



# The Hoosier Responder

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INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY

*Safeguarding  
Hoosiers by  
Planning,  
Preparing and  
Responding*

## Inside this issue:

IDHS Grant Support Helps Save a Life	2
New Webfile from Plan Review Branch	2
June EMA Spotlight	3
Gov. Daniels visits Owen County	4
IDHS Scholarship Awards	5
News and Calendar	6

## Summer Fire Risk

Indiana, like many other states, is dealing with an elevated risk of fire brought on this year by the lack of rain fall. The national weather service estimates that Indiana has received less than half of the normal rain fall for last six to eight weeks. The Department of Homeland Security has put together a working group of state agencies to address the potential problems created by the near-drought conditions. This group is monitoring recognized signs of increased fire risks statewide.

One of the best indicators that the land is drying out has been the number of field and woodland fires that have been reported throughout the state. IDHS asks all Indiana fire departments to report any field, grass or woodland fire that

involves one or more acres directly to the Emergency Operations Center, either by calling 800/669-7362 or by email to [dispatch@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dispatch@dhs.in.gov). Having this information in a timely manner allows the agency to identify the areas where fires are occurring most often. This fire information also can be used to help neighboring areas implement pro-active responses in an effort to mitigate their own exposure to fires caused by extremely dry conditions. The Homeland Security website homepage will provide guidance and information to fire chiefs and local governments on how to regulate high fire hazard activities. This information is available on the agency website at [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).

Also on the agency website, Homeland Security will be providing information to the fire service on the request procedures for obtaining additional firefighting resources. The information explains that the threshold for deploying aircraft is that the fire must put lives or inhabitable property in danger. The request procedures also explains that the response time for aircraft is increased due to loading equipment and pre-flight checks on the aircraft.

The best thing we can do is to educate the general public on the dangers of open burning during times of less than normal rain fall.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## From the Desk of Director Dietz

We can barely remember now the days before 9-11-01 when our safety concerns were limited to weather concerns such as tornados, floods, and snow. At that time, terrorism was considered an international concern. After Hurricane Katrina, national preparedness efforts were heavily focused on natural disasters. Due to the attacks of 9/11 and the recent bombings in the United Kingdom, it is clear today that we must prepare for both terrorism and natural disasters.

The bombings this weekend in the United Kingdom continue to illustrate

this new risk that we face daily as our nation continues the war with global terrorism. Today, we believe that the weekend's events were linked with the telltale evidence of terrorism. The bombings in Scotland and London show the need to focus broadly across a well prepared nation and not solely focus on the large cities.

Each terrorism event and natural disaster requires us to reevaluate our plans and direction, this week we do this, again. The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center has been monitoring available information and has prepared relevant summaries of the information for use

throughout the state. Transportation Security Administration at the Indianapolis Airport relayed elevated vigilance at Indiana's commercial airports. This has included the requests for coordination between our commercial airports and local law enforcement departments to get trained explosive dogs in our airports.

This weekend again shows the need for improving our readiness, focusing our training, preventing when we can, and preparing to respond. We have begun the

*(Continued on page 5)*

## IDHS Grant Support Helps Save a Life

On the night of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Haubstadt Town Marshall Ken Wells was on a routine patrol on County Road 25 W when he recognized an idle truck in a field. Wells approached the scene and found a man unconscious face down in a puddle of water showing signs of a serious vertebrate injury. The gentleman was later found to have been in an accident where he was ejected about 25 yards away from his vehicle. When Marshall Wells used his standard walkie-talkie to send for help, the receiver malfunctioned leaving him unable to connect with emergency personnel. As a last resort, he turned on his recently acquired 800mhz radio issued from a supply grant from IDHS and was able to get a signal and radio for emergency medical support and get the man on a

gurney to the local hospital for treatment. Had it not been for the radios supplied by IDHS Wells remarked (paraphrased), "The gentleman may not have been given medical attention in a timely manner, a positive outcome would have been unlikely."

Wells also testified that he could not leave the man unattended because he was the only local official on the scene.

Ken Wells has worked for the city of Haubstadt for 2 years and has just finished his inaugural term as Town Marshall and now entering his second year.

The man (whose name will remain anonymous) has been recovering well six months after his near-fatal accident.

The new portable radios came to aid in this situation thanks to IDHS

The previous story was included in this month's edition of the Responder to promote awareness of making sure that counties apply for necessary supplies and grants in their departments because this assistance can come in very useful in emergency and critical situations.

It is important to submit all grant and technology requests on time so that they can be properly evaluated and approved to help your local facility. See your local branch for details.

## Plan Review Branch Announces Web-file option for Construction Projects

The Plan Review Branch has announced the new development of the web-file option for filing all construction projects of Class 1 structures. This site differs from the current one in that it has been upgraded to be a secure site for uploading plans.

Since the development of web-filing projects, the Plan Review Branch currently receives approximately 45% of filed projects online. As of November 2006, the Plan Review Branch began accepting projects online in a more secure and enhanced site. This website can be located at [www.in.gov/dhs/fire/branches/plan\\_review/index.html](http://www.in.gov/dhs/fire/branches/plan_review/index.html).

Any size project can be filed through this link and the site is secure. Payment must be submitted before the files are uploaded and a project number will be assigned at the time of purchase. Methods of payment are credit card (MasterCard or Visa) or e-check.

Bonnie Robison of the Plan Review Branch, was interviewed for this article and is quoted saying that she, "hopes electronic filing will increase because the website is now secure. Web-filing cuts down on time for application processing and clerical paperwork."

This new process will help the State of Indiana achieve 65 to 70% of all projects to be filed online.

This process will also help with the greening of the environment and global warming. The current e-file process will no longer be available as of July 1, 2007.

## Summer Fire Risk

*cont'd from pg. 1*

A small unattended trash fire or mis-used firework can start a field fire in seconds.

With Homeland Security's leadership in bringing together the skills and resources of other state agencies we have an invaluable opportunity to monitor state's fire threat and respond effectively to help and protect all Hoosiers.



# June EMA Spotlight...

## RANDOLPH COUNTY

Rick Brown is the Director of the Randolph County Emergency Management Agency. His background includes 20 years as a firefighter with the Farmland Volunteer Fire Department and 4 years as a 911 dispatcher. He is also the Local Public Health Coordinator for Randolph County.

Brown became the part-time EMA director on January 1, 2006 upon the retirement of Mr. Richard "Pappy" Harshman. He summed up his reasoning behind taking the position with, "I always enjoyed helping out in the area of emergency services, and I really like working with the public."

His accomplishments include:

\* Achieved county-wide NIMS compliance, and completed a Mass Prophylaxis plan for the county. Completed Pandemic flu plan and a county-wide committee.

\* Administered over \$ 35,000 in DHS grants.

\* Re-established the LEPC.

\* Assisted in improving interoperability for county emergency services.

\* Worked with Fire/Law Enforcement/Public Works to establish and upgrade a communication/command trailer.

Brown has established goals and

a plan for the future:

1. Complete a county mitigation plan and obtain grants for a emergency notification system.
2. Complete the mobile command trailer, and improve interoperability for public safety services.
3. Improve relationships among all county entities.

As far as what the future holds, he sums up simply, "I want to build an agency that can respond to the problems of the twenty-first century, and make Randolph County a safer place to live."



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## WARREN COUNTY

Ken Boruff is the part time Director of Warren County Emergency Management Agency.

Ken has more than 25 years experience in EMS, Firefighting and 911 dispatch, serving on more than 10 ambulance services, one air ambulance service and five fire departments in nine counties in both Indiana and New Mexico.

Ken is currently a full-time nationally registered paramedic with Warren County EMS, where he has been for the past eleven years. Ken is an active member of the West Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department, Training Officer for Warren County Rescue, President of Bi-State Amateur Radio Club and Cubmaster for Covington Cub Scout Pack 271. Ken holds numerous fire, EMS, and Hazmat certifications. Ken is a member of the Emergency Management Alliance of Indiana and

works closely with Homeland Security District 4 and is one course away from PEM completion.

Ken became Director in March 2004 and with the help of Deputy Director Jeannie Hedgecock-Brooks has accomplished the following:

- Passed county ordinance formally adopting NIMS
- Hosted multi-discipline NIMS training courses
- Worked with local Health Dept. on Pan Flu Planning
- Worked with NWS to provide yearly Storm Spotter Training
- Purchase stand-by generators for EOC and fire department
- Completed development of

EOC with back-up radio communication capabilities and planned back up sites

- Purchased radio interconnects for greater interoperability
- Worked with St Vincent Hospital Williamsport, Warren Co Rescue and Fountain Co EMA to develop local Hazmat Response team and procure equipment.
- Hosted Hazmat Ops and Awareness Courses

Ken credits much of his success to his wife, Kristin, of fifteen years and to the support of their two girls and three boys. Scouters will find it of interest that Ken and Kristin met and were married at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron New Mexico during their more than 10 summers of combined service there including two years as a paramedic.



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# Governor Mitch Daniels visits the Owen Valley Volunteer Fire Department

## Spencer Indiana for Firefighter Training, May 5, 2007.

Early in the Mitch Daniels administration he charged the Indiana Department of Homeland Security with the task of developing a regional approach for the delivery of firefighter training throughout the State. IDHS took on this challenge to provide state supported firefighter training and developed the Indiana Firefighter Training System (IFTS).

The Indiana Firefighter Training System has three primary objectives:

- To deliver consistent, high quality training as close to the firefighter's home jurisdiction as practical.

- To increase collaboration among Hoosier fire departments and enhance partnerships with state and local government, as well as the private sector, for the enhancement of fire training delivery.

- To increase the response capabilities and expertise of the Indiana Fire Service.

On Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>, over 150 firefighters, family and friends visited the Owen Valley Fire Department in Spencer, Indiana. The purpose of this event was to demonstrate for Governor Daniels the implementation of the regional training delivery system as part of the Indiana Firefighter Training System. Our goal of providing training to firefighters across the state has become a reality by utilizing the Homeland Security District approach along with local input and state support. The key element in the success of this effort is leveraging existing training facilities whenever possible, increasing the number of training opportunities and partnering with the fire service to enhance and expand its fire training capabilities.

Governor Daniels was in Spencer to observe training operations in Owen County.

The firefighters of Owen County are one of the first teams to benefit from the financial support provided by the IFTS.

The District 7 Firefighter Training Committee, comprised of fire representatives from across the district, will provide the coordination and planning for training such as this to trailer for the delivery of the highest quality, consistent and comprehensive firefighter training available to fit the needs of this region.

At the state level, we want to do our part as well. Through our continued efforts with the legislature, the upcoming biennial budget will increase funding to \$2 million per year for firefighter training and additional funding for training infrastructure development grants.

Governor Daniels instructed the Indiana Department of Homeland Security that our funding efforts should not go solely toward building more infrastructure, especially where infrastructure already exists. Our efforts should be to seek out partners who are willing to share their existing facilities and programs, and then enhance those programs and their ability to deliver training to their neighboring departments. Governor Daniels wants state level firefighter certification training to be delivered to our Hoosier firefighters as close to home as practical. The IFTS does this by being flexible and working together with the local fire community to find the best solution to these challenges. Our goal has been to replicate this district training model throughout Indiana so that firefighters may receive reliable, high quality and affordable training. The IDHS Division of Training is currently working with all ten Homeland Security Districts to make this happen.

The success of the Indiana Fire Training System is not solely the responsibility of state government. The future of fire training in Indiana requires a strong commitment and collaboration among the fire service as well. The Associations that represent Indiana's firefighters have helped develop the system are below:

*Larry Ketchem*, President of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Association.

*Bill Newgent*, President of the Indiana Fire Chief's Association.

*Tom Hanify*, President of the Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana.

*Chad Abel*, President of the Indiana Fire Instructor's Association.

*Dr. Eric Dietz* and his staff from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, including the Director of Training, *Joe Wainscott*, and the Firefighter Training Section Chief, *John Buckman*.

*Roger Johnson*, Fire Marshal, and his chief deputies, *Mike Garvey* and *Mike Bigler*.

It has been encouraging to learn that cities and other local communities have recognized the importance of providing adequate training facilities for their firefighters. Several have pledged local funds to construct training venues that will be shared with their neighboring firefighters. Terre Haute is one of those cities who has risen to the challenge and will be building a new fire training facility. We are pleased that the District Fire Training Committee has chosen to partner with them to serve as a training hub for this region.

Below: Picture 1, IDHS Executive staff with Governor Daniels; Picture 2, Various Divisions conversing; Picture 3, Firefighters demonstrating an exercise.



For more information on ICS 300, contact, John M. Buckman III  
 Section Chief  
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## IDHS awards Thirteen Foundation Scholarships

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security awarded scholarships to thirteen students at the inaugural Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Scholarship Presentation at the Indiana State House. This scholarship program was created in 2006 to recognize and encourage volunteers for public safety organizations across the state.

To be eligible for the scholarship, all applicants were required to be enrolled in an Indiana college/university, maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA, and be in present service as a volunteer for an Indiana public safety organization. Full-time students were awarded a \$2,000 scholarship and part-time

students were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

The ceremony began with remarks from the IDHS Executive Director Eric Dietz and the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation Chair Tom Adams. One of the scholarship winners Brady Helms who volunteered for the Evansville-Vanderburgh EMA made remarks about his passion for public safety and his future career pursuits. Five scholarship winners were able to attend the event and are pictured (at the right)

The scholarships were funded through sales of the Secure Indiana license plate. The 2007 first quarter plate sales increased 11%



Pictured from left to right: Tom Adams, Sean Stansifer, Brady Helms, Stewart Knoop, Eric Dietz, Amy Lynn Seymour, and Tyler Scott.

scholarships to our students. The next Indiana Homeland Security Foundation meeting will be held by the end of August. The new scholarship applications for the 2008-2009 school year are scheduled to be posted by the end of August. For more details on the Foundation and the latest updates for application requirements and deadlines please visit the following IDHS website: <http://www.in.gov/dhs/foundation/scholarship.html>.

For more information on the IDHS Foundation Scholarship, contact Joanna Cornwell, Program Manager, IDHS at 317-234-4554 or email: [jcornwell@dhs.in.gov](mailto:jcornwell@dhs.in.gov).

from \$59,275 in 2006 to \$65,835. We are asking all citizens of Indiana to continue to show their devoted support for the new Secure Indiana license plate so that IDHS will be in position to increase grant funding to first responders and

## Fireworks Permit Registration Now Available Online

Fireworks Permit Registration Now Available Online

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is now accepting applications for Fireworks online. The Department of Fire and Building Services (DFBS) has initiated this new filing service.

The traditional process of completing paper applications and mailing them to the DFBS office is not as efficient as the online application. The customer is now able to complete the application and pay the application fee all in one transaction. After DFBS receives payment, the facility can be scheduled for inspection quicker, sometimes in about one to two days. The new online system reduces processing time and eliminates the postal service from the equation. Online filing saves additional time by reducing mistakes made on fee calculations. If a mistake is found, DFBS can address the error immediately and

notify the customer which allows the application to be corrected and reprocessed faster.

This new service has currently been in operation for several months as one of the latest initiatives of DFBS online filing for Plan Review.

By the end of the year, Entertainment permits will also be available for filing online through



## From the Desk of Director Dietz *cont'd from pg. 1*

prevention process with the establishment of the Fusion Center. Our state operational plans are intended to compliment your local plans and to ready us to support your local area during and after larger disaster events. The regional fire training concept will expand to include public safety training and get these courses as close to your home as possible. IDHS Response Division is more proactive and prepared to forward deploy to your area to coordinate our response. Our fire and building safety division has begun training to help back up response functions while improving customer service every day for building plan approval and safety for our buildings, fire protection, amusement rides, elevators, and other public spaces.

Throughout this process, our Fusion Center and Plans Team together ensure that we are doing the right thing. Working together (federal, state and local) and revising our plans each time our nation or one of our friends gets challenged is the right thing to do. By doing this, we will improve our readiness and do our best to protect the public from today's risks. Together, we have an abundance of responsibilities and IDHS will continue to improve the states readiness as well as support readiness in your community.

# Please welcome to IDHS...

# Mark Your Calendar!

Derek Worch	Governor's Summer Intern	Planning
Ashley Wolma	Governor's Summer Intern	Fire and Building Safety
Damon Acton	Governor's Summer Intern	Executive offices
Joseph Romero	Civil Defense Planner	EOC
Bud Meiring	Supervisor (rehired)	Boiler/Pressure Valve Inspectors
NaKeya Harris	Account Clerk	Fiscal
Pam Chase	Civil Defense Coord.	Planning
Nicole Baker	Account Clerk	Fiscal
Steve Walters	Training Manager	Fire Training
Melissa Vanlue	Secretary	Training Certification
Richard Pope	Code Official	Fire and Building Safety
Clint Schelle	Secretary	Training Certification
Bill Null	Civil Defense Trainer	Fire Training
Vicki Browning	Secretary	Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center
Paris Henderson	Secretary	Elevator/Amusement Inspection
Raymond Haase	Ele/Amus Inspector	Elevator/Amusement Inspection
Pamela Chadsey	App Sys Analyst	Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center

## July 9th

1:00PM

-Indiana Emergency Response Commission



## July 11th

-Regulated Amusement Device Safety Board Meeting NOTICE: Rescheduled to September 20th at 9:00AM.

## July 20th

8:00AM

-Emergency Medical Services Commission

Check out IDHS Division of Training's calendar for all training opportunities at: [www.in.gov/dhs/training](http://www.in.gov/dhs/training)



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