



# Hoosier Responder

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## FEMA Denies Howard County Disaster Declaration; Governor Pence to Appeal Decision

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has denied Indiana's request for a major disaster declaration in Howard County.

Governor Pence is very concerned about Hoosiers during this holiday season who suffered loss of property and need support to rebuild their lives.

"Hoosiers who were affected by the storms of Nov. 17 deserve relief, and I have directed the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to prepare and submit an immediate appeal to this initial denial," Governor Pence said.

As part of Indiana's appeal, IDHS will request joint preliminary damage assessments for other severely affected counties. The assessments will be conducted by FEMA, IDHS and county emergency management agencies.

The request was made on December 4 for individual assistance, which would have included grants and low-interest loans for citizens and low-interest loans for businesses in Howard County devastated by tornadoes and severe storms that affected parts of Indiana on November 17.

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## Relationship Between EMS and Health Departments Provides Benefits

Local health officials and EMS may not always interact, but there are benefits to be gained from stronger relationships.

It's not unheard of for EMS agencies to have little or no contact with their local health departments. And while no one is suggesting EMS agencies can't function perfectly well without day-to-day insight from municipal, county, regional or state health departments, those that don't have an existing relationship with their local health officials are missing out on a wealth of knowledge public health officials can provide.

**Read full article at:**

[http://www.emsworld.com/article/11219500/local-health-departments-and-ems?utm\\_source=EMS+World+News+Recap&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS131102002//iotnasp01pw/dhs/Home/EFiato/My%20Videos](http://www.emsworld.com/article/11219500/local-health-departments-and-ems?utm_source=EMS+World+News+Recap&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS131102002//iotnasp01pw/dhs/Home/EFiato/My%20Videos)

## 17 Hoosiers Become Certified and Associate Emergency Managers

In 1993, the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) created the CEM/AEM program to raise and maintain professional standards for emergency managers. IAEM's Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®) and Associate Emergency Manager (AEM<sup>SM</sup>) programs are widely regarded as being the pinnacle of professional certification in emergency management.

Certification requires a 4-year college degree, 200 hours of emergency and general management training, exercise experience, on-the-job experience, professional contributions to the emergency management field, an essay to illustrate knowledge of the emergency management program, and a comprehensive examination. The AEM process only requires the emergency and general management training, exercise experience, the essay, and the examination.

In late 2012, IDHS held an informational meeting for those who wished to seek professional credentials from IAEM. Over the next few months, IDHS conducted mentoring meetings to help the candidates through the application process. Gerri Husband and Amy Lindsey, CEMs from IDHS, were certified in 2009 and served as mentors to the candidates. Additionally, Dean Larson, President of Larson Performance Consulting, LLC, received his CEM in 1993 and served as an advisor to candidates. Both Husband and Larson served as members of the IAEM CEM Commission which is comprised of various representatives from all levels of government including military, the private sector, and academia. This was helpful to the candidates, as Husband and Larson were able to provide expert advice, although the CEM/AEM review process does not allow them to review Indiana's candidate applications. Regular meetings were held to help candidates pull together the information required for the application process which is a time-intensive process that usually takes about a year to complete.

Twenty-two candidates completed the process in 5 months. Candidates were from public and private agencies, as well as military and university partners.

At the 2013 IAEM worldwide conference in Reno, NV, it was announced 200 new CEMs/AEMs throughout the world were added to the more than 1,300 current CEMs/AEMs. Of those, 17 were Hoosiers.

### Certified Emergency Managers

- Bernard J. Beier, Jr., Allen County Office of Homeland Security
- Deborah P. Fletcher, Indiana University
- James D. Garlits, Indiana Army National Guard, Camp Atterbury
- Jefferson Howells, Purdue University Campus Emergency Preparedness and Planning Office
- Gary L. McKay, Community Hospital, Munster
- Jennifer Tobey, Elkhart County Emergency Management
- Clifford J. Wojtalewicz, Purdue University Homeland Security Institute

### Associate Emergency Managers

- John C. August, Adams County Emergency Management
- Margie Bovard, Indianapolis Fire Department
- Ryan J. Chandler, IUPUI Emergency Management
- Lise K. Crouch, Hendricks County Emergency Management
- Elizabeth Fiato, IDHS
- Kristopher Marks, Miami County Emergency Management
- David R. McGuire, IDHS
- Keith A. Walters, Wabash County Emergency Management
- Joshua D. Whereatt, Indiana State Fair

More mentoring opportunities will be provided in 2014. Stayed tuned to the IDHS training calendar for dates.

For more information on the CEM/AEM certification programs, visit [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com).

## Law Standardizes Veteran Transition to Civilian EMS Positions

Indiana is now making it easier for military medical personnel to make the transition to an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) position through a law passed in January. The law, which took effect July 1, formalizes what the state has already been doing – recognizing appropriate training acquired during military service and applying it toward state EMS certification.

“We are so pleased to be able to use veterans’ military schooling to help them transition into an EMS position after they are discharged,” said Elizabeth Fiato, IDHS EMS Training Section Chief. “We encourage all veterans who have an interest in applying their medical training toward a civilian job to learn more about the process.”

Fiato says it’s easy to get started. All the state needs is for veterans to submit discharge paperwork and copies of syllabi or curriculum or textbook information for medical training courses they completed. Applicants still must pass the state certification exam that correlates to the anticipated EMS level, but the state will recognize all military courses that are applicable.

“Applicants still must have the training that correlates with the EMS level they are seeking, but there’s a real advantage to getting your previous hard work recognized,” Fiato added. “Most EMS runs as a civilian are medical in nature while military medical training understandably focuses on more traumatic situations. So an applicant may still need more training on more routine occurrences.”

To learn more, contact Fiato at [efiato@dhs.in.gov](mailto:efiato@dhs.in.gov).

## IDHS Survey Shows More Than Half of Hoosier Households May Not Be Prepared for Widespread Emergency

Indiana Department of Homeland Security recently surveyed Hoosiers about their level of preparedness should an emergency such as a tornado, blizzard, earthquake or some sort of man-made disaster occur. The survey, which included a series of questions about preparedness plans, kits and various resources, was completed by more than 2,500 respondents.

According to the survey, more than half of Indiana households who responded did not have at least three days’ worth of food and water on hand should a disaster occur. Even more than half did not have other items recommended for a family preparedness kit, including things like flashlights, extra batteries, first-aid supplies, extra medications, extra pet sup-

plies and copies of important documents that are hard to replace.

Respondents cited several reasons why they do not have a disaster preparedness kit. They include:

- I don’t think there will be an emergency in my area;
- I’m too busy;
- I don’t know what to put in a preparedness kit;
- It’s too expensive to put together extra supplies; and
- I just don’t think these items are necessary.

For more information on building a preparedness kit and drafting a family emergency plan, visit [GetPrepared.IN.gov](http://GetPrepared.IN.gov) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

## NFPA Releases Latest Nationwide Fire Department Statistics

The National Fire Protection Association has just released its latest U.S. Fire Department Profile, which includes statistics on fire departments nationwide through calendar year 2012. Here are some of the highlights:

- NFPA estimates that there were approximately 1,129,250 firefighters in the U.S. in 2012.
- Of the total number of firefighters 345,950 or 31% were career firefighters and 783,300 (69%) were volunteer firefighters.
- Most of the career firefighters (72%) are in communities that protect 25,000 or more people.
- Most of the volunteer firefighters (95%) were in departments that protect fewer than 25,000 people.
- There are an estimated 30,100 fire departments in the U.S. Of these, 2,610 departments are all career, 1,995 mostly career, 5,445 are mostly volunteer and 20,050 are all volunteer.
- In the U.S., 13,600 or 45% of departments provide EMS service, 4,550 departments or 15% provide EMS service and advance life support, while 11,950 departments or 40% provide no EMS support.

## Be Cautious When Holiday Shopping Online

This year, online holiday sales are expected to reach \$82 billion, an increase of 15% from last year. When shopping online, not only during the holiday season, but throughout the year, it is important to keep security in mind.

Thieves can easily gain access to bank account and personal information. These important online shopping safety tips can help keep personal information secure from hackers and online criminals.

- Keep any virus protection or other computer security software updated on the computer that will be used for online shopping.
- Make sure the Internet connection is secure.
- Use complex passwords to safeguard personal information like credit card numbers

and billing addresses. A combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters offers the most protection.

- Avoid visiting unknown web pages. Stick to shopping only well-known, reputable sites.
- When making online purchases with a credit or debit card, use a secure online escrow broker to provide payment.
- If available, consider using a virtual credit card service. Many banks offer this service. Virtual credit cards can only be used once and usually expire in 24 hours.

For more online shopping and holiday safety tips, visit [GetPrepared.IN.gov](http://GetPrepared.IN.gov).

## Money is Best Gift of all to Help Hoosier Tornado Victims

Many individuals are asking how they can best help the victims of the November 17 storms and tornadoes. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security advises Hoosiers to be organized in their volunteer efforts and to give money through the proper channels, as opposed to donating items.

“It is best to donate money to a legitimate relief agency that you know rather than send or take items such as clothing and food to areas hit by a disaster,” said IDHS Senior Public Information Officer John Erickson. “Most areas are dealing with debris removal and other activities and simply cannot handle the logistics of sorting, storing and distributing items that just show up. Monetary dona-

tions to the proper organizations allow for the most-needed provisions to be purchased and distributed quickly and to exactly where they’re needed.”

Erickson praised the kind thoughts of well-intentioned Hoosiers, but urged giving to or volunteering with organizations they know and trust. He added that people wanting to volunteer to help with things like clean-up should not just show up to a disaster area.

Individuals interested in volunteering can contact their local Red Cross ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)) or Salvation Army ([www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)) office.

## Governor Pence to Appeal Decision (continued)

Howard County damage documentation included:

- 191 homes have sustained major damage or have been destroyed. In all, nearly 1,000 homes have sustained damage.
- Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) preliminarily estimates more than \$2.84 million will be needed for unmet needs in Howard County alone after a Presidential Major Disaster for individual assistance is declared.

## State Fire Marshal Reminds Hoosiers To Use Space Heaters, Fireplaces and Other Alternative Heating Equipment Responsibly

To cope with power outages resulting from the storm, some Hoosiers have begun using alternative heating sources, such as wood stoves or space heaters, to warm their homes. Even where power is available, more Hoosiers are using alternative heating sources as winter approaches. The Indiana State Fire Marshal is encouraging these individuals to use these sources safely.

"Every winter, firefighters across the state respond to hundreds of home fires caused by heating equipment," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "These types of fires can almost always be prevented by homeowners and renters who use alternative heat sources carefully and responsibly."

Things to keep in mind when using heating equipment:

### Woodstoves or fireplaces:

- Use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or woodstove to avoid the build-up of creosote, an oily deposit that easily catches fire.
- Use only paper or kindling wood, not a flammable liquid, to start the fire. Do not use artificial logs in woodstoves.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container, which is kept a safe distance from your home.

### Space heaters:

- Space heaters need space. Keep heaters away from flammable materials such as bedding, drapes, clothing, etc.
- Use the proper grade of fuel for your liquid-

fueled space heater and never use gasoline in any heater not approved for gasoline use.

- Refuel space heaters only in a well ventilated area and when the equipment is cool.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity, never into an extension cord.
- Turn off space heaters whenever the room they are in is unoccupied.
- Turn off space heaters when you go to bed each night to avoid knocking them over in the dark.

### Generators:

Knowing how to use your generator properly can protect you and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Never use a generator inside.
- Place emergency generators outdoors away from windows and doors to prevent fumes from entering the home.
- Have a CO detector in the house that sounds an alarm when dangerous carbon monoxide levels are found.

For more information about winter heating safety, visit [www.getprepared.in.gov](http://www.getprepared.in.gov).

In case of a fire, it is not only crucial to have a working smoke alarm in your home, but it is also the law (IC 22-11-18-3.5). Working smoke alarms can double the chances of surviving a residence fire. By Indiana law, all dwellings must have at least one functioning smoke alarm installed outside each sleeping area, and on each level of the building.



Visit  
[GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov)



## Many Hoosier Drivers May Not Be Prepared for Winter Weather Emergency

According to a survey conducted by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, about 75 percent of Indiana respondents indicated they did not have a preparedness kit in their vehicles, including items specifically for winter weather emergencies.

With many Hoosiers traveling over the holiday season and winter weather possibly affecting Indiana, IDHS representatives say now is the time to think about a vehicle safety kit.

In addition to winter vehicle preparation, IDHS suggests creating and putting a winter weather preparedness kit in each vehicle in case of a weather-related emergency like an accident, car trouble or slide-offs. An emergency car kit is essential any time of year and should include the following items, with special emphasis this time of year on water, food and warmth:

- At least two blankets or a sleeping bag;
- Flashlight and extra batteries;
- Booster (jumper) cables;

- Emergency flares;
- Extra clothing, including boots, hats and gloves;
- Shovel
- Bottled water and non-perishable foods like granola bars, raisins, nuts, peanut butter or cheese crackers;
- First-aid kit and necessary medications;
- Sand or non-clumping kitty litter for tire traction;
- Cell phone and charger for vehicle use; and ice scraper and snow brush.

When stranded one should try to stay calm, call for help if possible and keep in mind the following precautions:

- Unless there is a safe structure nearby, do not leave the car, since it is the best protection;
- Run the engine for 10 minutes every hour to stay warm. An idling car only uses about one gallon of gas per hour;
- Tie a brightly colored cloth to the car for rescuers to see;
- Light a flare or turn on a flashlight to let others know you are stranded;
- Make sure the exhaust pipe is free of any blockage to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning; and

- Keep hydrated by drinking water from your preparedness kit. Don't eat snow, as it will lower body temperature.

During severe winter weather or if inclement weather is approaching, IDHS recommends staying home, if possible. If the trip is absolutely necessary, Erickson says it's a good idea to let someone know your destination, route and expected time of arrival.

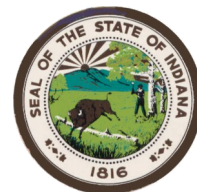
The IDHS recently surveyed Hoosiers about their level of preparedness should an emergency occur. The survey, which included a series of questions about preparedness plans, kits and various resources, was completed by more than 2,500 respondents.

For more tips on winter weather driving and building a vehicle preparedness kit, visit [GetPrepared.in.gov](http://GetPrepared.in.gov) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). To check for current travel advisories or warnings, check the Indiana County Travel Advisory Map at [www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory](http://www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory).

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**IDHS: Leadership for a safe and secure Indiana**