Dec. 30, 2021

New Years Eve is a time to celebrate that we made it through another year. Fireworks can brighten celebrations, and proper fireworks safety can help keep the festivities going longer and protect spectators from injury.

Always remember the following safety tips when interacting with fireworks:

- Never smoke or consume alcohol when lighting fireworks.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from the reach of children.
- Steer clear of others setting off fireworks. The fireworks can backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction.
- Always have a fire extinguisher or water supply, such as a hose or bucket of water, nearby.
- Only light one firework at a time and never attempt to re-light or fix a “dud” firework.
- After a firework has finished burning, douse it with plenty of water before throwing it away to prevent starting a trash fire.

From myself and the whole Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) family, we want to wish you a very happy new year and a safe and successful 2022.

Best Regards,

Mary Moran
IDHS Director of Emergency Management
Exercise Updates

The IDHS Exercise Section is offering a cybersecurity workshop in March 2022. Where participants will be able to hear from local, state and federal partners.

- March 15, 2022
- 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Virtual via Microsoft Teams
- Registration is now available.

North District (1-4) EMAs, please complete the 2022 Civil Unrest Functional Exercise survey. We are seeking your feedback and thoughts in preparation for the Concept and Objectives meeting for the exercise.

The IDHS Exercise Section is conducting a three-day, full-scale exercise (FSE) to test a county’s plans for setting up and running a Logistical Staging Area (LSA) and Commodity Points of Distribution (C-POD). The FSE is planned for June 7 - 9, 2022, in Madison County, IN. This FSE builds off Operation Space Storm: LSA Tabletop/Functional exercise (TTX/FE) from September 2021. This exercise is for central Indiana districts.

The registration link for this exercise will be available soon.

If you have any questions, contact Exercise Program Manager Casey Fizer at cfizer@dhs.in.gov

The IDHS Exercise Section helped support the HSEEP-compliant Highway to Recovery Seminar and Drill led by the Local Government Support Section on Nov. 4, 2021. This exercise was planned with the close coordination of IDHS Recovery and the National Weather Service. This exercise had a similar concept to the 2018 Road to Recovery Full Scale Exercise with central and south districts. Eventually, the Local Government Support Section would like to offer this exercise to other districts to support the South’s Tornado/Damage Assessment preparedness priority from 2022-2024. Districts 1 and 2 are planning their seminar and drill in May of 2022.

If you have questions please email Exercise@dhs.IN.gov.

New Way to Connect

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.

New Updated FEMA Guides

FEMA has released the revised the In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness “Are You Ready”. It was last released in 2004. It is available in both English and Spanish.

FEMA has released the Long-Term Community Resilience Exercise Resource Guide, which focuses on designing whole community exercises to prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

Public Safety Jobs Dashboard

Check out all the current openings on the IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard. If your agency is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard. It's free.

Note: If the link above does not load, please copy and paste this
address into the browser: https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/

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**Public Assistance Program**

The Request for Public Assistance deadline remains open. A specific deadline for RPAs will be announced when a disaster end date for the COVID-19 pandemic is established by FEMA.

Continue checking the [IDHS Public Assistance Program webpage](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/) for updates on guidance, trainings and other vital information.

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**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 Polyfluoroalky1 (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 requirements for fire agencies.**

[Click here for additional information about PFAS and the program](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/).

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**Grants Updates**

This is the time of year when multiple grant cycles are open at the same time. Please take the time to review your grant awards. Log into the system to complete your final program and fiscal reports, and reach out for assistance by submitting a [grants support ticket](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/). Fiscal reports require you to upload supporting documentation in order to expedite the reimbursement process. An invoice and proof of payment must be accurate for approval of a fiscal report. [Please review the reimbursement requirements document for examples](https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/). The IDHS Grants Section is also working on the current grant awards contract process and will get grant agreements out for signature ASAP.