View this email as a webpage.

INDIANA FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY
BUGLE

A Message from the Deputy State Fire Marshal



Greetings to all,

Summer arrived in full force, and the heat was a reminder of how important it is to stay safe, stay hydrated and stay mindful during training, field work and emergency responses. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to every firefighter, instructor, coordinator and partner across Indiana who continues to serve with professionalism despite the challenges that come with long days, high temperatures and heavy operational demands.

Now that we have passed the halfway point of the year, I am incredibly proud of what our Academy team has accomplished in the first six months. From statewide certification improvements and expanded training opportunities to strengthened coordination within the Hub & Spoke network and steady progress in curriculum development, your commitment is what makes these achievements possible.

This edition also carries a bittersweet moment as we honor and say farewell to two individuals who have dedicated countless years to the Fire Academy. Brian Poole, who began serving in 2006, and Loren Tewes, the first District 5 coordinator starting in 2007, are retiring. Their impact on thousands of firefighters throughout Indiana is profound, and we are deeply grateful for their contributions and leadership.

Stay safe and enjoy this edition of the Fire & Public Safety Academy Bugle.

Sincerely,

John m. Shafer

John Shafer
Deputy State Fire Marshal (Training)
Office of Indiana State Fire Marshal

Field Fire Training Operations Section

Dale Saucier



We are pleased to announce that Dale Saucier has joined the Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy as the new Field Fire Training Operations Section Chief.

Saucier joins the Academy with decades of experience and a deep passion for the fire service. He has been involved in the fire service since 1986, retiring from a 31-year career as a firefighter and serving as a training chief, instructor and leader in both youth and adult fire education programs. His experience will be a valuable addition to statewide field training operations as he supports coordinators, instructors and program development across the state.

Jarrett Beckett

We also welcome Jarrett Beckett as the new Districts 8 and 9 Fire Training Coordinator.

Jarrett began his role July 1 and brings years of service from the Tri-Township Fire Department, where he was actively involved in training, emergency operations and incident coordination. His background as a U.S. Army sergeant and medic brings real-world leadership, discipline and operational experience to both districts.

He will coordinate state-funded courses across:

- District 8:
  - Bartholomew, Brown, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Orange and Washington
- District 9:
  - Clark, Dearborn, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Harrison, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott and Switzerland

If you need to contact Jarrett, his email address is jbeckett@dhs.in.gov.

Brian Poole & Loren Tewes

We also want to recognize two long-serving members of our Academy team who are retiring after many years of dedicated service:

Brian Poole: Serving since 2006, Brian became the District 7 Fire Training Coordinator, supporting training across Clay, Greene, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties.



Loren Tewes: Beginning in 2007 as the first District 5 coordinator, Loren later served as Field Program Manager for Districts 5 and 7, guiding coordinators, instructors and operational processes with professionalism and steady mentorship.



We are grateful for Brian and Loren’s leadership, mentorship and lasting contributions. Please join us in welcoming Dale Saucier and Jarrett Beckett to the leadership team.

Field EMA Training

Foundations of Emergency Management Course

Students gathered at Grace College in Winona Lake to participate in the Foundations of Emergency Management (L0101) course. This course provides essential core knowledge for emergency managers, covering foundational principles, roles and responsibilities and the whole-community framework that guides effective emergency management across all levels.



Kip Shuter, Director of Kosciusko County EMA

Congratulations to Kip Shuter, director of Kosciusko County EMA, on successfully completing the National Emergency Management Basic Academy, which consists of more than 120 hours of instruction in fundamental emergency concepts, real-world preparedness strategies, cross-sector coordination and comprehensive evaluation processes.



Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Course

Students also spent two days at Parkview Health completing the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (L0146) course. This training provides standardized principles, methodologies and hands-on practice used in designing, conducting, evaluating and improving exercises consistent with HSEEP guidelines.



Danielle Equihua, Lake County Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Congratulations to Danielle Equihua of Lake County Emergency Management and Homeland Security for successfully completing the National Emergency Management Basic Academy.



Curriculum/Certifications

Trench Rescue Operations and Technician – Effective Aug. 10, 2026

The Academy has officially transitioned to Trench Rescue: Principles and Practice, Fourth Edition, replacing the previous Third Edition by Jones & Bartlett.

This curriculum update aligns with NFPA 1006 (2021 edition), ensuring the Trench Rescue Operations and Technician programs meet current national professional qualification standards.

The Fourth Edition was selected because it provides full instructor support materials and certification test banks to strengthen course delivery, improve evaluation consistency and support instructors statewide with updated resources.

Indiana Maintains IFSAC Accreditation and Looks to Expand Accredited Certifications

The Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy is pleased to announce the successful completion of its 2026 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) accreditation site audit. Following the March 2026 site visit, the IFSAC Certificate Assembly Board of Governors granted Indiana unconditional accreditation, recognizing the Board's continued commitment to delivering nationally recognized, high-quality fire service certification programs.

As part of this accreditation cycle, Indiana received approval for the following certification levels:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness (NFPA 470, 2022)
- Hazardous Materials Operations Core (NFPA 470, 2022)
- Hazardous Materials PPE (NFPA 470, 2022)
- Hazardous Materials Product Control (NFPA 470, 2022)
- Firefighter I (NFPA 1010, 2024)
- Firefighter II (NFPA 1010, 2024)
- Fire and Emergency Services Instructor I, II and III (NFPA 1041, 2019)
- Fire Officer I, II, III and IV (NFPA 1021, 2020)

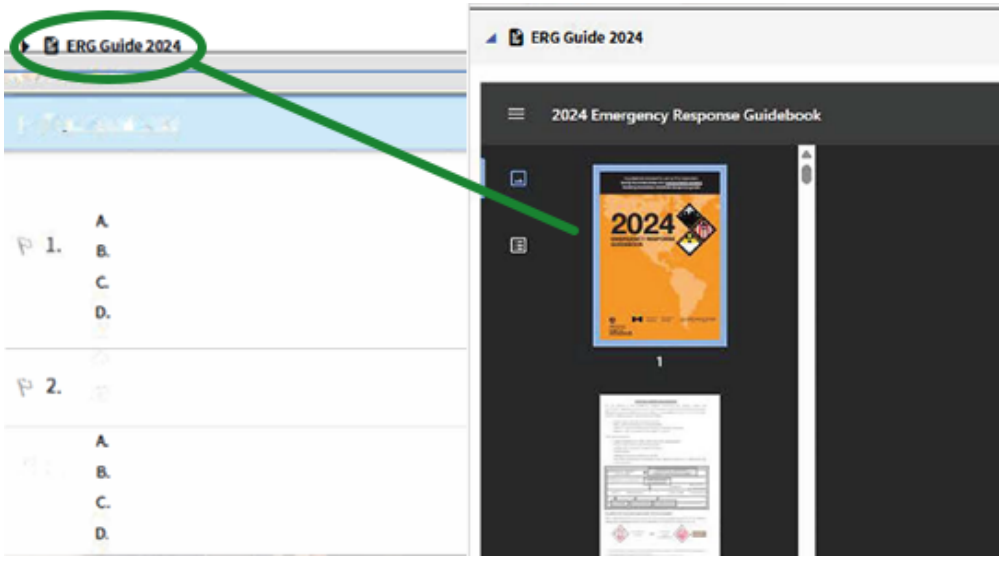
The Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy continues to modernize certification programs to align with the latest NFPA standards. Curriculum updates for Hazardous Materials Technician have been completed, and revisions to Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) are currently underway. Both programs will be submitted to IFSAC for accreditation once the curriculum development and implementation process is complete.

These efforts reflect Indiana's ongoing commitment to providing firefighters with nationally accredited training and certifications that meet current industry standards while supporting professional development throughout the state.

ERG Reference Guide Now Available During Hazardous Materials Certification Exams

The Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy has added a new feature to Hazardous Materials certification examinations in Acadis. Students taking applicable exams will now have access to an electronic version of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) directly within the testing platform.

The ERG is available through a button on the exam page that allows students to open and close the reference guide as needed without leaving the test. This enhancement better reflects how emergency responders use the ERG in the field while providing a more efficient testing experience.



As a reminder, in accordance with the Indiana Administrative Code governing certification examinations, no outside reference materials are permitted during testing. The embedded ERG is the only authorized reference available for applicable exams. Students may use this built-in resource throughout the examination but may not access any other printed or electronic materials.

This improvement is another step toward modernizing Indiana's certification process while ensuring examinations remain secure, standardized and representative of real-world emergency response practices.

Administrative Action Summary

To maintain certification integrity and accountability, the Academy issued the following administrative actions:

- Aaron Michael Russell (PSID 7080 6501) – Exam results invalidated; one-year testing ineligibility
- Samuel Riley Baggett (PSID 9947 6537) – Exam results invalidated; remedial instruction required; enhanced proctor monitoring before retesting
- Rafael E. Morales (PSID 7294 7112) – Exam results invalidated; retesting required
- Curtis Laine Winger (PSID 2653 2919) – Exam results invalidated; six-month testing ineligibility
- Griffin Isaiah Harris (PSID 2266 9061) – Exam results invalidated; Rope Rescue certifications revoked; Firefighter I placed on one-year

probation; one-year testing ineligibility
- Jeremy Jay Warren (PSID 5454 5855) – One-year suspension of proctor privileges; proctor retraining required
- Grady Scott Welk (PSID 7811 5010) – Exam results administratively invalidated; retesting required

Criminal Conviction Reporting Actions

The Academy also completed evaluations involving criminal conviction reporting. The following individuals will retain certifications with conditions to ensure continued oversight:

- Jeremy Reams (PSID 2677 8935) – Retains certifications with monitoring throughout probation
- Nathaniel Stimpson (PSID 2053 6248) – Retains certifications with conditions including good standing on probation, continued recovery efforts and prompt reporting of any concerns

NERIS Incident Reporting

Are your fire incidents being reported to NERIS?

All fire department administrators should have already created and logged into their NERIS account. Regardless of what record management system (RMS) your department uses, every agency must enter its RMS client ID into NERIS to enable incident data exports.

Departments using Indiana's ImageTrend system can locate their required client ID by logging into their ImageTrend account.

All departments should verify within NERIS that their incident data is exporting correctly. If exports are not occurring, please contact your RMS provider for assistance.

If you are using Indiana's ImageTrend software, please confirm you have completed a successful Entity Export.

Indiana will generate a statewide NERIS import to bring incident data back into the state's RMS for departments using systems other than ImageTrend.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to Robin Stump at rstump@dhs.in.gov.

National Fire Academy (NFA) Courses

Indiana has been selected to receive additional federally funded NFA classes due to other states being unable to use funds following the federal government shutdown. This reflects strong federal trust in Indiana's Academy leadership.

All courses must be delivered by **Oct. 1, 2026**.

Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations (F0455)

Dates: Sept. 24–25, 2026
Location: MADE@Plainfield
1610 Reeves Rd., Plainfield, IN 46168
Registration: on.in.gov/sep-24-plainfield-strategy-and-tactics-for-initial-company-operations-f0455

Fire Investigation: First Responders (F0770)

Dates: Sept. 29–30, 2026
Location: Vernon Township Fire Department
602 Vitality Dr., STE A, Fortville, IN 46040
Registration: on.in.gov/sep-29-fortville-fire-investigation-first-responders-f0770

Instructor Highlight

Kevin Nowaczyk (District 1)

Kevin Nowaczyk has spent 36 years in the fire service, most of which has been in Munster, Indiana. His career is marked by deep operational experience, leadership and a commitment to training firefighters at every stage of development. He served as a career firefighter at the U.S. Steel Fire Department, retiring after 23 years with the rank of fire chief, and currently holds the rank of battalion chief – Training Division at the Munster Fire Department.



Early in Kevin's career, he was influenced by mentors who were true subject matter experts. Their ability to make learning meaningful — and even enjoyable — inspired him to follow in their footsteps. "I wanted to be able to teach someone with little to no experience and make them realize their potential and then watch them grow into something great."

Kevin's favorite classes to teach include:

- Recruit academies
- Engine company operations, particularly hose line, streams and live fire evolutions

For Kevin, the most rewarding part of being an instructor is sharing real-world experiences with students in ways that support the lesson, build confidence and reinforce best practices. He takes pride in seeing recruits grow in strength, ability, and knowledge throughout their Academy journey — then watching them excel within their departments.

Equally meaningful to him is working with senior firefighters. Teaching new concepts, skills or best-practice updates to seasoned members — and seeing them adapt and grow — remains one of his most valued aspects of instruction. "As an instructor you impact so many different people from different walks of life and get to watch them grow in a rewarding career."

Kevin believes the fire service is a profession built on learning, connection and community. Whether responding to emergencies or teaching in classrooms, there is always something new to experience. The brotherhood and sisterhood of the fire service is, to him, a lifelong bond — another family that supports you both personally and professionally.

Kevin Nowaczyk continues to be a cornerstone of District 1 training and a significant influence on firefighters across northwest Indiana.