

January 2022

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The Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy has a new [Facebook page](#) where you can get the latest information from the Academy including up-to-date information on current classes.

## Academy Training Staff

## Message from the Director

On Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, fire officials said a malfunctioning electric space heater on the second floor of a 19-story apartment in the Bronx led to a fire that caused 17 deaths, of which nine were children. Sunday's Bronx fire happened three days after another mass-causality fire in Philadelphia killed 12 people, four adults and eight children. According to fire officials, four smoke detectors inside the Philadelphia rowhouse were not working.

In these two fires, 29 people including 17 children were killed. These tragic losses of life should motivate you and your local fire department to ensure every home in your jurisdiction has working smoke alarms. While local landlords and apartment owners need to provide working smoke alarms in Indiana homes, we know that not all do. It is better to save a life by giving a smoke alarm to Indiana renters than for another person to needlessly lose their life because they didn't have a working smoke alarm. While the landlords should be held accountable, we should ensure every home has a working smoke alarm.

I want to challenge Indiana fire departments to commit to install or provide working smoke alarms to all homes in your jurisdiction. Please visit the [Indiana GetAlarmed program](#) if your department needs smoke alarms. The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy has approximately 500 10-year lithium-ion battery smoke alarms that will be provided at no cost to your department, while supplies last. We also have several hearing-impaired smoke alarms and bed shaker alarm systems for our hearing-impaired community. Working smoke alarms that are correctly placed double the likelihood of survival of a house fire. I humbly ask for your help to prevent tragedies like this from happening in Indiana.

Wade Walling  
Director of Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy

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## Heating Your Home Safely- Portable Heater Fire Safety



Academy Administrator  
[Wade Walling](#)

Operations Director  
[Elizabeth Westfall](#)

Logistic Support Manager  
[Bill Huffer](#)

Academy Training Program  
Manager (districts 1, 2 and 3)  
[Mike Parks](#)

Academy Program Manager  
(districts 4 and 5)  
[Megan Thiele](#)

Academy Program Manager  
(districts 6 & 9)  
[Chuck Gunter](#)

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

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## Academy Certification Staff

Certification Supervisor  
[Nichelle Elliot](#)

Program Coordinator  
[Regine Johnson](#)

Clerical Assistant  
[Teri Dearmin](#)

[After-hours Certifications Help](#)

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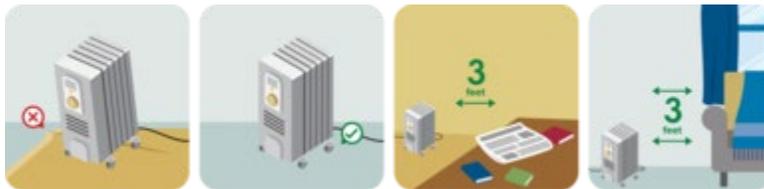
### Continuation of NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, Chapter 4.9 Personal Protective Clothing.

**4.9.1** All students, instructors, safety personnel, and other personnel shall wear all protective clothing and equipment specified in this chapter according to manufacturer's instructions whenever they are involved in any evolution or fire suppression operation during the live fire training evolution.

**4.9.2\*** The safety officer shall ensure that all participants' PPE has been inspected in accordance with NFPA 1851 and NFPA 1852 prior to entry into a live fire training evolution

Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources, including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.



- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.
- Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface.
- Check your space heater for cracked or damaged cords and plugs.
- Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets. Don't use an extension cord or power strip.



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## Upcoming Trainings

Communicating with Elected Leaders

- Date: Monday, Feb. 28, 2022
- Location: 400 E Main St, Pittsboro, IN 46167

National Fire Academy - F0195 - Campus Fire and Life Safety III:  
Codes and Systems

- Dates: Wednesday, March 2, 2022 to Thursday, March 3, 2022
- Location: MADE@PLAINFIELD, 1610 Reeves Rd Plainfield, IN 46168

National Fire Academy - F0636 - Building Organizational Support  
for Community Risk Reduction

- Saturday, April 9, 2022 to Sunday, April 10, 2022

to verify that the protective clothing and SCBA are being worn correctly and are in serviceable condition.

**4.9.3** Protective coats, trousers, hoods, footwear, helmets, and gloves shall have been manufactured to meet the requirements of NFPA 1971.

**4.9.4** SCBA shall have been manufactured to meet the requirements of NFPA 1981.

**4.9.5** Where station or work uniforms are worn by any participant, the station or work uniform shall have been manufactured to meet the requirements of NFPA 1975.

**4.9.6** Personal alarm devices shall have been manufactured to meet the requirements of NFPA 1982.

**4.9.7\*** The fire department shall provide and require all students, instructors, safety personnel, and other personnel participating in any evolution or operation of fire suppression during the live fire training evolution to use SCBA when engaged in any operation where they could encounter atmospheres that are IDLH or potentially IDLH or where the atmosphere is unknown.

*Next month we will continue the NFPA 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, Chapter 4.10 Communication*

## **IDHS/IDEM collecting PFAS foam from Indiana fire agencies**

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has launched a program to collect Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) foam from Indiana fire agencies.

The State will remove and properly dispose of PFAS material from any agency that requests it. **This is a free service with no additional**

- Location: MADE@PLAINFIELD, 1610 Reeves Rd Plainfield, IN 46168

**New in 2022** - Make plans to attend the 2022 Indiana State Fire Marshal Interchange. Come prepared to discuss ideas, the future of the fire service and learn more about State Fire Marshal sections.

Please check your Acadis student portal for registration and the agenda for each of the dates listed below.

The dates and locations are subject to change.

The Israel "Izzy" Edelman Fire & Police Department Training Ground in Richmond Indiana;

- Date: Saturday, April 9, 2022
- Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m
- Address: 1740 S 8th Street, Richmond, IN 47374

Indiana Fire & Public Safety Academy's MADE @ Plainfield site.

- Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022
- Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Address: 1610 Reeves Road, Plainfield, IN 46168

Northern Indiana, Plymouth, IN:

- Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022
- Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Address: to be determined

Southern Indiana, Washington, IN or Ft. Branch area

- Date: Saturday, August 20, 2022
- Time: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Address: to be determined

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## **Fire Department Spotlight**

### **Dick Johnson Township Fire Department**



The Dick Johnson Township Fire Department is located approximately 66 miles southwest of Indianapolis and a few miles north of Interstate 70 in Clay County. This 22-member township fire department is led by Fire Chief Kevin Orme and has

served Northwest Clay County since 1957. The Dick Johnson Township Fire Department provides fire, rescue and medical first responder protection to 430 residences and approximately 1,500

**requirements for fire agencies.**

[Click here for additional information about PFAS and the program.](#)

## Public Safety Jobs Dashboard



Check out all the current openings on the [IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard](#). If your department is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard.

residents within its 12 square mile jurisdiction. The department also offer mutual-aid to other fire departments in their area.

According to Fire Chief Orme, the Dick Johnson Township Fire Department was the first fire department formed outside any municipality or incorporated area in Indiana. Local landowners (farmers) came together, bought a new fire truck and started the fire department. Jokingly, Chief Orme said that their jurisdiction has more cows than people, but cows don't usually start fires.



## January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

In 2015, the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) published findings from a five-year study of more than 30,000 firefighters across the country. The goal of the study was “to better understand the potential link between fire fighting and cancer” (Cancer Among U.S. Fire Fighters: p. 1). The report found firefighters had higher rates of certain cancers than the general U.S. population. The study goes on to state that firefighters had an increased risk of being diagnosed with and dying from cancer. The most common forms of cancer impacting firefighters were digestive, oral, respiratory or urinary cancer. The study also found firefighters were twice as likely as the general population to be diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma, a type of cancer caused by asbestos exposure.

You can read more about this study and ways to improve safety and health outcomes for firefighters by reading the [Best practices to Improve Safety and Health Outcomes for Firefighters](#). This report was compiled by Indiana Department of Homeland Security staff and presented to the Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education board.

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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](mailto:firecertifications@dhs.in.gov)