Pines Road, both with apparent gunshot wounds.

Dottie Andrews, 40, was found later outside the home and was taken by LifeLine Air Ambulance to an Indianapolis hospital for treatment of burns and smoke inhalation.

Court records show that Mrs. Andrews filed for divorce from her husband on April 7, one day after he was sentenced to spend 48 hours in jail on a drunk driving charge.

A request for a protective order against her husband was filed at the same time and granted at a May 5 hearing in Brown Circuit Court.

The murder investigation is being conducted by sheriff's detective Scott Southerland, Indiana State Police Detective Jeff Deckard and the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office.

The sheriff's department said the incident is being treated as a homicide investigation and that investigators believe no one other than Mr. and Mrs. Andrews are involved.

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# Fire safe cigarette mandate on July 1

## **Mandate could reduce fires, deaths**

Updated: Wednesday, 17 Jun 2009, 7:53 PM EDT  
Published : Wednesday, 17 Jun 2009, 12:13 PM EDT

- Alyssa Rossomme

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFJ) - Fires caused by cigarettes kill about 800 Americans each year. On July 1st, cigarettes sold in Indiana will have to be fire safe cigarettes, which are less likely to burn when left unattended. Lafayette fire inspector David Thomas is glad to see the change.

"We applaud any efforts to reduce home fires. Mattresses and home furnishings are less likely to ignite now with some fire retardancy properties and with smoking being the top causes of home fires it is certainly going to help that," said Thomas.

Fire safe cigarettes are made from the same blend of tobacco, but have two bands on the cigarette paper which are less porous than the surrounding paper. Smokers have to inhale at the bands to increase oxygen and raise the temperature enough to burn through.

"They meet a standard and they have a less likely to ignite a fire if left unattended. But we would like to stress that no cigarette is actually totally fire safe so caution still needs to be taken and care not to leave smoking materials unattended," Thomas said.

He said people should not smoke in bed or leave cigarettes unattended. Also, keep cigarettes out of children's reach, and be sure to have working smoke alarms in your home.

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## Fire safe cigarettes mandate takes effect July 1

June 17, 2009 04:47 pm

— Under a new law, Indiana smokers may notice some small changes in the cigarettes they purchase beginning July 1. Fire safe cigarettes have a reduced propensity to burn when left unattended, and have proven to decrease the number of home fires.

Fire safe cigarettes place two bands on the cigarette paper that are less porous than the surrounding paper. These bands require smokers to inhale at the bands to increase oxygen and increase the temperature of the burning cigarette paper enough to burn through the bands.

“The cigarettes are made from the same blend of tobacco as regular cigarettes,” said Jim Greeson, Indiana State Fire Marshal and Indiana Department of Homeland Security Division of Fire and Building Safety Director. “The only difference to the consumer is they need to puff it more often or re-light it.”

Traditional technology keeps a cigarette burning even without puffing. This is accomplished by including a significant amount of citrate-burning agents. Within 10 minutes, 90 to 100 percent of traditional cigarettes will cause fires in ignition tests — and a cigarette can smolder for up to 45 minutes.

“The only physical packaging difference is that fire safety packs are denoted with a small “FSC” printed under the bar code, a heavy black line above the UPC, a diamond symbol or the letters FS, LIP, or RIP,” added Greeson.

Statistics on residential structure fires through the National Fire Incident Reporting System show that 138 reported smoking related fires occurred in Indiana in 2008. These fires caused four civilian deaths and 11 civilian injuries with property loss at nearly \$3.4 million. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, cigarette-ignited fires are the leading cause of home fire deaths in the United States, killing 700 to 900 people annually.

For more information on fire safe cigarettes, visit [www.in.gov/dhs/firesafesmokes.htm](http://www.in.gov/dhs/firesafesmokes.htm).

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## Severe weather causes fires, floods in Southern Indiana

**BRADEN LAMMERS AND MATT THACKER**

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June 19, 2009 02:19 pm

— Severe storms that passed through Southern Indiana on Thursday morning kept rescue crews busy, as lightning was blamed for at least two fires, fallen tree branches closed roads and flash floods left motorists stranded.

“There was some minor flooding and stranded motorist in various jurisdictions of Clark County,” said Les Kavanaugh, director of Clark County Emergency Management.

There were no reports of injuries or major property damage, other than flooded basements, Kavanaugh said.

According to dispatchers, St. John’s Road and one lane of Paoli Pike in Floyd County were closed due to fallen trees, and Interstate 64 was closed at mile marker 120 in Floyd County because of a serious injury accident that police say may or may not have been due to severe weather.

Lightning was determined to be the cause of two structure fires in Jeffersonville.

One fire was at the Greater Clark County Schools storage warehouse — at 622 Mechanic St. — where a lightning strike caused a small fire on the roof of the building. There were no injuries and minimal damage to the building, said Jason Sharp, a Jeffersonville fire marshal.

A second fire occurred at Lot 35 in the Sunset Mobile Home Park, off Charlestown Pike. Officials said lightning caused a fire that ignited the underside of the trailer. A bedridden woman was inside the trailer at the time but was safely removed and received no injuries. Minimal damage was reported at the scene.

Sellersburg Fire Department Chief Greg Dietz said they worked two water rescues after motorists became stranded in high water from a creek that overflowed.

In both cases, sports utility vehicles with four people inside became stuck in water that reached as high as the vehicles’ headlights, Dietz said.

The first was an older couple driving on Ind. 31. The second was a local family driving on Penn Avenue. There were no injuries in either incident.

“Don’t drive through high water, no matter how shallow you think it might be,” Dietz said.

Many people were without power because of storm damage, but electricity was mostly restored by the evening.

At noon, Duke Energy was reporting 2,227 power outages in Floyd County and 3,033 outages in Clark County. Less than 600 total outages were being reported at 5 p.m.

One fire that was not related to the storm broke out at an apartment building at 1319 E. Court Ave. The fire resulted from the housing authority leaving gas-powered weed eaters in the

apartment.

Fumes from the weed eaters were ignited by a pilot light, causing the unit to catch fire, Sharp said.

The three other apartments in the same structure were not damaged and no injuries were reported. The damage was estimated at about \$30,000, Sharp said.

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