



December 2020

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Academy Training Staff

Message from the Academy Director

The holiday season is about miracles, with dark days being replaced with hope. As the COVID-19 vaccine begins its distribution across Indiana, a light of hope illuminates toward a healthier and happier New Year.

If it's one thing COVID-19 has taught our nation, it's that family and loved ones are a gift to be cherished. Please take time this holiday season to tell your loved ones how grateful you are to have them in your life.

As always, thank you for your ongoing dedication in serving your Hoosier communities.

Best wishes and Happy Holidays from the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy!

Wade Walling, Director of Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy



Holiday Fire Safety

'Tis the season for holiday cheer, festivities and fire hazards!

During [2014-2018](#), one-fifth of home decoration fires occurred in December, and electrical distribution or lighting equipment was

Academy Administrator
[Wade Walling](#)

Operations Director
[Elizabeth Westfall](#)

Logistic Support Manager
[Bill Huffer](#)

Academy Training Program
Manager
[Paul Bradley](#)

Academy District Field Training
Manager (districts 5, 7, 8, 9 and
10)
[Zach Westfall](#)

Academy Certification Staff

Certification Supervisor
[Donna Saine](#)

Program Coordinator
[Regine Johnson](#)

Fire Certifications Technician
[Nichelle \(Shelly\) Elliot](#)

Clerical Assistant
[Teri Dearmin](#)

New IDHS Webpages for First Responders

IDHS has recently launched two new webpages to support and recognize Hoosier first responders.

The first page, [First Responder Behavioral Health](#), provides a multitude of resources on topics including depression, post-traumatic stress, suicide ideation, substance use disorder and more.

involved in almost half of home Christmas tree fires. As communities across Indiana celebrate the holidays, it's important to remind them of these potential fire risks.

Below are five of the NFPA's recommended [holiday fire safety tips](#) for families to follow as they celebrate the holidays:

- Choose holiday decorations that are flame-retardant or flame-resistant.
- Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear, and never link more than three strands of holiday lights.
- Never leave burning candles unattended, and consider using battery operated candles in place of real ones.
- Always choose a fresh tree with green needles, and water it daily to prevent it from drying out. Alternatively, consider using an artificial tree rather than a real one.
- Always keep Christmas trees away from heat sources and room exits.



Remembering the Firefighters of Pearl Harbor

Last Monday marked the 79th anniversary of the Japanese military attack at Pearl Harbor that occurred on the morning of December 7, 1941.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is observed annually in the United States on Dec. 7 to honor the 2,403 lives lost during this attack. Among those lives lost include Captain John Carreira, Captain Thomas S. Macy and Hoseman Harry T.L. Pang of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). Additionally, six more HFD firefighters were wounded from shrapnel.

In 1944 all of these men were awarded Purple Heart medals for their service during the attack. They are currently the only civilian firefighters to ever receive this award.

The second page, [IDHS Special Recognition](#), provides information and application instructions for all the EMS and State Fire Marshal recognitions available for Hoosier first responders.

Fire Department Spotlight

Organized in 1912, the Portland Fire Department (PFD) is a combination fire department that includes eight full-time and 20 part-time, paid on-call firefighters who respond to approximately 315 runs each year.

Located in the city of Portland, the PFD provides fire, rescue and BLS non-transport protection for residents living in the city of Portland, all of Wayne and Greene townships and portions of Pike and Jefferson townships.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- Dec. 28-Jan. 7: Hazmat 1st Responder Awareness (HMA0447), Everton Volunteer Fire Department
- Jan. 10-March 7: Hazmat 1st Responder Operations (HMO0403), Everton Volunteer Fire Department
- Jan. 23-24: Executive Development 300 (ELD30006), Lafayette Township Volunteer Fire Department
- Feb 21-March 4: Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics (FOST0166), Mount Etna Fire Department



Overhead view of the PFD's fire apparatuses.

The Fire and Public Safety Academy is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering professional fire and public safety training, education and certification to Indiana's first responders in support of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's mission of protecting the people, property and prosperity of Indiana.

Contact the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy at
firecertifications@dhs.in.gov