I have always been focused on public safety. Even though my childhood dream was to be a police officer, as an adult I've found my passion in emergency management, a path cemented in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks. In my 21 years with SEMA and IDHS, we have overcome so much, and I know that through our state and local partnerships we will continue to serve our fellow Hoosiers.

All of you know that I'll have very tall shoes to fill, following in the footsteps of Director Rowe. I look forward to this new journey, and working with you all to give voice to those in need.

IDHS Director of Emergency Management

NWS Hazard Messaging Changes

The National Weather Service is adjusting the Watch, Warning and Advisory system. Partners are invited to attend one of the following webinars to provide feedback on proposed options. Click on the date below to register:

- **May 5, 2021**, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM EDT
- **May 6, 2021**, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT
- **May 12, 2021**, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT
- **May 19, 2021**, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM EDT

IAEM-USA Region 5 Conference

Mark those calendars! IAEM-USA Region 5 will host its first ever Spring Conference. EMAs are invited to attend!

The conference is scheduled to be held virtually from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT on **Friday, May 14**. The conference is open to anyone; IAEM membership is not required. The conference cost is $20/attendee.
May 1 - LEPC exercise proposals due

For other upcoming dates, visit the IDHS Calendar of Events.

FEMA Funeral Assistance

The recently announced FEMA COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Program is accepting applications for the reimbursement of funeral services and interment or cremation costs incurred as a result of COVID-19. More information related to the application process, eligibility and necessary documentation is available online. Additional resources also are available on the IDHS Individual Assistance webpage.

Although the program will not duplicate benefits paid by burial or funeral insurance, FEMA stresses that a life insurance policy does not disqualify survivors from the assistance program. Life insurance proceeds are not considered a duplication of Funeral Assistance benefits. Learn more on the program’s frequently asked questions page.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

The Department of Health has announced eligibility for all Indiana residents 16 and over. The OurShot.in.gov website continues to be the best source for answers to frequently asked questions.

Public Assistance Program

Due to the long-term nature of the COVID-19 response, the Request for Public Assistance deadline is

Learn more about the program and register online.

SOP Resources in WebEOC

Did You Know: The County SOP Folder is found under the state plans library within WebEOC. EMAs are encouraged to upload SOPs or plans they think would be a benefit to other counties.

Planting Season Brings Hazards

Spring planting season is here; stay prepared for accidents and emergencies that can occur on the farm or the highway.

It is important to call the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM) 24-Hour Emergency Spill Line at 888-233-7745 if a spill occurs.

Learn more about reporting requirements here. IDEM also produced a free E101 webinar which addresses agriculture environmental spills and emergencies. The full webinar can be accessed online.

Available Training

NTED Blended and Virtual Classes Available
Some trainings available through NTED are now being offered as blended and virtual class options.

Counties that would like to request any of these trainings should fill out an EMA & Consortium Courses-Course Request Webform in Acadis.

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**CISA Virtual Tabletop Exercises**

This event presents a scenario applicable to the organizations' entire emergency management team and is designed for organizations interested in raising awareness of the consequences of cyber incidents. Dates available include April 20-22 and June 15-17.

Locations interested in participating in the VTTX series should submit an email request to participate in the exercise to Carl.Wertman@fema.dhs.gov. Please provide a central point of contact (POC) from your organization to work all VTTX issues.

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**2021 EMI Virtual Tabletop Schedule Available**

EMI conducts a series of VTTXs to provide a virtual forum for disaster training. The VTTX program is designed for a "community-based" group (not individual participation) of at least five or more personnel from state, local, tribal or territorial emergency management organizations with representation from all emergency management disciplines - public safety, public works, public health, health care, government, administrative, communications, military, private sector and non-governmental organizations. Learn more in Training Bulletin 1645.

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