March 2021

Message from the Academy Director

One of the most critical elements in first responder training is communication. In fact, good communication that flows both ways provides a safe, reliable way to improve training objectives for a job that is inherently dangerous.

Instructor-to-student communication allows Indiana fire instructors to increase the chances of achieving safe and effective outcomes with students. I would go as far to say that communication is the number one priority to be successful in today’s fire and first responder services. And yet, I still hear so many people say communication should only flow one way.

Communication is a two-way street, and it is the cornerstone of public safety. Without fluid communication, unnecessary errors are bound to occur. Always remember that being an effective communicator is just as important as knowing the course material you are teaching.

Wade Walling, Director of Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy

Public Safety Job Postings Dashboard

Visit the new IDHS Public Safety Job Postings dashboard, designed to showcase first responder job opportunities available across Indiana!

Click here to browse for jobs or submit a new job posting.

Academy Training Staff

Academy Director
Wade Walling

Operations Director
Elizabeth Westfall

Logistics Support Manager
Bill Huffer

Academy Training Program Manager (districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)
Paul Bradley
Academy Program Manager (districts 5 and 6)
Megan Thiele

Academy District Field Training Manager (districts 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 Academy Program Manager

Photo courtesy of Megan Thiele.

The Academy is excited to announce Megan Thiele as the new Academy program manager for districts 5 and 6.

In addition to working as a program manager, Megan will also take over the Get Alarmed program and work with the IDHS Code Enforcement Section to build a community fire risk reduction plan for Indiana. Megan is already well-known in the Indiana fire service and will be instrumental in helping the Academy improve its training programs.

Academy Firefighter Confidence Trainer

On March 13, the Monroe Twp. (Cowan) Volunteer Fire Department and Liberty Township Volunteer Fire Department came together to train with the Academy's Firefighter Confidence Trainer.

Designed as a multi-story self-contained breathing apparatus trailer, the Firefighter Confidence Trainer uses a multitude of props to provide trainees with real-life training situations.

Indiana fire departments interested in renting the Firefighter Confidence Trainer for training sessions can submit a request to the Academy via Acadis.

Fire Department Spotlight

Clarksville Fire Department (Clarksville, IN)

Located in southern Clark County in the town of Clarksville, the Clarksville Fire Department (CFD) is a combination fire department that includes 32 full-time and 30 volunteer members who respond from three different stations.
The CFD provides fire, rescue, hazmat and medical first-responder services to the town of Clarksville as well as portions of I-65 and the Ohio River.

The CFD's fire engine 71, a 2018 Seagrave Marauder II Pumper.

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