



**October 2020**

### **Quick Links**

[IDHS Online Registration & Recertification Instructions](#)

[EMS Continuing Education Report Forms](#)

[Fire Certification Information and Documentation](#)

[BFPSE Fire Certification Prerequisite & Textbook List](#)

[Title 836 IAC Article 4. Training and Certification](#)

[Board of Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education](#)

[IDHS Training Information](#)

[PSID Lookup](#)

[New PSID Request](#)

[Available Training](#)

[Training Catalog](#)

[WebForms](#)

[After-hours Certifications Help](#)

**Academy Training Staff**

### **Message from the Academy Director**

Kids dressed in costumes excitedly running door to door trick-or-treating and spooky decorations adorning front porches are classic hallmarks of Halloween that make the holiday special for both kids and adults alike.

Unfortunately, these Halloween festivities can also present dangerous fire risks. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic now adds significant health risks to this year's Halloween season. As fire and EMS personnel, we have a responsibility to inform Hoosiers on important holiday fire safety and COVID-19 safety precautions.

By planning ahead and getting prepared with our communities, we can make this year's Halloween safe from both fires and COVID-19.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wade E. Walling'.

Wade Walling, Director of Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy



### **Top Five Halloween Fire Safety Tips**

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more than 770 home structure fires occurred each year between 2013 and 2017 due to Halloween decorations.

Below are the NFPA's top five Halloween fire safety tips for families to follow as they celebrate the spooky season:

Academy Administrator  
[Wade Walling](#)

Operations Director  
[Elizabeth Westfall](#)

Logistic Support Manager  
[Bill Huffer](#)

Academy Training Program  
Manager  
[Paul Bradley](#)

## Academy Certification Staff

Certification Supervisor  
[Donna Saine](#)

Program Coordinator  
[Regine Johnson](#)

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

Clerical Assistant  
[Teri Dearmin](#)

## Indiana Volunteer Workforce Solutions Statewide Survey

Please consider taking a few moments to fill out the survey below to support Indiana Fire Chiefs Association's FEMA SAFER grant, which assists volunteer fire department recruitment and retention. The survey needs both career and volunteer firefighter respondents, and will take 5-10 minutes to complete.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

1. Use battery-operated candles or glow sticks in jack-o-lanterns.
2. When choosing costumes, stay away from long-trailing fabric.
3. Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o-lanterns using real candles inside them.
4. Keep all flammable decorations, such as dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper, away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
5. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks fire escape routes.

For information on Halloween fire safety, visit the [NFPA's website](#) or [GetPrepared.in.gov](#).



## Top Five Halloween COVID-19 Safety Tips

Traditional Halloween activities are fun for Hoosiers of all ages, but some of these activities can increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 but still maintain fun festivities, the CDC recommends implementing the following pandemic precautions during this year's Halloween season:

1. Set up a station outdoors with individually bagged treats for trick-or-treaters to take. Always sanitize hands before handling the treats.
2. Consider implementing cloth face masks into Halloween costume ideas. Remember that a costume mask is not a substitute for a cloth mask.
3. Maintain social distancing of at least six feet during trick-or-treating and visits to haunted houses, orchards and corn mazes.
4. Bring hand sanitizer and thoroughly disinfect hands before consuming treats.
5. Consider substituting traditional trick-or-treating by hiding Halloween treats at home and having a treat hunt with household members.

For more COVID-19 Halloween safety tips, visit the [CDC's website](#) or [coronavirus.in.gov](#). Additionally, work with your local health department to help disseminate local guidance on COVID-19 safety.

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

Registration is now available for the National Fire Academy (NFA) State Weekend 2021 classes. Enrollment in these classes includes a trip to the NFA campus in Emmitsburg, MD.

The on-campus two-day program will be offered May 1-2 and includes the following courses:

- New Fire Chief: Contemporary Issues
- Leadership in Supervision: Framework to Success
- Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking
- Shaping the Future
- Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters
- Youth Firesetter: Program Manager
- Fire Investigator: First Responders
- Decision Making for Company Officers
- Introduction to Unified Command for All-Hazard Incidents

For more information on the National Fire Academy State Weekend classes, visit the [NFA's website](#).

## Melania Rose Smoke Alarm Initiative

On Saturday, Oct. 10, more than 14 fire departments joined together to install approximately 70 smoke alarms throughout a community of nearly 500 homes in Hobart. This smoke alarm blitz was organized in response to the recent death of 2-year-old Melania Rose Gwinn, who died in August following a residence fire.



Smoke alarms installed during the Melania Rose Smoke Alarm Initiative were made available by the IDHS Get Alarmed Program. Indiana fire departments interested in partnering with the Get Alarmed Program for a smoke alarm blitz can visit [GetAlarmed.in.gov](http://GetAlarmed.in.gov) for more information.

## Fire Department Spotlight

### Hobart Fire Department (Hobart, IN)

Established in 1891, the Hobart Fire Department (HFD) is a career fire department that provides fire, rescue and ALS protection to 29,500 residents in the city of Hobart, located 38 miles southeast of Chicago. The HFD includes 52 career personnel who respond to more than 3,500 runs each year from three different stations. The HFD also provides EMS coverage within areas of Lake Station and New Chicago.



*HFD's 2007 Ford E-450/Wheeled Coach ALS Ambulance.*

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)**